

GWADAR

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HANDBOOK 2017

In association with

AL-NOOR CARGO CITY GWADAR

Mastering Gwadar Seaport

From January 2008 to January 2017



GWADAR HANDBOOK 2008-17

The title "Gwadar's largest commercial scheme" Al-Noor cargo city holds this distinct. Al-Noor cargo city is also known as Gwadar's first strategic commercial scheme. Al-Noor cargo city is situated in the mid of Gwadar airport and Gwadar sea port. It has one-kilometer wide front on the 205ft wide main Baluchistan Broadway and 150ft wide Existing coastal highway.

Al-Noor Cargo City gives an eye-catching stance to both local and international investors due to its strategic location. In addition, just 1500 yards distance to Deep Sea East Bay gives another edge to Al-Noor Cargo City.



GWADAR

www.alnoorgwadar.com/newsbook2009

NEWSBOOK 2009

In association with

AL-NOOR CARGO CITY GWADAR

NEWS & UPDATES

From January 2009 to December 2009



GWADAR NEWSBOOK 2009

January 2009

January 2009

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February 2009

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 09	2 گواڈر ایکسپورٹ زون دس سال کیلے ٹیکسوں اومان نے گواڈر کے ساحلی شہر میں عجائب گھر گواڈر میوزیم کے لیے امداد (BBC) نوادرات	3
4 گواڈر پورٹ سے درآمدہ 63 ہزار ٹن گندم، ایک ہزار 7 ٹن یورپا کھاد کی ملک 46 ہزار ایکڑ حصہ ایکسپورٹ پروسیسنگ زون میں شامل ہو	5 گواڈر میں پانچ ارب روپے سے آئل ریفاٹری کا نم کرنے کا منصوبہ (Commerce Report)	6	7 Gwadar Oil City Project (ISLAMABAD - APP)	8	9 گواڈر بندرگاہ کو اقتصادی لحاظ سے خطہ میں انتہائی اہمیت حاصل ہے گواڈر کے ذریعے وسطی ایشیائی ریاستوں تک اہم تجارتی رابطہ	10
11	12	13	14	15 Govt Seeks Foreign Capital in Balochistan (ISLAMABAD - The News)	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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February 2009

February 2009

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March 2009

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 1	2	3	4	5	6	7 گواڊر بندرگاه: ريل اور سٽڪون ڪے رابطے مکمل ڪیے جا رہے ہیں (خبریں)
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Development of Gwadar Port road linkages NHA's top priority (The News)	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2009

March 2009

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April 2009

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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29	30 گواڈر ایئر پورٹ کیلے زمین حاصل کرنے کی منظوری آج دی جانیگی (Daily Jang)	31	Apr 1	2	3	4

April 2009

April 2009							May 2009						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 29	30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4
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May 2009

May 2009							June 2009						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 26	27	28	29	30	May 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 حکومت گوادری کی بندرگاہ کو ترقی دینے کیلئے اقدامات کر رہی ہے، دہشت گردی اور عالمی اقتصادی کساد	13	14	15 گوادری کو بلوچستان کا سرمائی دارالحکومت بنانے کا فیصلہ آئندہ بجٹ میں منظور ی کا امکان ((کوئٹہ	16 Gwadar as Capital (The News)
17	18	19	20 Balochistan will soon become regional (QUETTA - The News)	21 Gwadar Port declared tax free zone for 10 years: Wattoo (ISLAMABAD - The News)	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Jun 1	2	3	4	5	6

June 2009

June 2009							July 2009						
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28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 31	Jun 1	2	3	4	5 گواڈر بندر گاہ کے ذریعے یورپا کھا د کی درآمد بند کی جائے، قانمہ کمیٹی (Daily Intekhab)	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Govt. allocates over Rs45599m for Finance Division (ISLAMABAD - The News)
14	15	16	17 بجٹ: اے این پی اور جے یو آئی کا حکومت کا دفاع کرنے سے انکار (APP) گواڈر بندر گاہ ریلوے نظام سے منسلک کرنا ترجیح ہے۔ وزیر	18 Gwadar to be linked through rail, road networks: PM (ISLAMABAD - فرینڈز آف پاکستان سے ملنے والی رقم گواڈر سمیت	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	Jul 1	2	3	4

July 2009

July 2009							August 2009						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 28	29	30	Jul 1 Gwadar airport to be given to CAA in 2010 (Lahore - APP)	2	3 Tajikistan seeks access to Gwadar port for exports (ISLAMABAD - Daily Times)	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Pakistani, Kashmiri expatriates urged to invest in Pakistan (QUETTA - Business Recorder)	20	21 Pakistan, Tajikistan sign joint protocol (ISLAMABAD - APP)	22 FBR announces 10-year tax holiday for projects in SEZs (ISLAMABAD - Daily Times)	23 First ever Panamax cargo ship anchors at Gwadar (KARACHI - Daily Times)	24	25
26	27	28 China agree to cooperate for modernization of Pakistan (BEIJING APP)	29	30	31	Aug 1

August 2009

August 2009						
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September 2009						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1
2	3	4	5 Pak-Iran-Turkey freight train Shah Zain Bugti to Support اسلام آباد کے بعد گواڈر کا ترقی پاکستان اور تر	6 SHAH Zain Bugti, grandson of Nawab Akbar Bugti, has alleged that Indian involvement is	7	8 Balochistan wants 250mmcf of Federal Government SNG technology may play
9	10 The limping Gwadar port By Syed Fazl-e-Haider (APP)	11 چین پاکستانی بندر گاہوں سے فا ندہ اٹھا ئے، زرداری (APP)	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 پاکستان نیشنل شپنگ کارپو ریشن نے 4 کروڑ 5 لاکھ ڈا جی ڈے اے کے اسکول کو نجی فرم کے حوالے کر
30	31	Sep 1	2	3	4	5

September 2009

September 2009						
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October 2009						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 30	31	Sep 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 پاکستان ترکی تک کنٹینر ٹرین سر وس کا کل بے آزمائشی آغاز (APP)	9 پاک چین ٹرین سروس کی فزیبلٹی رپورٹ پر کام شروع (APP)	10 پاک ایران گیس پا ئپ لائن منصوبے کا تکنیکی آغاز ہو گیا (APP)	11 پاکستان، ایران گیس پا ئپ لائن گواہر بے گزرے گی، نوید قمر (APP)	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3

October 2009

October 2009

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November 2009

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 27	28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 امریکہ نے سفارتخانے کی توسیع کیلئے ساڑھے 18 ایکڑ اراضی مانگ لی، توسیع پر تشویش نہیں، سیکرٹری (APP) خارجہ	10
11	12 گواہ بن درگاہ پاک چین دوستی کا زندہ ثبوت ہے صدر زرداری (APP)	13	14	15	16	17
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November 2009

November 2009

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December 2009

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 1	2 بلوچستان کے لئے جلد پیکج کا اعلا ن کیا جائے گا، صدر زردا ری (APP)	3 بلوچستان میں سر ما یہ کاری کے پر کشش موا قع موجود ہیں، اسلم رئیس نی (Daily Intekhab)	4 تجارت کا فروغ ریل روابط اشیا، ویو رپ تک بڑھا (APP) نے پر غور	5 گوا در ٹیکس فری زون قرار (One Pakistan)	6	7
8	9	10 بلوچستان پیکج سے عوام کے دل جیتنے میں مدد ملے گی، صدر (APP) زرداری جرمنی کی گوا در سے افغانستان ایران اور، حویلیاں سے چین	11	12	13	14
15 Multi-Billion Dollar Pakistan China rail link moving forward (APP)	16 Khalifa oil refinery project: UAE decides to go ahead گوا در تربت ہوشاب منصوبے کی تکمیل کیلئے ٹینڈر طلب	17 گوا در پلیٹری جیوا نی منصوبہ تکمیل کے قریب پہنچ گیا (APP)	18	19 Germany assures cooperation in railway, CDM, HRD sectors (ISLAMABAD - Daily times / APP)	20 بلوچستان کی معاشی صورت حال بہتر بنانے کیلئے ممکن اقدامات وزیر اعظم نے اسلام آباد تہران استنبول، کنٹینر ٹرین کا	21 پسنی کے دورے کا اعلان گوا در پورٹ سے تجارتی سرگرمیوں میں اضافہ ہوا نواب رئیسائی (APP)
22 گوا در پورٹ کے فنکشنل ہونے سے کوئی بیروزگار نہیں رہے گا صوبائی وزراء (APP)	23 پاک افغان تجارتی راہداری معائدہ (APP)	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5

December 2009

December 2009						
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January 2010						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 29	30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 China's assistance remarkable for Balochistan's development: Zardari (APP)	11	12 Balochistan package: PC proposes allocation of Rs 31 billion for 36 projects آغاز حقوق بلوچستان پیکیج (APP)
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 گواڈر میں سندھ سرحد اور پنجاب ہاؤسز کی منظوری اراضی الاٹ (APP)	23	24 گواڈر انٹر نیشنل ایئر پورٹ کی تعمیر کا ابتدائی کام مکمل تکمیل کے مراحل گواڈر بندر گاہ پا ک چین دوستی کا زندہ ثبوت ہے (Daily)	25	26
27 اس سلسلے میں وزیراعظم گیلانی 29 دسمبر کو گواڈر میں گواڈر (نامہ نگار) وزیراعظم کے دورے کی تیاریوں کے	28	29	30	31 Cabinet approves Centre, provinces CM Punjab Said Historic NFC NFC Award will 'Signing NFC is a گواڈر میں اوپی گواڈر میں ساتویں گواڈر: این ایف سی	Jan 1, 10	2

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January 2010

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February 2010						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 10	2
3	4	5	6 Prime Minister House? (ISLAMABAD - Business Recorder)	7	8	9
10	11	12 CAA to complete Gwadar airport (PM House press release - APP)	13 Iran / Pakistan Natural Gas Deal (Dawn newspaper)	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 ECNEC likely to approve construction of new Gwadar Int'l Airport (ISLAMABAD -	22 Ecneec approves 28 development projects (Daily Govt to install 1,000 MW TV booster in	23
24	25 Pakistan and Turkey agreed Monday to undertake a US \$ 20 billion project to upgrade a	26	27	28	29	30
31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5	6

February 2010

February 2010

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March 2010

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Iran, Pakistan to ink gas deal in Turkey (http://www.presstv.ir)	8 Gilani lauds Chinese cooperation for developing Gwadar Port (KARACHI - APP)	9	10	11	12	13 گوار پورٹ اتھارٹی طویل ایکسپرس وے تعمیر کرے گی (Daily Express)
14	15 IFAD to extend \$25m for fisheries in Balochistan (Daily Times)	16	17	18	19 Zahedan, Quetta sign trade MOU (THE MEHR NEWS AGENCY)	20 گوار بندر گاہ پر لاکھ ٹن کھاد 14 پہنچ چکی ہے۔ میر ہزار خان بجرانی (Daily Intekhab)
21	22	23	24	25 Zardari launches Quetta projects (APP) چیئرمین سینٹ کی گوار بندرگاہ کے ترقیاتی منصوبوں، اس کے فنکشنل ہونے کے حوالے سے	26 حمل کلمتی کی صدر سے ملاقات گوار کے مسائل گوار پورٹ مکمل طور پر فعال ہے بند ہونے کا تاثر وفاقی حکومت معیشت کے استحکام کیلئے 2	27 ریٹسانی کی غیر ملکی کمپنی کو پستی میں سرمایہ کاری کی پیش کش (Daily) گوار پورٹ کو سود مند بنانے کیلئے جدو جہد کرینگے، نواب
28	Mar 1	2	3	4	5	6

March 2010

March 2010

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April 2010

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 28	Mar 1	2	3	4	5	6
	سارک ممالک نو یورپ رسائی کے لیے رہداری مانگی ہے، وزیر ریلوے (APP)	ترقیاتی منصوبوں کی تکمیل کے لیے مربوط کوششیں کی جائیں، وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان (Daily Intekhab)	Automated port ops can change Five-year plan (2010-15): Rs Oman to provide \$45m for Pak, Oman trade hike thru	The government accords high priority to the socio-econom ic development of Balochistan (ISLAMABAD - APP)	Gwadar is ready for its close-up (Fairplay International گواڈر میں ٹیکنیکل ٹریننگ سپنٹر کا افتتاح کیا جا رہا ہے، آیت اللہ	India, Pak agree to complete IPI gas pipeline 2012 (ANI)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Italy to explore investments in Pakistan (Islamabad-AP P)	WHO ALSO PLANS TO ESTABLISH THE MEDICINE WAREHOUSE AT GWADAR (ISLAMABAD - APP)		Gwadar Immigration Office opens (QUETTA - APP) PM Directed to complete the Gwadar-Ratod ero Road and			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				CDWP approves 74 projects worth Rs 510.2 bln (ISLAMABAD - APP)	پاک ایران کوسٹل ہائی وے کی تکمیل سے تجارت میں اضافہ ہو گا۔ گواڈر پورٹ انتہائی اہمیت کی حامل ہے، وزیراعظم (Daily)	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	بلوچی میں مرتب کردہ مانیکروسوفٹ کی نمائش آج ہو گی (Daily متحدہ عرب امارات کا گواڈر میں سرمایہ کاری کا فیصلہ (Daily	ابوظہبی کے ولی عہد کی گواڈر آمد سرمایہ کاری کیلئے مجوزہ اراضی کا معائنہ (Daily Intekhab)		پاکستان کے اہم شعبوں میں دیر پا ترقی کا طریقہ کار بنا رہے ہیں بلیری۔ جنرل کیانی کی گیٹس اور مولن سے ملاقاتیں۔ ڈیون ٹیکنالوجی		گواڈر تک ریلوے لائن بچھانے کے ابتدائی منصوبے پر کام جاری ہے۔ وزیر مملکت ریلوے (Intekhab)
28	29	30	31	Apr 1	2	3
نیٹو کو لاجسٹک سپلائی کیلئے 3 رکتی ٹیم گواڈر پہنچ گئی (Daily Intekhab)		امریکہ پاکستان کو دفاعی سامان اور 3 تھرمل پلانٹس دیگا۔ فوجی اخراجات امریکی سول نیوکلیئر ٹیکنالوجی پاکستان کو				

April 2010

April 2010							May 2010						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 28	29	30	31	Apr 1	2	3
				پاکستان اور ترکی میں گڈز ٹرین اگست سے چلے گی۔ مفاہمت کی 4 ہدایتوں پر دستخط (Daily Express)	Sannaullah Zehri Joined Muslim League-N (APP) نیٹو سپلائی گوادر پورٹ کے ذریعے کرنے پر مذاکرات (Urdu Times)	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
					Antofagasta sees Reko Diq operational in 2015 (http://tribune. com.pk/)	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
				سنگا پورٹ کی جانب سے دستبرداری پر گوادر پورٹ 'چلا سکتے ہیں' (Dail Jang)		پاکستان کو 10 ہزار میگا واٹ کا ماڈیول پاور پلانٹ فراہم کریں گے، کیری (Daily Nawa-e-Waqa t)
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		گوادر پورٹ انتہائی اہمیت کی حامل ہے، برطانوی ڈپٹی پانی (Daily کمشنر گوادر میں سرمایہ کاروں کی بھر پور حوصلہ افزائی کی	امریکا پاکستان کو گائیڈڈ میزائل 'فریکٹ دیگا' معاہدے پر دستخط (Daily Jang)	گوادر ڈویلپمنٹ اٹھارٹی کی گورننگ باڈی نے بجٹ کی منظوری دیدی (One World)	گوادر ڈویلپمنٹ اٹھارٹی کی گورننگ باڈی نے بجٹ کی منظوری دیدی (Daily Ausaf)	
25	26	27	28	29	30	May 1
	گوادر پورٹ کی آمدنی کیری لوگر بل سے 'زیادہ ہوگی' فارق ستار (Daily Intekhab)	Handling of \$100 million Saudi urea at Gwadar: TCP, PSAG and stevedore companies in litigation (Business	China has taken the lead in developing Pakistan's Gwadar port city as an emerging energy hub (APP)	China to build two 650-MW Nuclear Reactors in Pakistan - Chashma-3 and -4. (nuclear reactors	China's Pakistan Corridor (China) How quickly can Pakistan tap Pakistan to get Shadow گوادر پورٹ پر ترقیاتی کاموں	

May 2010

May 2010							June 2010						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
30	31												

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 25	26	27	28	29	30	May 1 Tajikistan offered use of Gwadar Port (ISLAMABAD - APP)
2	3	4 Electricity import talks held with Iran team (Daily Dawn)	5 Chinese companies have poured at least \$15 billion into Baloch projects:	6	7	8
9 Beijing is reviving the idea of 'empire' with the launch of the world's most ambitious	10	11 دسمبر سے گوادر کو 20 لاکھ گیلن پانی فراہمی کا فیصلہ (Daily Intekhab)	12	13	14	15
16	17 Chinese companies in recent years have invested ملک میں گالف کے فروغ میں نیوی نے اہم کردار ہے	18 Karzai's Balancing Act: Bringing 'China' In? (By Shanthie Mariet D'Souza for	19	20	21 The Gwadar Port Civic Centre, Gwadar, and construction of Eastbay Expressway (APP)	22 بندر گاہ خلیج فارس، بحیرہ عرب، بحر ہند خلیج بنگال اور اسی سمندری پٹی میں واقع تمام بندرگاہوں
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 افغانستان کو تجارتی مرکز میں بدلنے کیلئے انقلابی ریل پراجیکٹ شروع (APP)
30	31	Jun 1	2	3	4	5

June 2010

June 2010							July 2010						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19		11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30					25	26	27	28	29	30
													31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 30	31	Jun 1	2 Naval chief for debate on Gwadar Port's potential (SAMAA TV)	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Pakistan, China sign five agreements; Gilani says Chinese پاکستان اور چین، میں آئی ٹی بندرگاہوں، آبی وسائل کے	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Rs. 12984.001 million GB budget for FY 2010-11 presented (APP)	24	25	26
27 Zardari to discuss open access policy for Railways in China visit (THE NEWS)	28	29	30	Jul 1	2	3

July 2010

July 2010							August 2010						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 27	28	29	30	Jul 1	2	3
				Enhanced Chinese interest in Pakistan ((Chennai, Sri Lanka Guardian)	Ambassador invites Pak businessmen to visit Tajikistan (APP)	PM calls for taking Pak-Sino bilateral ties to new بلوچستان۔ تعمیر اور تخریب کے دورے پر جرگہ... سلیم...
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
محکمہ تعلیم بلوچستان نے خواتین 1500 سمیت 3250 بلوچ گریجویٹس کو تقرر نامے جاری کر دیئے (Daily times)	کرزئی کی الزام، تراسی بند افغانستان کی پاکستان کی طرف جھکانو بھارت خوفزدہ برطانوی جریدہ (اکنامسٹ)	قباٹلی علاقوں میں 500 ارب ڈالر کے معدنی ذخائر کا انکشاف (شاموزئی (فارن)) (ڈسک)	China to invest \$10b in Many Chinese companies Pakistan Zardari met with پاکستان بحیثیت چین نے پاکستان سے صدر زرداری بیجنگ	Pakistan-China for enhancing The Pakistani segment of پاک، چین ریلوے لنک ضروری ہو چین کا امریکہ اور چینی کمپنیوں کا گیس پائپ لائن	چین گوادر سے فائدہ اٹھانے، وسط ایشیائی مارکیٹوں کے لیے مشترکہ اقدامات کرنا ہوں گے، صدر زرداری (بیجنگ)	The development of Sino-Pakistani ties has been shaped by regional geopolitical dynamics.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Kashgar-Gwadar railway line would give Beijing a window on the Persian Gulf (ASIA NEWS)	LNG terminal at Gwadar Port likely Pakistan plans to mobilise PM orders all help to صدر زرداری سے وزیراعظم وین	Chitral to be linked with China (APP) Pak China Railway Track to Cost \$30 Million Per Kilometer (APP)	چین ایک قابل اعتماد دوست (Jang) صدر پاکستان کا دورہ چین... شہ رگ... ڈاکٹر مرزا اختیار بیگ (APP)	Karakoram to Gwadar via Chashma! (DR.JAVID IQBAL) چین پاکستان کو 4 جدید ترین مڑائل بردار بہری جہاز دے رہا ہے ایف	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	امریکی وزیر خارجہ US to provide \$7 امریکا کا مختلف پاک، افغان ٹرانزٹ پاکستان امریکا پاکستان کا بھارت پاکستان پاکستان کی پاکستانی معیشت	Pakistan and China's Pakistan, U.S. to enhance پاک افغان ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ معاہدہ پاکستان کیلئے 69 کروڑ ڈالر کے 73 کابل: دورہ پاکستان	رواں سال دسمبر تک 2400 میگاواٹ سے زائد بجلی (Jang)		China Mobile To Invest Additional \$300M In Pakistan (APP) Pakistan to expand maritime ties with China	دوستی اب جامع سٹریٹجک پارٹنرشپ میں بدل چکی، صدر آصف علی زرداری (Daily Jang)
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
پاکستان کو گیس کی فراہمی ایران میں پائپ لائن کا افتتاح (Daily Jang)	کوئٹہ... آغاز حقوق بلوچستان کے تحت 4885 گریجویٹس س افراد کو ملازمتیں مل گئیں (Jang)	امریکہ نے پاکستان کو پہلی بار Chinese electronics Rs 9 billion being spent on road US announces پاکستان پر طالبان پاکستان	Pakistan, China can jointly tap huge ship بلوچستان پیکج کا دوسرا مرحلہ انٹرن شپ کے جوہری ہتھیار پاکستان کے تاج میں جڑے نگینے	Build Pakistan, Don't Buy China carries Benazir Military aid to Pakistan Could پاک بھارت پاک بھارت قادر پور میں 226	UK 'not to turn its back on Govt gears up for market access ICBC to open branches in ICCI welcomes 10-year Warehouse	اپنی فوجیں پاکستان میں داخل نہیں کریں Pakistan coal deposit richer than ME oil میگاواٹ بجلی کی پیداوار کیلئے دو ٹرانزیکٹر کراچی

August 2010

August 2010

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September 2010

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 1 <div>President Zardari to discuss economy in Paris (APP)</div>	2 <div>Pakistan eyes \$10b Chinese investment (APP)</div>	3 <div>Pak keen for a civil nuke cooperation with France: Zardari (Press)</div> <div>Pakistan has bigger nuke arsenal than India: Report</div>	4 <div>France, Pak to set up Joint Commission (Paris)</div>	5 <div>Gwadar Port rail link with other cities soon: Bilour (APP)</div>	6 <div>Innovative China eyes seas (IND)</div>	7 <div>Govt to succeed in pulling country out of Pakistan in Chinese fighter jet deal</div> <div>US offers 'unarmed' UAV's to Pak</div>
8 <div>India seeks Pak help to trace 33 soldiers (INP)</div>	9 <div>Pakistan, Russia to establish HBE (APP)</div>	10 <div>TAPI Pipeline back on the agenda (Turkmenistan)</div> <div>US, Pak defence teams agree to boost cooperation</div>	11	12 <div>China Three Gorges to Invest \$100,000 Million for Two Hydro Power Projects in Pakistan (New Energy)</div>	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 <div>China flood aid may help test China-Pak border roads, fight ultras (Times of India)</div>	28 <div>پاکستان گلگت بلتستان کانٹرول چین کے حوالے کرنے کی تیاری کر رہا ہے: امریکی اخبار (امریکی اخبار)</div>
29 <div>Kashmir: the China connection (The Economist)</div> <div>PBC and China Radio International sign statement</div>	30	31 <div>TCC to invest \$3.3bn in gold and copper mining (APP)</div>	Sep 1	2	3	4

September 2010

September 2010						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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October 2010						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 29	30	31	Sep 1	2	3 <div>Deepening investments in Pakistan - China (Beijing)</div> <div>No troops in Pakistan: China (Daily Times)</div>	4
5 <div>'Iranian nation will support Pakistan' (Daily Times)</div>	6	7	8	9	10 <div>Indonesia-Pakistan Business Forum to be launched this</div> <div>EU set to agree trade breaks for Pakistan (BRUSSELS)</div>	11 <div>EU needs a 'comprehensive approach' to help Pakistan (BRUSSELS:)</div> <div>Trade-linked aid to Pakistan tops Europe talks ((AFP))</div>
12	13	14 <div>Europe preparing to grant Pakistan extraordinary trade</div> <div>German economic delegation to visit Pakistan</div>	15 <div>David Cameron to push EU to ease Pakistan</div> <div>Pak, Malaysia agree to form FTA review</div> <div>Pak-US sign US\$ 482,000 agreement in</div>	16 <div>Aussie team set to extend</div> <div>China hands over 3rd F-22P</div> <div>EU Cuts Tariffs to Italian MPs team</div> <div>Pak-US grant</div> <div>The strategically</div> <div>عرب امارات سے</div>	17 <div>Pakistan receives first shipment of power plant donated by UAE (Daily</div> <div>گواہر پورٹ چین کو 'دیے کا امکان' دور رس اثرات مرتب ہونگے</div>	18 <div>Chinese takeaway (The Dawn)</div> <div>Japan grants \$407,318 for supporting</div> <div>The United Nations and its partners on</div>
19 <div>China makes huge inroads in PoK. (TIMES)</div> <div>Pak China cooperation in Pakistan confirmed that</div> <div>Pakistan Navy to build</div>	20 <div>Govt to ink GPFA of TAPI on</div> <div>India signs deal for Turkmen</div> <div>Pak Datacom signs national</div> <div>Pakistan to sign TAPIs' GPFA</div> <div>Turkmen and</div>	21 <div>ADB expands Pakistan trade</div> <div>China to build 1GW nuclear</div> <div>ECO agrees on China</div> <div>PR signs MoU</div> <div>The framework</div> <div>Three-day</div>	22 <div>British Foreign Secretary welcome EU's</div> <div>Column: Pakistan is a part of</div> <div>OIC announces US\$ 1 billion</div> <div>TDAP organises seminar on</div>	23 <div>German investors show keen interest in</div> <div>Pakistan Urging Persian Gulf Loans for</div> <div>پاکستان کو ایٹمی ری ایکٹرز دینے کیلئے نیوکلیئر</div>	24 <div>Ecneec likely to approve 27 projects on</div> <div>Naval chief wants Gwadar deal</div> <div>Pakistan set to award \$25m</div> <div>PCC-USA organizes coal</div>	25 <div>Chinese help (The Nation)</div> <div>Germany considers</div> <div>Improving USA MoC to sign pact</div> <div>Pak - China</div> <div>Pak-Kuwait JMC</div> <div>UK to lobby for</div>
26 <div>Manufacturing 'China threat' (The Dawn)</div> <div>Only our fears can encircle us</div> <div>PNS Saif, Chinese pledge</div> <div>UK-Aid provides 130,000 life</div>	27 <div>Nepal-Pakistan to sign FTA in</div> <div>Nuclear-armed Pakistan takes</div> <div>Pact on pvt role in TAPI</div> <div>Pakistan,</div> <div>PM directs</div> <div>Review port deal</div>	28	29	30 <div>Chinese firm bags deal to link Pak,</div> <div>Pakistan puts new life into</div> <div>Tethyan Copper plans to invest</div> <div>US to promote agriculture in</div>	Oct 1	2

October 2010

October 2010						
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November 2010						
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28	29	30				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 26	27	28	29	30	Oct 1 <div> <div>Accord signed with US for</div> <div>Pakistan Atomic Energy</div> <div>Pakistan's</div> <div>PM to inaugurate</div> <div>پاکستانی سرحد پر</div> </div>	2
3	4	5	6	7 <div> <div>Afghan trucks allowed up to</div> <div>Cabinet approves Pak-Afghan</div> <div>Pakistan building 500 MW Wind</div> <div>Turkmenistan to</div> </div>	8 <div> <div>Pakistan government seek fund for Thar coal (Business Recorder)</div> </div>	9 <div> <div>LCCI flays Afghan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement APTTA approval</div> </div>
10	11	12	13 <div> <div>TIKA opens office in Pakistan to enhance assistance operation (APP)</div> </div>	14 <div> <div>PAF to participate in</div> <div>Pak Urges Turkey to Facilitate</div> <div>SUPARCO to launch Paksat</div> <div>University in</div> </div>	15	16
17	18 <div> <div>Chinese Co to construct 335km of KKH: Alamgir (Observer)</div> </div>	19	20 <div> <div>Mega projects to be given to Chinese</div> <div>Korean firms to invest</div> <div>Pakistan important</div> </div>	21 <div> <div>GENEVA: India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkmenistan</div> <div>US to finance around \$ 40 mln for agri</div> </div>	22	23
24	25	26 <div> <div>British Home Secretary</div> <div>German ILF wins</div> <div>Pak-Afghan to</div> <div>REFILE-Tethyan</div> <div>Saudi</div> <div>TCC launches</div> </div>	27 <div> <div>FAO starts wheat</div> <div>Govt investing in</div> <div>KARACHI: Rental</div> <div>Korea keen to</div> <div>UK to expedite</div> <div>UN starts wheat</div> <div>US to invest in</div> </div>	28 <div> <div>Cabinet approves TAPI gas</div> <div>Council calls for</div> <div>KARACHI: The</div> <div>'Netherlands</div> <div>Pakistan offers</div> <div>USAID mission</div> </div>	29 <div> <div>4,000 Baloch inducted in</div> <div>GILGIT: Over</div> <div>Malaysian</div> <div>Pak, China sign</div> <div>Pak-Afghan ink</div> <div>Pakistan, China</div> </div>	30 <div> <div>US likely to provide \$400m more in military assistance (Dawn)</div> </div>
31 <div> <div>China: 'Pakistan is our Israel' (Inter Press</div> <div>Korea Offers Information</div> <div>The United States will</div> </div>	Nov 1	2	3	4	5	6

November 2010

November 2010						
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December 2010						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 31	Nov 1 Buttresing Pak-Turkish IMF delegation arrives in Pak receives 3 high-tech Pakistan votes in favor of TAPI US to give \$150	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Our strategic commercial corridor(s) (BR) پاکستان اور عمان کا مسقط گوادر فیری سروس شروع کرنے پر اتفاق (jang)	30 Opportunities galore for Chinese investment in Pakistan (APP)	Dec 1	2	3	4

December 2010

December 2010						
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January 2011						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 28	29	30	Dec 1	2	3	4
5	6 Iran plans wind farm for Pakistan (TEHRAN - UPI)	7 Pak-China relations expanding in all dimensions: Chinese spokesperson (APP)	8 ECNEC to okay 22 projects tomorrow (APP)	9 The government of Pakistan Pak, Afghan enjoying Pakistan Capital Market Forum Pakistan wishes Pak-South Korea Russian	10 Malaysia starts breeding Pak-Austria joint Pakistan business Pakistan, China Pakistan-Turkey - Russia, China S Korea to Swiss officials	11 Pak to get six more F-16 The 17,000 Km long Turkey to upgrade PAF Turkish delegation Turkmenistan's
12 Norwegian defence delegation arrives in Pakistan (APP)	13 Pak, Russia business forum Pakistan, China to ink series of agreements Pakistan-Norway keen to enhance coop	14 Chinese PMs visit to help boost Pak financial system size Pak-China natural Pak-China to Six China Trade, agri-links	15 China will be requested to Pak links up with China's Premier Wen to launch China's اسلام آباد کی تاریخ ساز پاکستان تھائی لینڈ	16 Gilani for Chinese help اے پی پی نے اپنے ہفت روزہ "عہد بیس ماہ کے مختصر عرصہ میں چین کے وزیراعظم وین جیا باؤ تین چین وزیراعظم کے	17 چینی وزیراعظم (کل) سیاسی اور فوجی قیادت چینی وزیراعظم کے فقید المثال استقبال چینی وزیراعظم وین جیا باؤ تین روزہ سرکاری	18 Pak-China sign \$ 275 million project for پاکستان اور چین کا تجارتی و چین کے وزیراعظم وین جیا باؤ تین عسکری قیادت کی چینی وزیراعظم
19 چین ہمارا قابل اعتماد دوست ہے، ہماری خوشیاں اور غم ایک ہیں، چین وین جیا باؤ نے خطاب کا آغاز "اسلام علیکم" بھائی" اور	20 چینی وزیراعظم کے حالیہ دورہ Another milestone in China, Pakistan relations Wen remarks چین کے ساتھ 36 صدر کی کویت کے	21 Oman accepts Pak proposal for maritime trade, Gwadar-Musc at ferry (Pakistan Times)	22 وزیر داخلہ رحمن ملک سے روسی سرمایہ کاروں کے وفد کی ملاقات (APP)	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 11

The title "Gwadar's largest commercial scheme" Al-Noor cargo city holds this distinct. Al-Noor cargo city is also known as Gwadar's first strategic commercial scheme. Al-Noor cargo city is situated in the mid of Gwadar airport and Gwadar sea port. It has one-kilometer wide front on the 205ft wide main Baluchistan Broadway and 150ft wide Existing coastal highway.

Al-Noor Cargo City gives an eye-catching stance to both local and international investors due to its strategic location. In addition, just 1500 yards distance to Deep Sea East Bay gives another edge to Al-Noor Cargo City.



GWADAR

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NEWSBOOK 2011

In association with

AL-NOOR CARGO CITY GWADAR

NEWS & UPDATES

From January 2011 to December 2011



GWADAR NEWSBOOK 2011

January 2011

January 2011							February 2011						
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30	31												

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 26	27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 11 Speech by Ambassador Liu Jian at the 2011 "China-Pakistan Friendship Year" and
2 Year long celebrations of Pak-China friendship starts (APP)	3 KARACHI: Dr Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Hon Quetta, Jan 3(ANI): Afghan Raisani seeks NATO fuel	4 China's 'all-weather friendship' with Pakistan: Stable Balochistan army's dream:	5 Pipeline and regional stability (Pak Tribune)	6 China's western push strengthens Pakistan links (((Important Article)))	7 100-member Chinese youth delegation BEIJING: China is ready to put in Bol, Chinese Counselor	8
9	10 Gwadar port's unrealised potential (Business Recorder)	11	12	13	14 چین کے تجارتی وفد کی کالا باغ کے مقام پر نئی سٹیل مل قائم کرنے میں دلچسپی (APP)	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Pak-China trade jumps by US \$ 2 bln to US \$ Pakistan Oilfields Profit Rises 'Pakistan, Bosnia need to	29 Bestway Group invests \$230 ISLAMABAD: The Kingho Group Power distribution Swiss envoy for
30 ICBC leads charge as Chinese banks Pak-China trade jumps by US \$ Pakistan's FTA with Indonesia	31 IDB to finance Pak power project (ARAB NEWS) Pakistan to invite fresh bids for 3.5 mil	Feb 1	2	3	4	5

February 2011

February 2011

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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27	28					

March 2011

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 30	31	Feb 1	2 Obama should offer Islamabad a much more expansive 'UK working hard to promote Pakistan's investment	3 Construction of new Gwadar Airport: Centre releases Rs 90 million to Iranian gas price will be double to that of local gas, NA told	4 ADB to provide loan for Pakistan's first BEIJING: From January to GILGIT: The Chinese Pak businessmen urged to avail	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Zardari urges construction of smaller dams on war footing (APP)
13	14 Pak-US group agrees to add 10,000MW to national grid (APP)	15 China 2nd largest global economy and opportunities for Pakistan ((Important)) (By Mehmood-UI-Hassan Khan)	16	17	18	19
20	21 UNDP to build 100,000 houses for flood affected people of Sindh (APP)	22 Tokyo, Feb 22 (ANI): Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari said that وزیراعظم گیلانی کی جنوبی کوریا کے سفیر سے گفتگو	23	24 Zardari's Japan visit brings tangible benefits for Pakistan (APP)	25 China, Pak to enhance military ties (APP)	26
27	28 Kuwait rendezvous: President, Saudi prince discuss regional situation (APP)	Mar 1	2	3	4	5

March 2011

March 2011							April 2011						
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27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 27	28	Mar 1	2	3	4	5
				Swiss chamber attracting Pak textile producers (app)	China begins construction of Fast Attack Craft for Pak Navy (APP) US asked to fund Bhasha Dam under KLL (APP)	Multi-million dollars LNG import project in doldrums (app) PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Brazil to invest in Ethanol and KARACHI: The Karachi KESC to install 300MWcoal-b Pak firm offers dates to Pak-Bosnian	.PPAF sets up wind turbines, solar panels Call to build mega dams, Pakistan to provide US to give 40pc aid via	Despite the Capital Haqqani seeks investment in ISLAMABAD: Country can Pak-Tajik presidents' صدر زرداری اور	Pak, GCC ink MoU on Pakistan is planning of Pak-US programme World has interest in Zardari, Gul	ADB hopes Pakistan will benefit from Pakistan, China aim to President for early US Embassy Supports	Coal termed future of Pakistan (APP) The first round of negotiations between Pakistan and China for the second phase	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
				کرغیزستان گوادر بندرگاہ سے فائدہ اٹھائے، پاکستان کی پیشکش (jang)		پاکستان اور تاجکستان کے درمیان زراعت صحت اور کھیل، کے شعبوں میں تعاون کے 3 معاہدے (JANG)
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		Pak-China FTA expansion in June Pakistan eyes \$350b GCC trade	China announces 500 scholarships (APP)		(The writer is a London-Lahore based businessman and a Pakistan Muslim League (Dr Ashraf Chohan MPA)	
27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1	2
Pakistan progresses with two gas pipelines projects (APP) Pak-Sweden relations strong'	GCU to celebrate 60 years of Pak-China friendship	CM lauds Pak-China friendship Pak-China friendship Pak-Indian IT Firms Bilateral Pakistani and Chinese air				

April 2011

April 2011							May 2011						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1	2
					تجارتی و اقتصادی، تعلقات کا فروغ پاک ملائشین مشترکہ بزنس کونسل قائم (Jang)	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			KARACHI (Azhar Ali Khan): British Prime Minister David Cameron on Tuesday said that Pak-UK bilateral trade volume would		چیمبر کی کاوشوں سے حیدرآباد میں روسی انویسٹمنٹ ہو رہی ہے، گوہر اللہ (APP)	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	34% Increase in Pak-Malaysia Bilateral Trade (APP)	Zardari wants \$2 Billion Pak-Turkish trade volume (Market Watch)	Zardari, Gul vow to work hand in hand to create vibrantly	Pak-Turkey to increase bilateral trade: Mirza Thursday, 14 Apr PM okays Pak-France Joint Business Council (APP)	Pakistan focusing on to promote bilateral trade Pak-Kazakh agreed to promote پاکستان اور ترکی کے درمیان	Gilani looks to boost trade with Kazakhstan Hafeez Shaikh seeks US investment in energy sector
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
وزیراعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی چینی قیادت کے Pakistani, Chinese finance UBL to help Chinese investors to	A Pak-Turkey train that will Balochistan to get Gulf Cooperation Council to Saudi Arabia keen to invest گیلانی کا دورہ چین	Pakistan test-fired Hatf 9; Nuclear-capable Missile				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
						175 new coaches imported to cope with demand of passengers: Gwadar Port to be connected through rail link: Bilour

May 2011

May 2011

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June 2011

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 1 امریکا بلوچستان میں 26 ڈیموں کی تعمیر میں مالی معاونت کریگا (Jang)	2 Parliament approves TAPI gas agreement	3	4 Trade Facilitation Programme for Pakistan پاک ازبک تجارت کا فروغ وقت کا اہم تقاضا ہے۔ محمد عثمان شیخ (APP)	5 Pakistan, France ink declarations on security, economic partnership	6 Pakistan and Kuwait will sign a Memorandum of صدر زرداری بدھ سے روس کا دورہ کرینگے (JANG)	7
8	9 Pak-China friendship anchor of peace, stability: Gilani (Jang)	10	11 Zardari invites Russia to invest in Pakistan's trans-regional صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری (کل) چار روزہ سرکاری دورہ پر	12 صدر زرداری نے روس کو پاکستانی سمندروں تک رسائی کی پیشکش کردی (JANG)	13 روسی کمپنیاں پاکستان اسٹیل کو جدید بنانے بجلی و گیس کے، منصوبوں میں یورپی یونین نے پاکستان کیلئے تجارتی رعایتوں کی متفقہ طور	14
15 MoU signed with Malaysia for meat exports (Online)	16 UAE allocates \$100 million for projects in پاکستان ہزار میگاواٹ بجلی لینے کیلئے وزیراعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی منگل کو چین	17 Chairman Three Gorges ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the پاک ایران تعلقات کو مزید فروغ کراچی میں دنیا کا وزیراعظم برادر یورپی پارلیمنٹ نے	18 Construction of Gwadar-Pleri-Jiwani-Gabd Dubai businessmen پاکستان اور ترکی کے درمیان چین، پاکستان کو ہنگامی بنیاد	19 A leading Closer Pak-China EXIM Bank of ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, China RKS OF THE اسلامی ممالک پاکستانی تاجروں چین کے ساتھ	20 'China agrees to run Gwadar Chinese media Pak, Afghanistan Pakistan's Prime Pakistani PM: بیجنگ میں گیلانی جنرل کھانی سے چینی بینک	21 پاکستان بھاشا اور یونجی ڈیموں BEIJING: Pakistan and China China to help Pakistan EXIM Bank to چین کے ساتھ اظہار گیلانی بوجن تاؤ
22 Chinese government Pak-China power generation Pak-China power Pakistan asks Pakistan Says چین پاکستان کو 50 چین گوادربندرگاہ	23 پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان بجلی کی پیداوار پر کام تیز کرنے کا فیصلہ (پاک) مستقبل کے چینی صدر دورہ پاکستان پرائیونگ (Jang)	24 Pakistan to ask US for two more Orion planes (APP) پاکستان کیساتھ چلنا ہوگا، کیمرون تعاون جاری رکھیں گے، اوپاما	25 BUSINESS PERISCOPE: Economic ties between Japanese Ambassador Japanese Pakistan may set Switzerland to	26 Chinese firm invests \$40mn in Pak Pak-China defence Provincial Minister Mir XVI NAM Ministerial	27 'Pak-China Business ADB to support All set to finalise Chinese investors Indigenous wind ISLAMABAD - ISLAMABAD: Pak-China to	28 Naek invites Polish businessmen to explore investment چینی قیادت نے پاکستان کو یقین دہانی کرائی ہے کہ وہ
29 ISLAMABAD: Chairman Investment Board Saleem H. Mandviwala Karachi—Sindh Investment Board and Korean	30 Pakistan, Norway agree to strengthen bilateral ties, trade and economic cooperation (APP)	31 Belgium is the fifth major EU Economic Daily to play role in Pakistan, China friendship a Pak-Malaysia trade could پاکستان اور	Jun 1	2	3	4

June 2011

June 2011							July 2011						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 29	30	31	Jun 1 Pakistan China Forum to be jointly organised by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and	2	3	4 Rs 1.1 billion allocated for Gwadar Int'l Airport (Daily Times)
5	6 Development projects in Balochistan to generate jobs:Jamali (APP)	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Pak-China manufactured: Pakistan Navy inducts Naval ship Aslat (Express)	17	18 BEIJING: The next five-year (2012-1216) Pak-China Development Next Pak-China Development Programme on Trade to be
19 Balochistan govt to get further Rs 11 billion from Divisible Pool (Daily Times)	20	21 Pakistan seeks Chinese expertise to boost oil, gas production (Singapore Platts))	22 Islamabad, Baku enjoy excellent ties (Observer)	23 GPA board meeting held (Observer)	24 Pak rail to get Chinese coaches in Sept (APP) The government is set to sign an agreement with Iran for importing 100	25 PCSIR to establish incubation centers soon (PCSIR to establish incubation centers in Gwadar)
26 TCP to import another 50,000 MT urea (The Nations)	27 Iran to Increase Power Supply to Pakistan (TEHRAN (FNA))	28	29	30 LONDON, June 30 (APP)- President Asif Ali Zardari Thursday said Britain and Pakistan need to work closely to	Jul 1	2

July 2011

July 2011							August 2011						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
31													

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 26	27	28	29	30	Jul 1 KASHGAR: The Pakistan-China Business Forum was Pakistan-China Business Forum to help	2 NHA completes two Asian Bank-funded projects (The News)
3	4 Korean companies to invest in Pak power sector (Observer)	5	6 Iran to Start Pumping Gas to Pakistan Next Year (TEHRAN (FNA)-)	7	8 PM approves commission for Gwadar land allotment probe (Daily Times)	9 25,000 tonnes urea to reach Gwadar Port (Daily Times) Pakistan and China to bring stability in the
10	11 10,000MW Pakistan, China friendshipBy Urea ships to start arriving from Monday	12	13 China helping Pak Navy in building missile boat (Zee News)	14 Zip-Pak Showcases Innovative Solutions at ProPak China (Zip-Pak Showcases	15	16 China-Punjab MTT project to benefit both sides: Shahbaz (PAK-CHINA MAGAZINE)
17 Zardari proposes Islamabad-Tehran currency swap accord (The News)	18	19	20 Fed govt decides to implement LNG import project (Pak Tribune)	21	22	23
24	25 45,550 MT urea arrives at Gwadar (The Nation)	26 Rs 59bn allocated for transport & communicatio Ship begins discharging urea at	27	28	29 Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani has approved funds of \$90 million for the reconstruction	30 China to give squadron of J10-B fighters to Pak (Zee News)
31 Pak-China Joint Energy Working Group (JEWG) (The Nation)	Aug 1	2	3	4	5	6

August 2011

August 2011							September 2011						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27		18	19	20	21	22	23
28	29	30	31					25	26	27	28	29	30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 31	Aug 1 China likely to get Iran-Pakistan China's help in power Chinese, Turkish and Korean Pakistan, Poland agree to	2	3 China offered engineering pact for Iran pipeline (The Nation: By: Ahmad Ahmadani.)	4	5	6
7 Chinese firm to ply 800 CNG buses in city (The News) ICBC entrance into Pak to develop banking sector (Observer)	8 PakSat-IR symbol of Pak-China cooperation in space science & technology: Masood Khan (The Nation)	9 China to cooperate in livestock, energy sectors (The Nation) Pakistan, Tajikistan express willingness to build railway	10 Beijing: For the first time, China will be launching a communication satellite for close ally Pakistan, a move that will	11	12 Pakistan's 'first' advanced communications satellite PAKSAT-1R, as a part of Pakistan's Space Programme	13
14	15	16 .President for maximum utilization of Pak-China trade (APP) Govt to import 1m tonnes urea for Rabi season (DAILY)	17	18 China Building Alternative Transport RoutesBEIJING (Nikkei)--China has started building alternative routes to	19	20
21 Gilani seeks ADB financing for Bhasha (APP) US considering to assist in Diamer-Bhasha dam (APP)	22 Zardari urges Central Asian states to organise joint (Pakistan Today)	23	24 Central Asian countries: President calls Pakistan, China ties are President directs expediting Untitled eventTCP	25	26 4th Pak-China business forum (PAKISTAN TODAY) China would continue supporting Pakistan's	27 China is developing a new Euro-Asian rail continental Pak-China agree to look into the possibilities of
28	29 China-Euroasia Expo 2011 a major event: Masood Khan (APP)	30 3rd Pak-China Business Forum held in Shanghai President Zardari arrives in Urumqi to attend China-Eurasia	31 President Asif Ali Zardari received a red-carpet welcome when he arrived here on Tuesday (URUMQI:)	Sep 1	2	3

September 2011

September 2011						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 28	29	30	31	Sep 1 China "appreciates Zardari's gesture of bringing with him CM Gilgit – Baltistan" (Posted by Pamir Times)	2	3 China, Pakistan vow to boost ties (URUMQI (NNI):)
4 Fast work likely on Balochistan communicatio Pak-China discuss PoK-Xinjiang Pak-China discuss rail line to	5 An important four-power summit concluded in Tajikistan on Zardari, Li Keqiang agree to bolster Pak-China	6 A ship MV Hyderabad carrying Gilani arrives in Astana on two-day visit TCP-imported urea arrives at Gwadar Port	7	8	9	10
11 China to give \$4.7 mn emergency aid Pakistani PM Gillani in Tehran True friends: China first country to	12 China hands over US\$ 50,000 cheque to NDMA for flood Senator Talha discusses Pak, China trade cooperation	13 Central Asia and trade expansion (APP) Minister reviews Chinese financing (FRONTIER POST)	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Pak takes part in Int'l Investment, Trade Fair, Arab Economic Forum in North West China (APP)	22	23	24
25	26	27 China sign agreements worth \$250 mn (APP)	28	29	30 China is best to handle Gwadar, says Brig Mir (THE NATION)	Oct 1

October 2011

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 25	26	27	28	29	30	Oct 1
2	3	4 Information ministry seeking control of Pak-China Friendship Centre (APP)	5	6	7 BUSINESS PERISCOPE: Urea ship arrives, one China to give \$5million aid in cash to	8 MoU signing with Chinese chamber (THE NEWS)
9	10	11	12 Chinese Battery-Powered Bikes should be promoted: Butt (ONLINE)	13 Chinese may invest in Thar coal (THE NEWS)	14	15 Iranian, Azerbaijan ambassadors meet Pak-Iran gas pipeline to bring
16 CDWP to take up 39 projects worth Rs 124.655 billion Govt releases Rs46.6bn under PSDP in	17 Pak-China civil nuclear cooperation meets international obligations: Spokesman	18	19 China wishes Pakistan to be elected as Hatf-VII strengthens Pakistan-Tajikistan road to cost	20 Display centre for Pakistani exports set up Expo begins today Pakistan Pakistan-Tajikistan road to cost	21 China seen investing \$11bn in energy sector (APP)	22 Pak seeks USD 11 bn investment from China
23	24	25	26	27 Gwadar declared winter capital Gwadar winter capital of QUETTA: Balochistan Winter Provincial	28 Businessmen need training to explore Five-day festival reflects Pak-China friendship:	29 Karzai's challenge: Emerging Pakistan-Afghanistan Ties (THE CANADIAN)
30	31	Nov 1	2	3	4	5

November 2011

November 2011						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 30	31	Nov 1	2 Chinese firm donates 1m Yuan to Pak flood victims (THE NEWS)	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 First ship carrying 50,000 tons urea is scheduled to یوریا کھاد کا پہلا جہاز 20 نومبر کو گوادر پورٹ پر لنگر انداز	10 Turkmenistan, Pakistan reach TAPI gas price agreement (IMP) (By Robert M Cutler)	11 Pakistan to seek Iran gas for key port's industries (The Express Tribune)	12
13 Turkmen gas reserves brighten hope for Pakistan (Business Observer)	14	15	16 Steps afoot to make Gwadar winter capital: CS Balochistan (APP) گوادر بندرگاہ اپنے محل وقوع کے لحاظ سے دنیا کی بہترین	17	18	19
20 Conference to strengthen regional economic connectivity (Pakistan Today)	21 Oman has given a grant of \$17 million to the ٹی سی پی کے اعلامیہ کے مطابق 75 ہزار گوادر پورٹ پر 2 بحری جہاز کھادلے کر پہنچ	22 ISGS to open branch offices in Gwadar and Sukkur (APP) Raisani seeks Afghan transit trade via Gwadar (RECORDER)	23 Balochistan government seeks share in PPL, SSGC (Business Recorder)	24	25 CAREC approves over 100 projects worth \$17 billion (Business Teaching Chinese in Pakistan to enhance	26 Balochistan gives land to lay Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline (NIGC) Gwadar-Mastung rail project: German firm wants to
27 Arab Spring may impact bilateral trade with Pak (Daily Times)	28	29 Pakistan, Turkey may sign PTA next year (Business Recorder)	30 Arrival of ships starts at Gwadar Port Zardari offers Korea to set up economic سرمائی دارالحکومت کے قیام کے بعد	Dec 1	2	3

December 2011

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2 New Gwadar International Airport to be completed by 2014 (APP)	3
4 Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Govt released Rs 11.90bn under Gwadar civil secretariat Three ships unloading	5 Gwadar will be a centre for trade, says Raisani (APP)	6	7	8 Red China: PLA engineers operating multiple projects in Pakistan Urea being discharged at Gwadar (APP)	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Pak-China Institute signs MoU to enhance bilateral trade (APP)	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 China wants to intensify amicable, cooperation relations with Pak-China partnership conducive to stability of	24 Expanding oil refining infrastructure (Daily Times)
25	26	27	28	29	30 Pak-China CSA to boost trade and investment (Daily Times)	31

The title "Gwadar's largest commercial scheme" Al-Noor cargo city holds this distinct. Al-Noor cargo city is also known as Gwadar's first strategic commercial scheme. Al-Noor cargo city is situated in the mid of Gwadar airport and Gwadar sea port. It has one-kilometer wide front on the 205ft wide main Baluchistan Broadway and 150ft wide Existing coastal highway.

Al-Noor Cargo City gives an eye-catching stance to both local and international investors due to its strategic location. In addition, just 1500 yards distance to Deep Sea East Bay gives another edge to Al-Noor Cargo City.



GWADAR

www.alnoorgwadar.com/newsbook2012

NEWSBOOK 2012

In association with

AL-NOOR CARGO CITY GWADAR

NEWS & UPDATES

From January 2012 to December 2012



GWADAR NEWSBOOK 2012

January 2012

January 2012

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February 2012

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 1, 12 BISP acting as bridge for Sino-Pak social sector coop' China to be the largest importer of Pak products'	2	3 Zardari orders prompt off-loading of urea at Gwadar (APP)	4	5 Kayani leaves for China to discuss security, defence (Pakistan Today)	6	7
8	9 China's biggest web portal lauds Pak-China friendship Pakistan, Oman agree to strengthen cooperation in	10 American Pakistanis keen to facilitate investment Korean investors to enter JV in energy, agri sectors (Daily	11 0.08pc Balochistan Construction of roads in 6 Minister for quick Pak offers immense Pak-China Rail	12 Pakistani fruits have huge potential in Central Asian markets (BUSINESS RECORDER)	13 Pakistan-Azerbaijan Business Forum soon (DAWN)	14 Gwadar infrastructure development Masood terms youth as flag bearer of youth are flag-bearers of Pak-China
15 Govt releases Rs 15.90bn under PSDP in just 21 days (APP)	16 Pak envisions \$11b Chinese investment in energy sector (Observer)	17 Establishing Joint Chamber: KCCI President seeks Azerbaijan ambassador's help (DAWN)	18	19 China exports communications satellites to Pak (Observer)	20 GCU establishing Centre for China Studies (APP)	21 Preserving Gwadar beaches (Dawn) گوادر' پاک بحریہ نے مقامی آبادی کیلئے ایک مفت طبی کیمپ قائم کر دیا
22	23	24 Balochistan govt committed to ensure potable water to citizens (APP)	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4

February 2012

February 2012

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 29	30	31	Feb 1 Exports register 23pc growth as Pak-China Govt asked to divert ATT to Gwadar port Zardari for joint Pak-China strategy to	2 Pak-China trade	3 Pakistan, Indonesia sign Preferential Trade Agreement (IANS)	4
5	6	7 Qatar agrees to supply 3.5 million tons of LNG: two accords, four MoUs inked (APP)	8 Chinese leadership perceives any threat to Pakistan as threat to ECC directives to TCP (The News)	9	10 'Pak ready to allow Tajikistan Zardari offers Gwadar port facilities to تاجکستان کو عالمی تجارت کہلنے گوادر	11
12 Pakistan considering leasing Gilgit-Baltistan to China for 50 years (Washington)	13	14	15 Pak-China Trade to reach \$10b:Zardari (Pakistan Observer)	16 Residential colonies for fishermen (Observer)	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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March 2012

March 2012						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 26	27	28	29	Mar 1	2	3 Building regional ties (BY Muhammad Munir & Muhammad Nawaz)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 MoF informs ECC: Country has 2.851mn metric tons of sugar stocks (APP)
18	19 CAA to provide jobs under AHB package (APP)	20 China defends N-cooperation with Pak as 'mutually beneficial' (Reuters)	21	22 China assured Pak to continue work on 2 nuclear power plants (APP)	23 China to Deliver Fighter Jets, Marines to Pakistan (PAK DEFENSE UNIT)	24 Calendar year 2012 quota for export of Govt released Rs 3.50bn under PSDP in last 7 TITEX IT & telecom exhibition
25 Zardari wants closer ties with Tajikistan (APP)	26	27 Bilateral relations, global situation discussed: Turkey, Pakistan agree to cooperate in trade (THE	28	29	30	31 Speaker NA-(Role of PFG vital for further cementing Pak-China ties: Fehmida (APP)

April 2012

April 2012							May 2012						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 1	2 Let's take Sino-Pak trade to \$15b: PM (PAKISTAN TODAY) Pakistan PM Gilani highly praises JF-17 Thunder	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 ECC approves gas deal with Turkmenistan Allows import of 300,000 tons of Urea for Kharif season (APP)	14
15	16 Pakistan has proposed opening of six routes for transit trade with Iran and Turkey in order to enhance	17 Meeting of Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Road Corridor project (The News)	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 NHA implementing 82 highway schemes (Observer)	25	26 Pakistan issues tender for IP gasline (The Nation)	27 Pak-China partnership imperative for economic prosperity: Rs 8bn demanded for Gwadar Port connectivity	28
29	30	May 1	2	3	4	5

May 2012

May 2012							June 2012						
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27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 29	30	May 1	2 NHA completed 46 road projects worth Rs 78b in four years (APP) Russian business team to visit Pakistan soon: diplomat (3	4 China emerges as Pakistan's largest development partner, creditor (The News)	5 Ghauri urges early completion of M-8 Motorway (APP)
6 Pak-China joint energy group to meet on Monday (Business Work on Gwadar Linkage roads: government making all-out	7	8 Pak-China friendship: Pakistan to get four more F-22p Frigates Pak-China traditional partnership transform into	9	10 Pakistan to sign TIR Convention to boost trade (NEWS TRIBE)	11	12
13	14	15 Setting up Pak-China centers in universities to deepen friendship, partnership: Ambassador Masood Khan (APP)	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Peking University celebrates 61st anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations (APP)	23 High-ranking Chinese delegation visiting Islamabad Technology workshop: Pak-China collaboration	24 'Promotion of Chinese language to strengthen Pak-China friendship' (PAKMED)	25 Pakistan, China enter into new era of Education diplomacy: Masood Khan (PAK RADIO)	26
27	28	29 Zardari emphasizes upon need to fast-track implementation of Pak-China agreed projects (SANA NEWS)	30	31	Jun 1	2

June 2012

June 2012							July 2012						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 27	28	29	30	31	Jun 1	2
3 Gov't allocates over Rs 13.6b for Finance Division (Observer)	4 PM promises jobs to 35,000 graduates in Balochistan (APP)	5 Prime Minister announces Rs 50 million for Ormara solar energy project (Business Recorder)	6	7 Pakistan, China sign MoUs (ONLINE) Zardari meets Chinese corporate leaders, Pakistan-China ink 3 MoUs	8	9 Tubewells in Balochistan: Senate panel for raising subsidy to Rs 8 billion (BUSINESS RECORDER)
10 China to back Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project (Tehran Times)	11 Rs7bn allocated to run copper-gold project (DAWN)	12 Irrigation sector: Balochistan to spend Rs 3.8 billion (RECORDER REPORT)	13	14	15	16
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July 2012

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 1	2 People of People of People of PML-N chief گوار پر سب سے گوار پر پیلوچیوں کا گوار کو ہانگ گوار کی تعمیر و گوار کو ہانگ کانگ	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Beijing offers Pak-China industrial park Gas import: Iran to lay Pakistan's MoU signed to establish Pak, China	19	20	21
22	23 Pak, China Natural History Museums sign MoU in areas of natural history (BR)	24	25 Pak, China Natural History Museums sign MoU (APP) PM directs finance ministry to release funds	26	27	28
29	30	31 Senate body calls for pipeline from Mirani Dam to Gwadar (THE NEWS)	Aug 1	2	3	4

August 2012

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 29	30	31	Aug 1	2 China to help Pakistan in promotion of religious tourism (The News)	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16 Pakistan -Tajikistan signs sugar trade agreement (BR)	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Pakistan-Ukraine trade relations August 24, 2012 RECORDER REPORT 0 Comments The dawn of Ukrainian-Paki	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	Sep 1

September 2012

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 26	27	28	29	30	31	Sep 1
2 Strong Pak-China relations momentum: Masood Khan (APP)	3 Alternate energy goals met, nearly (APP)	4 China to take charge of Pakistan's Pakistan: CHEC Set to Run Rich potential for Pak value	5 Putin's visit to Pakistan: Currency swap, banking deals likely to be signed (BR)	6	7 Steps to maximise benefits of Pak-China FTA proposed (BR)	8
9 PM to leave for China to represent Pakistan at Economic Forum (APP)	10 Pakistan to seek Chinese assistance in developing Gwadar (The News)	11 Handing over Gwadar port to China best solution: PEW (APP)	12 PEW supports handing over Gwadar port to China (BR)	13 Pakistan, China to enter FTA Phase-II next PM invites Chinese to USAID, Wapda ink \$12m	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Urea shipment reaches Gwadar port (BR)
23	24	25	26 Committee on shipyards at Port Qasim, Gwadar Port set up (APP)	27	28	29
30	Oct 1	2	3	4	5	6

October 2012

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 30	Oct 1 Chinese state firm takes control of Pakistani port (VANCOUVER)	2 Pak-China trade ties to go to a new high Punjab Governor launches Nanchuan Industrial Park Business	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Fit for business: Japan may set up automobile supply chain in Pakistan (APP)
14	15	16 Gwadar cooperation opens up Central Asia to global marketplace	17	18	19	20 Gwadar Port road linkages projects (Daily Times)
21	22	23 Gwadar-Turbat Hoshab Road: PC1 cost revised upward to Rs 18 billion (BR)	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Nov 1	2	3

November 2012

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 28	29	30	31	Nov 1	2	3 Pakistan, China conclude fifth round of strategic dialogue (The News)
4 Pak-China expanding ties (BR)	5 Pakistan embassy publishes book on Chinese poetry (BR)	6 China wants Balochistan traders visit (Observer)	7	8 THIS CHINESE 6×6 TRUCK PATROLS PAK-CHINA BORDER (Pak Wheel)	9 Balochistan is foremost priority of Pakistan, China ink MoU for joint PM Raja to attend Balochistan	10 China reiterates to maintain close ties with Pakistan (Pakistan Today) Gwader Civic Centre (The Nation)
11	12	13 'Water-related projects to be completed soon in Gwadar, Jiwani' (The News)	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 BALOCHISTAN PLANS GIFTING 200 ACRES TO SULTANATE Share on linkedin Share on reddit 4 By Our	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Pak-China friendship integral part of foreign policy: PM (The Nation)	29	30	Dec 1

December 2012

December 2012						
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January 2013						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 25	26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1
2 President asks Chinese to explore investment avenues * Zardari praises China's	3	4 Benefits of Pakistan-Chin a mutual cooperation 0 0 By STAFF REPORTER Published:	5	6 Oman, Pakistan ink MoU to boost aviation ties MUSCAT Aviation authorities from the	7 Chinese firms willing to invest in Pakistan (Pak Tribune)	8
9 Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan to hold trilateral summitUpdated: (APP)	10 In-house meeting with Chinese delegation held, Pak-China relation	11 Chinese to be taught at school level (APP) Pak-China ties has stood test of time: Qazi	12 China to continue unconditional support to Pakistan: CPIFA (Pakistan	13	14 Pakistan is a big market for China's top SIMs, Smart card manufacturer (APP)	15
16	17	18	19	20 Pakistan working with China to develop drones: reports (Credit: ABC)	21	22
23	24 Maritime experts call for development of Gwadar Port (The News)	25 Russia eyes \$ 600 million trade with Pakistan (Pakistan Today)	26 ADB approves loan for Pakistan power network (Dawn/Asia News	27 IAEA team may come on Pak-China atomic plant inspection: FM (Dunia TV)	28	29
30 Chinese scholars propose to boost Pakistan, China economic, trade ties	31 Pakistan, China sign contract to manufacture a Pakistan-China sign agreement for	Jan 1, 13	2	3	4	5

The title "Gwadar's largest commercial scheme" Al-Noor cargo city holds this distinct. Al-Noor cargo city is also known as Gwadar's first strategic commercial scheme. Al-Noor cargo city is situated in the mid of Gwadar airport and Gwadar sea port. It has one-kilometer wide front on the 205ft wide main Baluchistan Broadway and 150ft wide Existing coastal highway.

Al-Noor Cargo City gives an eye-catching stance to both local and international investors due to its strategic location. In addition, just 1500 yards distance to Deep Sea East Bay gives another edge to Al-Noor Cargo City.



GWADAR

www.alnoorgwadar.com/newsbook2013

NEWSBOOK 2013

In association with

AL-NOOR CARGO CITY GWADAR

NEWS & UPDATES

From January 2013 to December 2013



GWADAR NEWSBOOK 2013

January 2013

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 30	31	Jan 1, 13	2	3	4	5
6	7 Gwadar port vital for economy (DAWN NEWS)	8 Lecture on Chinese New Leadership And Future of Pak-China Relations (APP)	9 Gwadar Port: An opportunity in waiting! (FRONTIER POST)	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Pak-China friendship to further deepen in coming years: Masood PSQCA to open office in Gwadar (APP)	19 SABIC urea import through Gwadar: First shipment to arrive later this month (THE NEWS)
20 Pak-China agrees to cultivate medicinal and aromatic plants (By Pakistan approves transfer of Gwadar port)	21	22	23	24	25 افغانستان کے مستقبل سے متعلق پاکستان ، افغانستان اور ، برطانیہ کی عسکر ی و سیاسی قیادت کی لندن میں اہم ملاقات	26
27	28 Pak-China bilateral trade crosses \$12 billion mark for first time (APP)	29	30 Gwadar port transfer to China approved (The News) Gwadar port transfer to China approved (Pak)	31 Cabinet hands over Gwadar Port to China Gwadar Port to be handed Pakistan hands strategic Pakistan to transfer	Feb 1	2

February 2013

February 2013

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1 Pakistan to transfer port of Gwadar's management to China Steps for Gwadar, IP gas projects lauded (THE	2
3	4	5	6	7 China to continue assist Pakistan's development, prosperity (APP)	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Chinese co given NOC on Gwadar Port concession lease, SC told Gwadar seaport holds key in China's energy search Gwadar	15 India should keep its nose out of Gwadar issue: FO (Pakistan Today)	16 Pakistan-China Gwadar Port agreement to be ratified on Feb 18 (Pak چین کو گوادر پورٹ حوالے کرنے کا معاہدہ 18 فروری کو ہوگا
17 Gwadar integral to China's maritime expansion (Daily Times)	18 China takes over Pakistan's Gwadar goes to China (Dunya) Gwadar Port handed over Pak signs deal to handover Pakistan hands	19 Gwadar Port Management Part of پاکستان نے بلوچستان میں چینی سفیر کا گوادر پورٹ کی گوادر بندرگاہ چین کے حوالے کرینکا	20 Iran agrees to build oil refinery at Iran to setup oil refinery in Gwadar Spain eager to invest in Pakistan's	21 Iran to build oil refinery in Gwadar: Dr Asim (APP) Sino-Pakistani ties endure despite challenges (Global Times)	22 Gwadar port a gateway for Iran to build \$4 billion refinery KESC to invest \$500m in coal Pakistan hails German Pakistan seeks	23 Coal power in Pakistan gets \$700 million investment (Mining.com)
24	25 Gwadar - a port full of possibilities Sweden for cooperation in energy, Two-day Pakistan-Iran talks start	26 President leaves for Iran today to ink gasline پاکستان ایران گیس پائپ لائن منصوبے پر گیس منصوبہ فیصلہ کن مرحلہ میں	27 IP gas line project: IP gas line project: ایران دسمبر 2014 سے پاکستان کو گوادر کی حوالگی ایران گیس گوادربندرگاہ کا	28 NESPAK wins \$500m Afghan Russia, Pakistan to boost Swiss delegation to visit Tajik envoy announces Trade corridor:	Mar 1	2

March 2013

March 2013

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April 2013

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 24	25	26	27	28	Mar 1	2
					China's takeover of Gwadar Port mutually beneficial (The Nation)	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Gas pipeline, Gwadar port mega projects praised (APP)	A step forward: Pakistan, Iran to sign MoU for oil refinery Nadra installs new checking system at	Rs13,527m spent on construction of Gwadar port link roads (Observer)	Islamabad and Tehran are set to sign a deal for the refinery, (APP)	Another shipment of 26,000 tons of China mulls Gwadar-Rato Pakistan, China trade to reach	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
26 ہزار ٹن یورپا گواڈر پورٹ پہنچ گئی (نوائے) China will be given access Gas pipeline, Gwadar Port		گواڈر پورٹ، گیس پائپ لائن اچھے اقدامات ہیں جہانگیر اشرف وینس (نوائے) وقت	چین نے گواڈر رتو ... ڈیرو روڈ مکمل کرنے کیلئے پاکستان کی ایران پاکستان گیس پائپ لائن منصوبے کا	China defends Gwadar Port deal at UN forum (The یران۔پاکستان گیس پائپ لائن کے ٹینڈر جاری	Gwadar handover to China: Army on board (APP)	'China can assist Pakistan in building Pak-China ties: 'Railway hub Pakistan's Gwadar Port
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
China to provide support in constructing a regional railway hub (APP)	Chinese control of Gwadar Port: Challenges & opportunities (Frontier Post)		Pak-Iran gas pipeline a landmark achievement: Raja (APP)	Pak, China enjoying excellent trade, bilateral relations (Pak Observer)	Zardari urges use of Gwadar port for trade (APP)	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6

April 2013

April 2013						
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May 2013						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Balochistan development top priority: Caretaker Prime Minister Gwadar Port Pak-China matter, says FO (The	12	13 Pakistan to benefit from Gwadar Port development (APP)
14 Gwadar port's significance (Observer) PM orders prioritization of Gwadar roads (APP)	15 Pak-China nuclear JVs under IAEA Pipelineistan Geopolitics at Work: Iran, Rattodero-Gwadar M-8 completion	16	17	18	19	20 Gwadar link roads completion prioritised (Observer)
21	22	23 China running Gwadar to accelerate pace of development: PM (Pakistan Today)	24	25 Gwadar vital for Pak economy (APP)	26	27 Fed govt may include Gwadar linkages project in budget (Daily Times)
28	29 PM approves 795km Gwadar-Hoshab Road proposal (APP)	30 1,000MW reactors to raise China's Pakistan urges collective PM reviews progress of Work on Gwadar-Ratod	May 1	2	3	4

May 2013

May 2013							June 2013						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 28	29	30	May 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 32,000 tons of urea arriving Gwadar port this week (Business Recorder)	15 Civilian nuclear technology talks on the table for Li Keqiang's first visit High importance to relations with China: Nawaz	16 Cabinet signs MoU to link Gwadar with Pak-China to sign several MoUs, FO پپلز پارٹی گوادر پورٹ اور گیس منصوبے پر	17 بتیس ہزار ٹن یوریا لے کر بحری جہاز گوادر پورٹ پہنچ گیا (جنگ)	18 Pakistan adopts Chinese GPS satellite system (BEIJING)
19 Pakistan and China to sign MOUs on development of strategic Gwadar port (Global Post)	20	21	22 China, Pakistan plan "economic Pak & China to sign several Pak-China economic Pakistan, China sign 11	23 Gwadar gateway to Central Asia trade: Li (The Pak govt, people support cordial Pak-China economic linkages being	24 ISLAMABAD: Chinese Premier Li JI chief stresses strong ties with China Powering the relationship: Nawaz wants	25
26	27 BEIJING: Many countries around the world are keen on obtaining JF-17 Thunder fighter jet jointly	28	29	30	31 1,000MW reactors to raise China's capability (The News) Pak-China firms sign agreement to manufacture	Jun 1

June 2013

June 2013							July 2013						
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30													

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 26	27	28	29	30	31	Jun 1
2 Pakistan participates in Chinese fairs in a big way (Daily Times)	3 Pak-China currency swap – wait and watch (BR)	4	5	6 Begin construction of a Building on ties: New premier Gwadar, Karachi to be linked	7 China calls for co-op on Pakistan transport links (Global Times)	8 Durrani welcomes Kashgar-Gwadar road, rail Pak-China women sign accord (APP)
9 Pak-China trade to reach \$14b by next year: Envoy (KUNMING (China))	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Ambassador of China Sun Weidong has stressed on Pak, China Sign Pact For SEZ (APP)	21 Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has decided to Economic Corridors Speakers highlight	22 Prime Minister for establishing railway tracks, Sino-Pak road, rail projects to bring
23	24	25	26	27	28 FPCCI presents Gwadar's future potential (DAILY TIMES)	29 Pak-China friendship not against any PM Sharif stresses Task force set up to strengthen
30 Gwadar Port, economic corridor tops Pak-China trade corridor to Xinjiang-Gwadar port economic	Jul 1	2	3	4	5	6

July 2013

July 2013

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 30	Jul 1 Gwadar Port, economic corridor top agenda on China visit: Nawaz (DAILY TIMES)	2 Nawaz Sharif's visit to enhance Pak-China economic Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to seek	3	4 Nawaz Sharif, Chinese President Oil storage facility, oil refinery: Three climbers to take part in Pak-China	5 Gwadar may be Huawei to Build Linking Khunjerab Pak-China Pak-China Pak-China Pak-China set Pakistan Prime to PM orders	6 Nawaz, Li hold fruitful meeting: Nawaz's Beijing visit: Trade corridor tops Oil city to be developed at Gwadar
7 Gwadar to be Gwadar-Kashgar Kashgar to Kashgar-Gwadar Pak-China take Pakistan PM Pakistan woos Road and rail link Sharif in Beijing	8 Khunjerab to Gwadar trade corridor to Nawaz to induct 'China cell' into PM's Project will be a 'game-change r' in region:	9 Chinese investment in Gwadar appreciated (The Nation)	10	11 Nawaz Sharif's China visit to open new avenues of bilateral cooperation (APP)	12	13 Gwadar: the future trade hub of the world? (APP) Gwadar-Kashgar motorway to strengthen Sino-Pak ties (APP)
14 Chinese officials have been asked to carry China starts work to identify Govt considering for Gwadar a Gwadar envisioned	15 Accords, MoUs to expand Pak-China partnership scope (BR) New Gwadar airport construction to generate	16 China to speed up PoK hydropower project to meet Pak demand (APP)	17 A new era of ever expanding, versatile ties – Pak-China Pak, China sign protocol paving way for mango export	18 Pak-China Economic Corridor to usher in new era of economic development, prosperity (Pakistan)	19 PM terms Pak-China economic corridor as future of world (The News)	20 LNG terminals (The Nation) Xinjiang-Gwadar: Economic corridor task force formed (Dawn)
21 Special units to be set up in 'new' planning ministry (The Express Tribune)	22 Sino-Pak railway deal inked (APP)	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Economic corridor to connect Kashgar with Gwadar: Ambassador (APP)	30	31	Aug 1	2	3

August 2013

August 2013

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 28	29	30	31	Aug 1	2	3
				'Kashgar-Gwadar corridor to open huge trade avenues' (BR)	Pak to get multiple benefits from China's optic fiber project	\$44m Pakistan-China a optic fibre project (APP)
				Pakistan-China Economic corridor; a back bone	Pak to get multiple benefits from China's optic	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Punjab signs deal with ZTE for cooperation in energy sector (The Nation)	CPEC will usher in new era of economy: Pak envoy (Pakistan Today)		Economic Corridor to change fate of region (Observer)		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	China giving Pakistan a powerful hand (Pakistan Today)	Pak-China ties: Gawadar port one part of a larger plan (The Express Tribune)		ملکی معیشت کی ترقی گوارہ کی پورٹ سے جڑی ہے (ایکسپریس)	چین کو گوارہ سے ملانے والی نئی شاہراہ کی منظوری (BBC)	Pak-China Trade Corridor: Prime Minister
				وزیراعظم نے پاک چائنا گوارہ راہداری منصوبے کی منظوری دے	تیز رفتار ترقی میں "چھپتے" گوارہ کا کاشغر سے ملاپ، پاک چین تجارتی راہداری	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Making Pakistan true of trade (Frontier Post)	چین کی سب سے بڑی تعمیراتی کمپنی کے وفد کا گوارہ پورٹ کا دورہ (Nawa-e-Waqat)	Chinese team visits Gwadar port (Dawn)		MoU for Punjab-China Garments industrial zone signed (The Nation)	کاشغر اور گوارہ راہداری سے دنیا گوارہ پورٹ کو ہانگ کانگ کی گوارہ فری پورٹ گوارہ کو ہانگ گوارہ کو ہانگ گوارہ کو وہی وزیر	Gwadar can become free port: PM (Pakistan Today)
		Oil pipeline: Chinese team arriving to گوارہ پورٹ معاہدے سے بلوچستان میں				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
HK-Gwadar reflect PM's vision of Pakistan (Observer)	کاشغر تا گوارہ اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کا جائزہ لینے کے لئے چینی وفد آج اسلام آباد پہنچے گا (Nawa e)		پاک چین کے اقتصادی راہداری کمیشن دوستی کو بہت زیادہ اہمیت دیتا پاکستان چین اقتصادی راہداری	گوارہ پورٹ کی ترقی اور اسے وسطی ایشیا سے ملانے والی شاہراہ کی تعمیر کے بعد ملک میں اقتصادی اور معاشی ترقی کا	'Pak, China have entered into strategic economic cooperation' Malik, ministers welcome Chinese delegation in	China to invest in Gwadar projects (Dawn)

September 2013

September 2013

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October 2013

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 1 No issues with construction of Gwadar port by China: US (APP) Pak-China Economic Corridor to bring	2 Pak-China economic corridor a significant project: Chinese official (The News)	3 'PNS Aslat' a testament of Pak-China ever-lasting friendship Pak, China Think Tanks moot heralds a new chapter in	4	5 52,000 tons of urea to reach Gwadar port FPCCI discusses projects for economic Govt, FPCCI discuss projects for	6	7
8 Urea consignment arrives (Business Recorder)	9	10	11 Corridor to bring Beijing and Islamabad closer (REUTERS)	12	13	14 Chinese Companies ready to invest in Pakistan's energy sector: The Kashgar-Gwadar corridor (The News)
15 Pak-China joint exercise continues (APP) Chinese firms ready to invest in energy sector (The Nation)	16 Why most Pakistanis are satisfied with the Sharif government's first 100 days (Saudi Gazette)	17 Pak-Turkey enjoy people-to-people contacts: Pervaiz Rasheed (APP)	18	19	20 Pak keen to be first to ride on China's man space mission (APP) Pakistan plans to establish industrial parks and	21
22	23	24 'Pakistan, China can collectively do Linkage of Gwadar Port Pakistan, China commit to Pakistan, China vow to	25 China CSG, Pak NTDC agree to cooperation (Daily Times)	26	27	28
29	30 Pakistan, China determined to further strengthen strategic partnership: President (APP)	Oct 1	2	3	4	5

October 2013

October 2013							November 2013						
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27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 29	30	Oct 1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Senate body for early completion of projects in Gwadar (Radio) Senate body for early completion of projects in	8 Gwadar Port vital for development of Balochistan (APP)	9 Mushahid to leave for China for enlightening usefulness of Pak-China economic corridor (SANA)	10	11 Gwadar Port to be made functional' (BR)	12
13	14	15 LCCI for early revival of FTA with China (BR)	16	17	18 Gwadar Port to be functional in 5 months (br)	19 Finishing touches: Gwadar Port to be operational in Pak, China optical fiber cable work to be initiated
20 Pak-China optical fibre cable work to be initiated soon (APP) Trade with China (BR)	21	22 Pak-China trade volume to rise to \$10b in 2 years (The Nation)	23 100 local companies attending Brussels offers fish packing services as per Gwadar-Turbat Hoshab Road: PC1 cost	24 China to give 3200MW electricity to Land for international airport at Shahbaz eyes 1,000mw solar plant from	25 Shahbaz seeks Chinese help in energy projects (BR)	26 Chinese team discusses Nandipur power project with Shahbaz (BR)
27	28	29 Pak space engineers, scientists getting training in People-to-people contact must to further Sino-Pak	30 Pakistan, Japan should cooperate in civil sector projects' (Daily Times)	31	Nov 1	2

November 2013

November 2013

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1	2
3	4	5	6 Pak-China economic corridor to play active role in emergence of new regionalism: Mushahid (BR)	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Foreign investment to boost Pak economy: Nawaz (The News)	14	15 Pak-China joint military exercise begins (BR)	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 World Fisheries Day: seafood export-based policy being evolved: بیلجیم کے اشتراک سے گوادر پورٹ کا انفراسٹرکچر بہتر بنا رہے ہیں	23 Gwadar Port is blessing for Pak economy (The Frontier Post)
24	25 Increase in Balochistan's fish production (The Dawn)	26 Chinese firms offer Gwadar-Khunjab rail link (The Nations)	27 Gwadar-Khunjab Rail Link: Chinese conglomerate offers to build Pakistan govt plans new shipyard at Gwadar port	28 Gwadar-Khunjab rail project: Chinese consortium offers to build (BR)	29 چین کی پاکستان کو گوادر اور خنجراب کے درمیان الیکٹریک ریلوے لائن بچھانے کی پیشکش (Nawa e Waqat)	30

December 2013

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January 2014

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 1 38 projects worth Rs 244.5 billion approved by CDWP (BR)	2	3 JF-17 production with China's support (The News)	4	5	6 Gwadar port: 49,387 tons of urea shipment arrives (BR) گوارہ کو دیگر صوبوں و ممالک سے ملانے کیلئے مواصلاتی نیٹ ورک کو	7
8 Foreign investors taking keen interest in Punjab (The Nations)	9 ANALYSTS SAY CHINA'S INVESTMENTS IN PAKISTAN ARE A CHANCE TO BOOST TRADE AND GAIN A CHEAPER	10 China to establish lab on Small Hydro Power Plants (APP) Pak, China relationship has glorious past, bright	11 China, Afghanistan, Pakistan agree to enhance cooperation for security in Afghanistan, region (Pak China)	12 China ready to finance Thar coal project: SECMC chief (The Express) Pak-China Economic Corridor to help	13 Gwadar-Kashghar Motorway to facilitate Thar coal project to be financed by China (Pak) گوارہ پورٹ پاکستان کی ترقی کی	14
15 Gwadar-Kashghar Motorway to facilitate transit trade (APP)	16 China to help establish joint research laboratory at PCRET (BR) Pakistan Railways to procure 58 locomotives from China	17	18 China welcomes holding Pak-India JF-17 strengthened Pak defence: Undoubtedly Pak's defence is	19 China to assist NIO to determine gas Pakistan launches Senate body asks Navy to Work on Pak-China	20	21
22 Nigeria can meet energy needs of Pakistan: Envoy (The Nations)	23	24	25 China commits \$6.5 billion for Pakistani China unveils 'road map' for cooperation Two-day symposium on Pak-China	26 Chinese investors offer to invest in energy sector (The News)	27 Chinese firms to get land for industrial CM sees increase in Chinese role in Pak energy Pak-China nuclear cooperation	28
29 China biggest buyer of Pak cotton (APP)	30	31 China welcomes Pak, India efforts for ensuring peace on LoC (APP)	Jan 1, 14	2	3	4

The title "Gwadar's largest commercial scheme" Al-Noor cargo city holds this distinct. Al-Noor cargo city is also known as Gwadar's first strategic commercial scheme. Al-Noor cargo city is situated in the mid of Gwadar airport and Gwadar sea port. It has one-kilometer wide front on the 205ft wide main Baluchistan Broadway and 150ft wide Existing coastal highway.

Al-Noor Cargo City gives an eye-catching stance to both local and international investors due to its strategic location. In addition, just 1500 yards distance to Deep Sea East Bay gives another edge to Al-Noor Cargo City.



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NEWSBOOK 2014

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AL-NOOR CARGO CITY GWADAR

NEWS & UPDATES

From January 2014 to December 2014

CORRIDOR OF OPPORTUNITY

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's vision for a game-changing economic corridor to prop up a flagging Pakistani economy, dominate Afghanistan and contain India

RELATED/SPIN-OFF PROJECTS TO THE CORRIDOR

Karachi to Lahore motorway

The 1,240-km project will be completed by 2015.

Metro bus, underground metros

For Lahore, Gujranwala, Multan, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi. Metro in Karachi.

Economic City in Gwadar

To be coupled with the Chinese port to become a free trade zone like Hong Kong or Singapore.

Karakoram highway

China currently upgrading this highway built in 1979.

RAILWAY LINE TO BE EXTENDED TO LINK XINJIANG WITH GWADAR

INDUS HIGHWAY (1,264 KM)

\$18 BILLION

KASHGAR-GWADAR ECONOMIC CORRIDOR
FEASIBILITY PROJECT TO BE COMPLETED BY NEXT YEAR. ROAD, LATER RAILWAY AND OIL PIPELINE, TO LINK XINJIANG WITH GWADAR.



GWADAR NEWSBOOK 2014

January 2014

January 2014							February 2014						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 29	30	31	Jan 1, 14	2	3	4
5	6	7 ‘Pak, China share decades old cooperation in energy sector’ (BR)	8 Chinese delegation seeks possibilities to link SW Chinese delegation visits Gwadar port (Daily	9	10 Pakistani scientist wins prestigious Chinese academic award (BR)	11 \$2 billion investment in textile industry: Punjab government, Chinese group sign MoU (BR)
12	13 Pak China nuclear deal will help Pakistan in mitigating power shortage (The Nations)	14 Gwadar Port: Senate panel for settling land issue with Chinese company (BR)	15 Nuclear power generation will help revive Pak: Global Times (APP)	16	17 Chinese firm to set up 25 hydel power stations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (BR)	18
19 Pakistan, Morocco agree to boost trade and commercial ties (APP)	20 China reveals its cards for investing \$20 billion in Pakistan (The News)	21	22	23	24 Pak, China for enhancing trade ties thru economic corridor (Daily Times)	25
26	27	28 Gwadar to serve as trade corridor for Central Asian, East Asian, Gulf (APP)	29 Implementation of Early Harvest Programme under PCEC to get nod in February (APP)	30	31	Feb 1

February 2014

February 2014

March 2014

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30	31					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 26	27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1 ICBC to open branch in Lahore (Business Recorder)
2	3	4	5	6	7 Gwadar-Kashghar route: JCC to meet next week at Beijing to Pak, Chinese firms sign contract for coal-based	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Pak hopes for early implementation of key projects with China (APP)	17 Pak-China investment company to invest in renewable energy, infrastructure development projects (APP)	18 Pakistan Looks to China for Big Energy and Infrastructure Projects (Wall Street Journal)	19 Chinese firm to finance power projects (The News)	20	21 China to provide \$900m for Gwadar development (The News)	22
23	24 Railways to lay new track to link Karachi and Gwadar (Business Recorder)	25 EIB agrees to provide 100m for 128MW Pak hydro project (APP)	26 Gwadar port: China approves nine projects worth \$1.8 billion, Senate body told (Business Recorder)	27	28 Chinese delegation visits ICCI (APP)	Mar 1

March 2014

March 2014							April 2014						
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30	31												

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 23	24	25	26	27	28	Mar 1 Development work on EPZ Gwadar on priority (Pak Observer)
2	3	4 Chinese business delegation meets Chairman BOI (APP)	5 China to spend Rs 26 billion to develop Halal foods: 'Pak-China' Pakistan makes strong push	6 Pak-Saudi ties celebrated on board Pakistan Navy ship in Jeddah (APP)	7 China to make more investment in energy sector: Shahbaz (Observer)	8
9	10	11 22,000MW of electricity to be added China to invest \$50 billion in Lahore-Karachi Motorway	12	13	14 China to invest \$4 billion in Pak Railways: official (The Oil and refinery sector: five Chinese)	15 Seeking development: Planning for Gwadar Pak, China groups ink MoU to set up
16 'Pakistan has 4th largest livestock population in Railways plan to lay new track between	17 Chinese firm to execute power projects in KP (APP) Rs.17,374 mln released for various power	18 China to invest \$4 bln in Export market: TDAP urged to Nawaz invites international Pak-China	19	20 Pakistan invites Bahrain to invest in Chinese company to Dar for exploring potential of	21	22
23 Gwadar Port: Blueprint for free trade zone to be ready in May (The Express Tribune)	24	25 China will support Pakistan to grow as Asian economic tiger: Deputy Chinese	26	27	28 Investors envisage Pak-China corridor as great business opportunity (APP)	29
30 Pakistan to build 2 shipyards at Gwadar and Port Qasim (APP)	31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5

April 2014

April 2014							May 2014						
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27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5
					Chinese company to invest \$2bn in Gwadar to be a glittering port (Observer)	
					PM desires agreement signing with	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		PM reviews progress on Pak-China Economic Corridor, infrastructure projects (APP)	Chinese investment to be secured, Nawaz-Li 3rd meeting within a year	Business Progress on Gwadar EPZ reviewed (Dawn)	Pak-China relations: Special incentives being offered to Chinese investors, says Shahbaz (The Express)	
			گواڈر میں ایکسپورٹ پراسیسنگ زون	China-Pak ties strengthening with passage of time: chief		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Bound for China (The News)		Ormara to have Navy installations (The News)	CM, EPWG China discuss projects under Pak-China Economic	China extends cooperation to bring Pak out of energy crisis	'Kashgar-Gwadar corridor to bring prosperity to Gilgit-Baltistan	\$1.6 billion being spent in Gwadar: PM (The Nations)
Pak-China Economic Corridor:			Pak, China to jointly alleviate poverty (The	Pak maritime trade to further boost as China	Pak, China universities ink students exchange	
PM chairs meeting on PTV, CCTV sign co-op						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Pak, Chinese armies on 'Peace Angel' mission (The Nation)	Pak Navy gets recognition of WPNS (APP)		Nawaz Sharif arrives in Gwadar (The Nations)		Pakistan hints at economic corridor from Gwadar to Kashgar (Daily Times)
27	28	29	30	May 1	2	3
پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری سے خطے میں خوشحالی آئے گی، صدر ممنون حسین فوٹو: پی آئی ڈی (Alakhbar)	PR working to connect Gwadar to Kashgar through rail link (Daily Times)		Pakistan to be most vital country of Sri Lanka Requested to Establish Zong to pay \$516m licence fee in one go			

May 2014

May 2014							June 2014						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 27	28	29	30	May 1	2	3
				گوار کی ترقی کیلئے سیاسی اور عسکری قیادت: ایک صف پر بے وزیراعظم (APP)	Bilateral ties: China promises 'Exhibitions, exchange of چین کا (تائپی) گیس پائپ لائن گوار پورٹ پاکستان کی	'Chinese companies willing to invest in Pakistan and work with genuine partners' (Daily Times)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
PR working to connect Gwadar, Kashgar (APP)	Media role vital to transfer Pak-China friendship to new generation:Per vaiz Rashid (APP)	Pakistan, Afghanistan to resolve CASA-1000 tariff issues soon (BR)			China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: PM approves over \$38bn projects (Pakistan Today)	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Pak China media cooperation urged by Chinese scholar (Pakistan Today)		Pak-China economic corridor envisages industrial cooperation from Gawadar to Kashgar: Bokhari (APP)	Multibillion rupees to be allocated for mega projects (The News)	PM approves nine projects worth US\$1.7bn to make Gwadar port functional (APP)	Civil N-tech co-op to continue: China (The Nations)	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
TCP imports 61,000 tonnes of urea under Saudi facility (APP)	NHA attaches top priority to early completion of Gwadar link Pak-China govts working for implementation of 32b	RAC puts Pak-China friendship on display (APP)	China-Pak economic corridor to boost trade, tourism, Journey of development from Kashgar to Gwadar	Chinese team visits Gwadar port (APP) Railways to establish rail links between Gwadar-Jacob abad (APP)	Pak, China sign \$1.6b Lahore Metro Train agreement (Observer) Pak-China Corridor: Rs 250 billion allocation	Govt prioritises mega development Pakistan, China sign deal to set up largest PM orders land acquisition for Diamer-Bhash
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
China keen to invest in setting up refinery at Gwadar (The Gwadar Port to help boost trade with China, CAC		Making presence felt: Chinese group to set up exhibition centre at Pakistan focusing on infrastructure development	Govt allocates Rs73 billion for Pakistan-Chin a trade corridor (APP)	Economy to be dominant in Pak-China ties: Shahbaz (APP)	European fish import from Pakistan to begin through Gwadar Port Pak-China friendship turns into economic	New CIIT capmus to be established at Gwadar (Observer)

June 2014

June 2014

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July 2014

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Economic corridor Country to benefit from uplift in west China: Ahsan (APP)	13	14
15	16 PR to lay new track between Karachi, Gwadar (APP)	17	18 Railways to establish links between Gwadar-Jacobabad (APP)	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 China plans 1,800 km-long rail link with Pakistan that runs through PoK (The Economic Times)
29	30	Jul 1	2	3	4	5

July 2014

July 2014							August 2014						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 29	30	Jul 1 Pacra maintains ratings of Pak China Investment Company Pak-China economic corridor world's future	2	3	4 ECNEC okays Rs 440b development projects	5 NHA asked to start Hassanabdal-Mansehra Expressway projects (APP)
6	7	8 6 Massive Chinese Projects That Are Reshaping The World (REUTERS)	9	10 Joint Pak-Chinese venture to launch electric car (Business Recorder)	11 PM directs fast execution of Economic Corridor projects (APP)	12 China-Pak Corridor, a key initiative to help meet energy Progress on energy, CPEC reviewed (Dawn)
13 Raikot-Islamabad highway construction NHA's priority (APP)	14	15	16	17	18	19 China will establish an industrial park in Gwadar (Dawn)
20	21 New \$3 bn LNG project ready for Gwadar (The News) China asks Pakistan to submit details of all development	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1	2

August 2014

August 2014						
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September 2014						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1	2
3	4 China's Xi to visit India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka soon (South Asian Media)	5 Pakistan to lay down gas pipeline from Gwadar to Nawabshah (The News)	6 China agree to finance two coal projects in Pakistan Pak-China Economic Corridor to	7	8 10,400 megawatts projects: Beijing to make required funding (BR)	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Korea offers assistance to build new shipyards at Karachi, Gwadar (APP)	16
17	18	19	20 China working to dominate sea routes as US loses interest (The Gulf's news)	21 Gwadar port has bright future, says Chinese envoy (Dawn)	22	23
24	25	26 China: her development will definitely benefit CM Sharif in China to discuss	27	28 'China to help Pakistan complete uplift projects' Chinese president to visit Pakistan	29	30 A case study of Gwadar (The Nations)
31	Sep 1	2	3	4	5	6

September 2014

September 2014						
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October 2014						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 31	Sep 1	2 Oman grants \$17.5m for new Gwadar International Airport (Observer)	3	4 China plans to revive Silk Route via rail links (Daily Times) Gwadar Port will serve big ships for 50 years: CHEC (The	5	6
7	8	9	10 China is planning to replicate the model of Shanghai Free Trade Zone (SFTZ) in Gwadar (The Express Tribune)	11 China to invest \$50bn in development projects in Pakistan (APP)	12	13 The Chinese president has expressed his desire to visit Pakistan "as early as possible," Foreign Office said (Daily
14	15	16	17	18	19 PAK-CHINA JOINT VENTURE IN AUTOMOBILE TO SET EXPORT BASE (APP)	20
21	22 Only China can help Pakistan get out of economic, energy woes: Analysts (Dawn)	23	24 Pakistan-China economic corridor conference at Intermodal Europe 2014 (APP)	25	26	27
28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3	4

October 2014

October 2014							November 2014						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3	4
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Dar signs MoU for establishment of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (APP)	28 Chinese delegation visits Gwadar (APP)	29	30 China to actively support Pak in energy Immense potential in Pak-China Thar coal power plant to start production by	31 'China keen to construct railway, energy pipelines in Pakistan' (BR)	Nov 1

November 2014

November 2014						
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December 2014						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1
2 Parliamentary team visits Kashgar special economic zone (APP)	3	4	5	6 Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to fund PM calls his visit to China monumental	7 \$45b projects to be signed in China: PM (The Nations) 'Govt aims to materialise Pak-China	8 NA Parliamentary delegation arrives from China after Pak-China accords to provide one
9 Pak-China cooperation: New agreements will end energy crisis: Shahbaz (The	10	11 16,600 MW projects under Pak-China Economic Corridor to help overcome	12 CHINA TO INVEST \$45.6B IN PAK Pak-China cooperation: Russia expresses interest in	13 \$1b investment: Chinese firm to set up refinery in Balochistan (The Express Tribune)	14 China Studies Centre set up at GCU (The News)	15 Nineteen agreements: China wants timely and Pak-China JF-17 jet nears first foreign deal
16	17 APEC sees China make progress in Silk Road initiatives No power can undermine Pak-China	18	19 Chinese President to arrive by end of next month: MoUs to be signed on various	20 ADB pledges financial help for Balochistan China to honour all its commitments	21 \$45.6b China-Pak economic corridor: \$33.7b to add 16520MW energy, \$9.6b for roads,	22
23 After China's more-than-willing helping hand to Pakistan, Ambassador of Japan (The	24	25 Investment in Gwadar: China to help build \$3b LNG pipeline and terminal (The Express	26	27	28	29
30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6

December 2014

December 2014

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January 2015

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 30	Dec 1	2	3 \$45.6b Pak-China Economic Corridor to connect Gwadar with Xinjiang via highways, railways, pipelines	4	5	6 China-Pakistan Economic Corridor — A new vista of development in South Asia (Pakistan Today)
7	8 Saad Rafique says Karachi-Gwadar railway project to be executed (APP)	9 Cementing Pak-China ties (APP)	10 Chinese delegation visits Gwadar Govt prepares master plan to tap potential Pakistan proposes Gwadar-Chah	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 High-level meeting to discuss master plan for Gwadar (Express Tribune)	19	20
21	22	23	24 Bids invited for Pak-China Economic Gwadar port: plans ready for Pak-China Economic Corridor to	25 AIIB supporting China's Silk (The Nations)	26	27 Dar briefed on K2, K3 nuclear energy projects (APP)
28 Strategic location: Foreign investors flocking to Gwadar port Work begins on nuclear plant project (APP)	29 Pak-China 25 MoUs to promote ties in IT sector (The Nations)	30 Work on Lahore-Karachi motorway to begin soon: PM (The Express Tribune)	31	Jan 1, 15	2	3

The title "Gwadar's largest commercial scheme" Al-Noor cargo city holds this distinct. Al-Noor cargo city is also known as Gwadar's first strategic commercial scheme. Al-Noor cargo city is situated in the mid of Gwadar airport and Gwadar sea port. It has one-kilometer wide front on the 205ft wide main Baluchistan Broadway and 150ft wide Existing coastal highway.

Al-Noor Cargo City gives an eye-catching stance to both local and international investors due to its strategic location. In addition, just 1500 yards distance to Deep Sea East Bay gives another edge to Al-Noor Cargo City.



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25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 15	2 NHA to connect Gwadar with Khunjerab under CPEC project (BR)	3
4	5	6	7 Nine projects of Rs4.72bn cleared by CDWP (Dawn) Tajikistan, Pakistan cooperation growing in all fields, says	8	9	10
11 ICCI lauds Pak-China deal on bank branches (The Nations)	12 Secretariat being set up to facilitate long-term China projects (Dawn)	13 Development schemes: New Gwadar Airport gets ECNEC's Pakistan to get max benefit from Pak-China FTA	14 Infrastructure projects at Gwadar Port: Pakistan, China to expedite efforts to achieve 15 targets (BR)	15	16 Dar seeks Pak-China corridor-like package in Japan (The Nations)	17 Chinese president to visit Pakistan next month (The Nation)
18	19	20 China considers Pak concerns as its own (The Nations) Hubco to set up 1,320MW coal-based power plants (Dawn)	21 Ahsan calls on Gwadar working group (APP) Thar coal, power project: Company expected to start	22 Rs 20 commemorative coin to mark "Pak-China Year of Friendly Exchange" (APP)	23 Iran-Pakistan pipeline: Work to start as soon as sanctions go (Express Tribune)	24
25 Gwadar Free Zone under CPEC on the anvil (The News) Gwadar to be declared SEZ to facilitate economic	26	27 Vision 2025 gives a roadmap for country's development: Ahsan (Daily Times)	28	29	30 All hopes pinned on Gwadar Port (Dawn) Govt approves upfront tariffs for Thar Pak-China joint ventures in higher	31 Gwadar Port: Chinese firm agrees to give preferential policy draft Pak-China relations: Banking links should

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March 2015

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 1	2 Free trade zone in Gwadar (Dawn) Pak-China to celebrate 2015 as Year of Friendly Exchanges: ambassador (Daily Times)	3 PAK-CHINA TO CELEBRATE 2015 AS YEAR OF FRIENDLY EXCHANGES: AMBASSADOR (Pak Observer)	4 Chinese team discusses prospects of joint ventures in HE sector (BR)	5	6 No change in design of Pak-China economic corridor: minister (APP) Pakistan should be champion of regional integration: EU envoy (The News)	7 Asif discussed Pak-China ties with Yang Jiechi (APP) Russian team coming for key talks on \$1.7b gas pipeline (APP)
8 Opportunities in China: FPCCI asks businesses to search for avenues (Express Tribune)	9	10 On G-to-G contract basis: Chinese company to begin laying 700km Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG pipeline (BR)	11 Chinese delegation in Gwadar (APP) Chinese FM arrives tomorrow on two-day visit (Daily Times)	12 2015 formally inaugurated as year of Pak-China friendship (The News Tribune) Gwadar, Zhuhai named twin cities (Dawn)	13 2015 will open a new era of Pak-China relations (The Nation) Projects under Pak-China economic corridor discussed (APP)	14
15	16 Gwadar Port has potential to turn Pakistan into 'maritime power' (APP) Gwadar Port has potential to turn Pakistan into 'maritime power' (APP)	17 30 projects to cost Rs114b: Finance Ministry allocates Rs11.3b for Gwadar port has offered Pakistan unique opportunity to become	18 Gwadar Port to be connected with railway network (BR)	19 Pak-China economic corridor likely to write new success story: Former SVP LCCI (Customs Today)	20 Govt urged to initiate Pak-China corridor (APP)	21 Credibility of The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) (BR)
22	23 Federal cabinet approved Pak-China economic corridor (Pak Tribune) Pak-China economic corridor approved: Govt to initiate talks	24	25	26 Pak-China corridor: Govt intends to approve 10,400MW projects by Upgrading railways network Pakistan, China to sign MoU under	27 Energy infrastructure: China to build gas pipeline from Gwadar to Nawabshah (Express Tribune)	28

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March 2015

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April 2015

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 1	2	3 Pak-China relations transform into useful economic ties: Sovereign ratings: Pak-China economic	4 More flights from Oman to Pakistan (Times of Oman)	5 Chamber proposes Pak-China Committee approves new Gwadar Port: GPA Chairman Is Pakistan Key to China's Energy	6	7 UAE may invest in Pak's gold, copper projects (The Nations)
8	9 Pakistan says CPEC to prove 'game changer' in the region (Kaleej Times)	10 Pak-China Economic Corridor: Beginning of Prosperity and Development (Voice of Journalists)	11 LCCI for private sector's role on Pak-China Pak-China sign MoUs for cooperation in Pakistan imported \$1.65bn	12 China-Pak Economic Corridor to Govt to purchase over 18000 acres land for Year of Pak-China Friendship	13	14 Pak-china Economic Corridor to benefit entire Pakistan (APP)
15 Pak-China FTA: fourth round of talks in Beijing from March 31	16	17	18 China is ready to enter the world market with it natural gas through China with its gas enters global market through	19 Tajikistan keen on Pak-China corridor (Dawn News)	20 Pak-China trade reaches \$16 billion (The Nations)	21 Gwadar Port holds potential to facilitate foreign trade: official (The News)
22 Pak-China Corridor to be fate-changer, says Ahsan (The News)	23 Pak-China economic corridor key to region's progress: CM Punjab (Customs Today)	24	25 'CPEC-Pak's Vision 2025 seeks to position itself from a lower Sixty thousand tons of LNG reaching Pakistan (The	26 Gwadar Port to earn higher revenue via transit facility (BR)	27 Pak-China business forum platform to take bilateral relations: FPCCI (AAJ News)	28 Chinese president to arrive on April 9 on 2-day Pakistan visit Government Offers To Build China City In Gwadar
29 Chinese's President visit will be game-changer for Pak-China Gwadar Port to boost economy, create jobs	30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4

April 2015

April 2015							May 2015						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 29	30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4
			Govt committed to strengthen Gwadar Port: Kamran Michael (BR)	Chinese firms keen to invest in Pak oil, gas sector (The News)	Pakistan, China finalise free trade agreement in banking sector	Prospects of IP brighten (BR)
			Pakistan Wants to Become China's Newest	Confirmed: Pakistan Will Buy Eight Chinese Subs	Xi's upcoming visit: Slew of agreements, MoUs to be	Raft of agreements on plate as Xi expected next week (BR)
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Pak-China cooperation vital for region: Dr Miftah (BR)		China ready to start development work in Gwadar (PT)	TribuneKey decisions: ECC approves 23-year tax holiday for Gwadar Port (Express Tribune)	
				China to build IP gas pipeline: report (PT)		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Chinese President Xi Jinping to inaugurate Gwadar		Eastern corridor route: Pakistan, China to sign infrastructure financing deals (Express Tribune)	China gets operation rights at Gwadar port for 40 years (The Nation)	Gwadar to become trade point for many shipping routes in region (The Shipping News)	Pak, China strategic partnership to go beyond usual limits (BR)	Gwadar-Nawabs hah pipeline deal to be
Gwadar-Kashgar trade corridor dilemma (The Nation)						Pakistan has to keep pace
						Pakistan, China celebrating 64
						Pakistan, China to sign 69
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
China wants to see Pakistan stand on its	Grand scheme: Govt to spend	China Pakistan to build airport at border (News Tribe)	Pakistan has cashed in on China's desire to have a short land route to the Arabian Sea while China has taken	Bahawalpur to have world's largest solar power plant: Pak-China	China's \$46 billion economic corridor to Gwadar buys	
Copper-and-gold project: 'Balochistan	Pak-China cooperation			Pakistan, Iran agree to increase bilateral trade	Will make an international airport in Gwadar,	
CPEC, Gwadar Port high on agenda of Xi's	Pak-China ties: 'Worlds'					
	Pakistan, China ink 51 MoUs					
	Pakistan, China					
26	27	28	29	30	May 1	2
The details of the agreements signed between Pakistan and China: (Express Tribune)				China reaffirms commitment on economic corridor (Dawn)		
				Chinese mega projects to start in Gwadar (The		

May 2015

May 2015							June 2015						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 26	27	28	29	30	May 1	2
3 Pakistan-China Economic Corridor: a cost-benefit analysis (Express Tribune)	4	5	6	7 Step forward: Lahore prepares to welcome Chinese consulate (APP)	8 Pak China ties: More power to SEZs (BR)	9 Pakistan to start exports during next week from Gwadar Port: Kamran Michael (APP)
10 First export ship to embark on journey from Gwadar Port (Express Tribune)	11 First export ship leaves Gwadar (Dawn) Gwadar port starts operations for commercial	12	13 First export ship leaves Gwadar Govt to consult provinces Gwadar port: export activity Gwadar port:	14	15 Ahsan reveals three routes of corridor (Dawn News) Pak-China friendship touches new	16
17 Area of focus: Steps for Gwadar rail link-up (APP)	18 CHINA PURSUES 1+ 4 FORMULA IN IMPLEMENTING CPEC PROJECT (Pak Observer)	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Mammoth Rs 359.4b budget allotted for 19 CPEC projects (Pakistan Today)	27	28 Pak-China Sign An Important Deal In Railways (Dawn)	29 Construction sector: PCJCCI, Chinese Parties give go-ahead to 5:10pm Flight to Jeddah	30 Ahsan Iqbal succeeds in hammering out consensus Pak SMEs can use CISMEF to explore
31	Jun 1	2	3	4	5	6

June 2015

June 2015							July 2015						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 31	Jun 1	2	3	4	5	6
	Pak's acquisition of nukes smashed India's dreams: Aziz (Pakistan Today)	Budget 2015-16: 12% of approved funds goes to CPEC's Economic corridor will help to bring peace and	Economic cooperation to open corridor of prosperity: PM emphasizes on Pak-China relations (The Nations)	China backs Pak membership of Nuclear Suppliers Group (The National Highway Authority spent Rs1.342	China to set up massive industrial park Govt to spend Rs.3bn on new Gwadar No one can come between Pak-China	Budget: Rs700bn for development CPEC fetches sizeable amount in JF-17 programme a symbol of
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
200 Pak engineers to get thermal engineering training in China (The Nations)		Pak-China friendship follows no boundary: CM Shahbaz (Dunya News)	No tax on export of Halal meat through Gwadar port (The Nations) Pak-China sign agreement for MSA patrol vessels (Daily	Motorways will be built in Sindh,KP and Balochistan: Nawaz Sharif (Pak Tribune)	A new administrative unit should be made for Gwadar, says Hub: Will connect Gwadar port with Central	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
CPEC, Gwadar port to be built at any cost: COAS (The Nations)	China, Pakistan should build railways to link Gwadar Port Zone completes Pakistan wins first JF-17 order at Paris	Pakistan launches project to connect Gwadar Port with Central Asia (Dispatch News Desk)	Chinese Embassy compound inaugurated Pak-Chinese JF-17 Knocks At World Senate body for increasing allocation for	300 Pak-China co-developed JF-17 Thunder to be sold (Web Desk)		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
4,000 cops to guard Chinese (The Nations)		Chinese desk set up at foreign security cell (Dawn) Sri Lanka might become the first customer to acquire the JF-17 Thunder		Desalination plant of 2 MGD at Gwadar starts functioning (BR)		Economic corridor: Pak, China to China opens new compound in 12:00am Flight to Multan (Jeddah JED) -
28	29	30	Jul 1	2	3	4
Pak, China agree to expedite work on solar power park (Daily Pakistan)	Deepening partnership: Pakistan looks to Russia for satiating Free Trade Zone being established at Gwadar	Free Trade Zone being established at Gwadar (APP) Pak, China to join hands to promote research in agri sector				

July 2015

July 2015							August 2015						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 28	29	30	Jul 1 IIUI, CHINESE ISLAMIC COUNCIL INK MOU FOR TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL (Pak Observer)	2	3 China offers \$50 billion for hydroelectric projects in Pakistan (The Way cleared for launch of Chinese-led Asian	4 Pakistan, China expand economic dimension of their ties: Dar Pakistan's economy better than India's:
5	6	7 Chinese assure timely completion of Sahiwal coal power plant (Daily Times)	8	9	10	11 Pak, China working on 120 MW power plant in Muzaffargarh (The Nations)
12	13	14	15 Good tidings: Iran deal brightens IP gas pipeline prospects (Express Tribune)	16 IP pipeline most feasible of energy projects (The Nation) Zunjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has termed	17 China-funded LNG project to turn into Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline: Abbasi (Pakistan Today)	18
19	20	21	22 Over Rs 20,000m allocated for Western alignment of CPEC (Radio Pakistan)	23	24	25 China renews pledge to complete CPEC at any cost (The Gwadar port, CPEC to be completed at all costs: Army
26	27 : Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Monday directed completion of infrastructure projects under the China	28	29 Pakistan and Belarus would sign agreements for agriculture Governor Punjab supports promotion of Chinese	30 Govt offers lucrative incentives to foreign investors: PCJCCI seeks proactive role of Pakistan in SCO (Pakistan	31	Aug 1

August 2015

August 2015						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1 Hashoo Group to expand its five-star hotel in Gwadar (APP)
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 New era of Pak-China relations starts during current tenure: CM (BR)	13 Economic relations: MoU Need stressed to increase trade Pak, China Sign USD Two Pakistan, China	14 LCCI urges Pak-China businessmen to increase trade (Daily Times)	15 Navy conducts security exercise to protect Gwadar (Daily Times)
16	17 'CPEC a key to region's prosperity' (APP) Pak-China to coop in space-technol	18	19 China eases terms for Pak Chinese company to CPEC- a window J-10 fighter jets: Pakistan, China	20 2,281 acre land acquired for free trade zone in 'Pakistan's economy has all ingredients	21 PM says Pak-China nuclear cooperation Work on TAPI pipeline to begin in	22
23	24 Pak-China trade: Importance of negotiating the FTA (Express Tribune)	25	26 China to set up body to monitor Pak projects (The Nation)	27	28	29
30 Gigantic road projects to benefit masses: PM (APP)	31 11 CPEC economic zones to be set up in Baluchistan (The Nations)	Sep 1	2	3	4	5

September 2015

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 30	31	Sep 1	2	3 Economic corridor: China to extend assistance at 1.6 percent interest rate (BR)	4	5 Land for Gwadar Railway Station acquired: Saad Rafique (Radio Pakistan)
6 Link to Gwadar Port: government to acquire 412 acres of land for railway container yard (BR)	7	8	9 China leases 800 ha land at Gwadar port (IHS Online) 'Pakistan to get 5,600 megawatts electricity through five	10 'Pakistan poised to rank among top 25 China acquires 809 hectares of land in Gwadar-Nawabs hah pipeline, LNG terminal:	11	12 Exports from Gwadar Port start: Kamran Michael (Pakistan Today)
13	14 Pakistan, China sign 43-year lease for Gwadar Special Economic Zone (The Nations)	15 Pak-China military relations will grow to unprecedented PM opens Pak-China Friendship Tunnel (The	16	17 Govt urged to take private sector on board on CPEC matters (The Nations)	18 Govt pursuing IPGPP under alternative strategy: Senate told PAK, CHINA AGREE TO SPEED UP TALKS ON	19 SEZs on pattern of China can usher in industrial revolution: PCJCCI chief (BR)
20 Shehbaz asks Chinese firm to expedite solar power project (Pakistan Today)	21 French think tank head favours Pak-France Pakistan, China in pact to keep JF-17 tech Shahbaz orders monitoring of rivers (The	22	23 China converts \$230m loan for Gwadar airport into grant (The News)	24 Gwadar-Nawabs hah: Work on portion to end by December 2017 (Express Tribune)	25	26
27	28 Central-Asia-South Asia Energy and Trade Corridor Launches Sahiwal coal power project will be functional by	29 Pak-China ties to attain new heights: Enovy (The Nations)	30 PARC, LZU CHINA SIGN MOU FOR AGRI RESEARCH, SCO membership – a potential trump card for Pakistan (The	Oct 1	2	3

October 2015

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 27	28	29	30	Oct 1 China to construct \$2.5 billion Gwadar (The News) PM lauds China role for promoting peace in region (APP)	2 China to gift 1MW solar power project for Pak parliament (The News)	3
4 Pak-China joint air exercise Shaheen IV Concludes (The News)	5	6 CPEC will create new job opportunities for youth: President (Radio Pakistan)	7 Linking Pakistan with Central Asia is govt's priority: PM (The News)	8	9 Second phase of FTA with China: MoC urged to cut 'fair' trade deal (Bremen, Germany)	10
11 Pakistan, China Finalize 8-Sub Construction Plan (Defense News)	12 Pak embassy stalls in China pull big crowd (BR)	13	14 PAK-CHINA STRATEGIC PARTNER TO BENEFIT PEOPLE Salim Ahmed Wednesday, October 14, 2015 -	15	16 'Pakistan connected China to the rest of the world' (Express Tribune)	17
18	19 Pakistan leveraging US and China's interest in the region (The 'Pakistan, China committed to safeguarding common	20 AIR CHINA TO LAUNCH FLIGHT OPERATION IN ISLAMABAD FROM OCT 26 (Pak Observer)	21 Ground-breaking of LNG pipeline project: Putin likely to visit in February (BR)	22 Pakistan To Get \$178 Mn ADB Assistance On Pakistan, Russia sign Rs 228.93 billion budgeted: WB report : CPEC helps increase	23 AIOU establishes Chinese Language Center (Pakistan Today)	24
25	26	27 MPs body recommends CPEC western route as dual carriage way (The Nations)	28	29	30 Govt-to-introduce-ferry-service-to-iran (The News)	31 Gwadar, Chabahar seaports to operate as 'sister ports': PM (HELLENIC SHIPPING NEWS WORLDWIDE)

November 2015

November 2015						
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December 2015						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 1 Gwadar to be made weapon-free city (Pak News Service)	2 Pakistan To Deploy 10,000 Army Personnel For Safety Of CPEC Workers - See more at: http://www.geo.tv/latest/718	3	4 Transnational gas pipeline project to be launched next month (Daily Times)	5 chinese-company-to-set-up-petrochemical-refining-complexes-at-gadad Gwadar to connect with Middle East, Central Asia	6	7 Sun-led 7-member Chinese delegation visits Balochistan (Daily Times)
8 Financial bid for Gwadar LNG Terminal to be opened this week (Pakistan Navy ready to protect Gwadar port,	9 PROVINCIAL GOVT TO PROVIDE LAND FOR GWADAR AIRPORT: CM (BR)	10 Pakistan to hand over 2,281 acres of Gwadar's free trade zone to Chinese (Express Tribune)	11 PAK-CHINA INK AGREEMENT ON GWADAR FREE TRADE ZONE (APP)	12 CPEC to turn Pakistan into most important country of region: president (Pakistan Today)	13 Chinese firm begins managing Gwadar Port (The Nations) Pak-China banking service protocol	14
15 Chinese company leases Gwadar port for development Financial Spots http://financialspots.com/201	16	17 CPEC Western route to be built as dual Groundwork laid for China-Pakistan Weighing in on benefits: Implementing	18 Pakistan asked China to include Diamer-Bhasha dam project in CEPC (Pak Tribune)	19	20	21
22	23 CPEC made part of China's 13th 5-year development plan: Weidong (Pakistan Today)	24 BOOK ON PAK-CHINA FRIENDSHIP TO BE LAUNCHED ON WEDNESDAY (APP)	25	26	27	28
29	30 PAK, CHINA TO INK AGREEMENT TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY (APP)	Dec 1	2	3	4	5

December 2015

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 29	30	Dec 1	2 Pakistan to collaborate with USA and China for Afghan reconciliation process (Pak Tribune)	3	4	5
6	7	8 Pak-China joint military drills begin: ISPR (The Nations) Pak-China joint military training exercise YOUYI 5	9 Digital age: Pakistan, China agree to develop e-corridor Pak-China have a shared future: Chinese FM (The Nations)	10 Pak-Netherlands agreement for institutional PM announces Rs20 mln grant for Two week Pak China exercise started (Pak	11	12
13	14	15 After TAPI: Pakistan and Turkmenistan CPEC body wants agri sector to Pakistan, China PMs agree to Parliamentary body meets:	16	17 OVER 80 PERCENT INVESTMENT Turkmenistan to Gwadar: government's Work on CEPC route from Khunjrab-Gwa	18	19
20	21	22 Chinese govt to give grant of Rs 94 million for KP (Pak Tribune) Gwadar real estate gets boost through TAPI pipeline	23 MoU to promote Pak-China bilateral trade signed (APP)	24 Transport project with China could boost economy (Asia Nikkei)	25 Liquefied natural gas: Govt seeks to negotiate Gwadar pipeline cost (Express Tribune)	26
27	28	29 Govt planning to supply water from Sawad Dam to Gwadar (The Nations)	30 PM announces Karachi-Gwadar motorway (APP) Will Pakistan Land a Deal With US for New F-16s? (Defense	31 Economic corridor to raise investment-to-GDP ratio by 2.8 percent (BR)	Jan 1, 16	2

The title "Gwadar's largest commercial scheme" Al-Noor cargo city holds this distinct. Al-Noor cargo city is also known as Gwadar's first strategic commercial scheme. Al-Noor cargo city is situated in the mid of Gwadar airport and Gwadar sea port. It has one-kilometer wide front on the 205ft wide main Baluchistan Broadway and 150ft wide Existing coastal highway.

Al-Noor Cargo City gives an eye-catching stance to both local and international investors due to its strategic location. In addition, just 1500 yards distance to Deep Sea East Bay gives another edge to Al-Noor Cargo City.



GWADAR

www.alnoorgwadar.com/newsbook2016

NEWSBOOK 2016

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AL-NOOR CARGO CITY GWADAR

NEWS & UPDATES

From January 2016 to December 2016



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 16	2 COAS General Raheel Shahrif visits Gwadar port (APP)
3 China, Pak naval ships complete drills in East China Sea (BR)	4	5 Pak Navy raises special marines to protect Chinese engineers at Gawadar Port	6 Navy ready for new challenges after Gwadar Pak-China to build 1,200 acre	7	8	9 Karachi: Chinese fleet arrives for third Pak-China joint exercises (Dunya News)
10	11	12 Pakistan and Iran to have railway track between Gwadar and Iranian port (Pak Tribune)	13 Establishment of Gwadar's EPZ is at initial stage, NA told Jinnah Naval Base – Navy expands	14	15 CHINA KEEN TO SET UP OIL REFINERY IN PAKISTAN (Pak Observer)	16
17	18	19	20	21 Pak-China trade swells from \$9.3b to \$11.8b in one year (The Nations)	22 Pak-China Sign Letter Of Exchange On Gwadar Master Plan (Daily Capital)	23 Accord with China: Deal inked on funding All preparations complete for Karachi-Gwad
24	25 BALOCHISTAN TO RECEIVE \$7B THRU Govt sees 2016 as take-off MoU signed for China Pakistan	26	27 China's One Belt, One Road initiative promises to Navy increases surveillance at Gwadar Port	28	29	30 GWADAR FERRY SERVICE TO GENERATE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, PROMOTE TOURISM
31 China to provide Pakistan with 500 million USD for power projects (News Tribe)	Feb 1	2	3	4	5	6

February 2016

February 2016

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March 2016

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 31	Feb 1	2 FATEMI FOR ENHANCED CHINA-PAK INTELLECTUAL EXCHANGES, ACADEMICS LINKAGES (BR)	3 PM inaugurates Gwadar-Hoshab (M-8) portion of CPEC (THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE) SEZ under CPEC (Daily Times)	4 PM Nawaz inaugurates Gwadar-Turbat-Hoshab Motorway (Dunya News)	5 Gwadar to have vocational training institute to improve skills (Daily Times)	6 Training locals: Gwadar Port Authority to set up training centre (The Express Tribune)
7	8	9 Norwegian businessmen invited to tap huge potential of Pakistan (The Nations)	10	11 Pak, Qatar PMs see display of JF-17, Super Mushshak (The Nation) Spokesperson to Prime Minister says contract for import of	12 Pakistan Railways to make joint venture with int'l firm for manufacturing PM Nawaz: Will build Lahore-Karachi Motorway,	13
14 Pak Navy allocates Special Marine Battalion at Gwadar port (Business Standard)	15	16	17	18	19	20
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March 2016

March 2016							April 2016						
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27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 28	29	Mar 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Chinese ambassador for more Pak-China joint ventures Chinese economy and dynamic CPEC (BR)	11	12 Will move cargo from China to Gwadar this year, says army chief (Daily Times)
13	14 CHINA'S 5-YEAR PLAN GOOD HOPE FOR PAK ECONOMY (Pak Observer)	15	16 CASA-1000 PROJECT TO FURTHER BOOST PAK-TAJIK TIES: PRESIDENT (AP)	17 PM INVITES CAR TO USE GWADAR PORT (Pak Observer)	18	19 Pak-China Business Forum from 19th (APP) Shahbaz Sharif inaugurates 5th Pak-China Business Forum 2016
20 CHINA PROVIDED FULL ASSISTANCE TO TRANSPORT, ENERGY PROJECTS: SHEHBAZ (Pak)	21	22	23 4-day Pak-China Business Forum concludes (APP) Development ties: Chinese delegation visits Gwadar	24	25 GOVT KEEN TO COMPLETE IRAN-PAKISTAN GAS PIPELINE: MIFTAH (APP)	26
27 Gwadar, Chabahar ports to link Pakistan, Iran with Central Special Chinese children perform in Alhamra	28 Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG project part of CPEC (Observer)	29 Maiden MoU signed for expanding co-op between Pak, Chinese textile firms (The Nations)	30	31 Pak-China to build interconnection grid for electricity (Daily Pakistan)	Apr 1	2

April 2016

April 2016							May 2016						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1	2
3 Pak-China links: Logistics complex construction to facilitate Sino-Pak trade likely to increase by 24 percent (BR)	4 China-US alliance will have positive impact on Pak-China CHINESE DELEGATION INAUGURATE S.GWADAR	5	6 Army chief reassures China of CPEC security (The Express Tribune)	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Pak, China take space collaboration further (pak observer) PTCL to make investment in Gwadar (The News)	22 Two-year course in China : CM encourages students to enhance value of green passport (Daily Times)	23 NUML holds Chinese exhibition of Muslim customs (Daily Times)
24	25 Pakistan-China Economic Corridor – a mutually beneficial project (The Nations)	26	27 Balochistan govt considers tax amnesty for CPEC is a symbol of Pak-China all-weather Gwadar port to be operational this year (Gulf	28	29	30 Gwadar Port Project Reveals China's Regional Xinjiang-based Chinese companies to make heavy

May 2016

May 2016

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June 2016

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 1	2 Senate body seeks execution of CPEC Western route (The Nations)	3	4 First phase of Gwadar port operational, NA Committee Pakistan, China ink agreements worth \$4.2b	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Linyi-Gwadar freight train begins operation (BR)	12	13	14 Pakistan, China agree to build Gwadar-Nawa bshah gas pipeline (The Chinese offer to finance whole \$2b LNG project
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 1000 acres land acquired to set up Export Processing Zone at Gwadar (APP)
22	23 Gwadar to become game changer: Dastagir (APP)	24 Quetta-Gwadar section of western route to be operational by Dec (Observer)	25 DEVELOPMENT IN GWADAR WILL INCREASE WITH Funds for Gwadar Safe City project released (Daily	26	27 Pakistan considering to link Gwadar with Chabahar: Sartaj Aziz (Express Tribune)	28
29	30	31	Jun 1	2	3	4

June 2016

June 2016							July 2016						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 29	30	31	Jun 1	2	3	4
5	6	7 PAK NAVY FULLY PREPARED TO ENSURE SECURITY OF GWADAR PORT (Radio Pakistan)	8	9	10	11
12	13 China to build mega oil pipeline from Gwadar to Kashgar (The Nations)	14 'CPEC is most important agreement in history of Pak-China Pak, China agree to boost cooperation in agriculture	15	16 Pak-China road to prosperity (Pak Observer)	17	18 China Petroleum cuts \$200 million cost estimate for Gwadar LNG Industrial zone in Gwadar to create 40,000 jobs: GPA
19 Chinese minister hopeful of successful completion of all CPEC projects (Pakistan Today)	20	21	22	23 HEC TO SETUP UNIVERSITY OF GWADAR, UNIVERSITY OF BALOCHISTAN AT ZHOB (Radio Pakistan)	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	Jul 1	2

July 2016

July 2016							August 2016						
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31													

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 26	27	28	29	30	Jul 1	2 Success of CPEC linked to Gwadar, says naval chief (Pakistan Today)
3	4	5 Gwadar airport to cost \$260m (APP)	6 Gwadar airport to give boost to CPEC (Observer)	7	8	9
10 Gwadar another Dubai emerging on world map: Chinese media (The Nations)	11 CPEC PROGRESSING WELL, EARLY HARVEST PROJECTS PUT ON FAST TRACK:	12 China attaches high priority to CPEC, says CPEC early harvest CPEC to make Pakistan	13 Pakistan working on Gwadar-China oil pipeline PM says personally overseeing	14 CPEC'S SECURE COMPLETION TO ADD NEW DIMENSIONS TO PAK-CHINA FRIENDSHIP:	15	16
17	18 GWADAR'S EAST-BAY EXPRESSWAY TO BE COMPLETED BY DEC 2018 (APP)	19	20 3,000 ACRE OF LAND TO BE PROVIDED CM says railway track to be CPEC A FORTUNE	21 'Pak-China Cultural Street' to be CHINA EXPRESSES Govt urged to start work on	22 China happy with smooth implementation of CPEC: envoy (Daily Times)	23
24	25	26 Ahsan optimistic about CPEC progress (The News)	27	28 China to establish Study Centre CPEC agreement is confidential. GOVT DIRECTED TO BRIEF	29 Gwadar port ops with new firm to start by Dec (Nations) Pak-China ties: University of Peshawar to	30
31 50 Pakistani teachers left for Beijing to learn Chinese language (The News.)	Aug 1	2	3	4	5	6

August 2016

August 2016							September 2016						
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28	29	30	31					25	26	27	28	29	30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 31	Aug 1	2 PROJECTS WORTH US\$10BN UNDER CPEC ALREADY HIT GROUND (The News)	3	4	5 CPEC is a gift to me from China, Nawaz told lawmakers PARTNERSHIP IN SCIENCE, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT	6
7	8	9 Marketing CPEC: Summit, expo planned to woo investors (Express Tribune)	10 Ahsan says Pak, China committed to make CPEC reality (BR) CPEC gateway to prosperity: Shahbaz (The News)	11 CPEC TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BALUCH YOUTH (BR)	12	13 Gwadar to have university (BR)
14	15	16	17 CPEC to open new roads to progress in Balochistan: Ahsan Iqbal Pak to host 3rd CPEC/Silk Road Forum next year (Pak)	18 Chinese team reviews Gwadar progress (Express) Pak Railways poised to get massive funding from	19 PAK-CHINA CHAMBER URGES MEDIA TO HIGHLIGHT CPEC IMPORTANCE (APP)	20
21	22 CPEC to add 10,000MW electricity to national grid by 2018: PROJECTS WORTH US\$18BN UNDER CPEC	23 CPEC projects worth \$17b in pipeline: Ahsan (The Nations)	24	25 Punjab-China accord for kidney, liver transplant (Nations)	26 Pakistan supports China's stance: Aziz (Aaj TV)	27
28	29 Pakistan, China enjoy excellent ties: PM (Nations)	30	31	Sep 1	2	3

September 2016

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 28	29	30	31	Sep 1	2	3
4 Pakistan eyeing to be gateway to Oman and China: Sartaj Aziz (Daily Times)	5	6 Pak-China in talks to have LNG terminal at Gwadar (Pak Observer) Pak-China optic fiber cable project to be completed by	7	8 MoU signed to set up Pak businesses in China (The Nations)	9	10 Speedy work on CPEC under way in Punjab, says Chinese diplomat (The News)
11 Gwadar girls' college (Nations) Pakistan, China to jointly establish TVET institutes (APP)	12	13	14	15	16 CPEC Body members to visit Gwadar by month end (Pak Observer)	17 'One window facilitation desk': Gwadar airport facility for Ops (Express Tribune)
18 Sindh trains, posts 168 ex-servicemen to guard CPEC projects (Dawn)	19	20	21 Gwadar Port to handle 300-400m-ton load of goods annually: Chinese report (Pak Observer)	22	23 CPEC to help overcome energy crisis by 2018: minister (Dawn)	24
25	26	27	28 Quality educational institution being built in Gwadar: CM (Nations)	29 CPEC to change destiny of people: Chinese envoy (The News)	30	Oct 1

October 2016

October 2016						
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November 2016						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 25	26	27	28	29	30	Oct 1 ECNEC approves \$2b Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG terminal (Express Tribune)
2	3	4	5 China extends concession of \$50m in cost of Gwadar Chinese furniture industry keen to further	6	7 Pakistan Seeks \$1.7 Billion Bids for Southern Work on M9 Karachi-Hyderabad	8
9	10 China to upgrade Pakistan rail network (Global Times)	11 Economic corridor: only two projects worth \$137 million completed (BR)	12	13	14 Japanese corporations should join CPEC projects: Ahsan (Dawn)	15 Pak, China eyeing 'bigger economic bloc' between Asian nations (Pakistan Today)
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Where's CPEC in our FDI? (Dawn)	25 Importance, benefits of CPEC highlighted (Dawn)	26 CPEC and regional integration (Pak Observer) CPEC will complement CAREC's	27 Army chief reviews Pak-China joint military CPEC: Opportunities (Pak Observer)	28 Pak-China QCCM group to meet in Beijing on Nov 8 (The Nations)	29
30	31	Nov 1	2	3	4	5

November 2016

November 2016						
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December 2016						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 30	31	Nov 1	2	3 China willing to finance Pakistan's portion of IP pipeline LEARNING CHINESE CAN OPEN NEW BUSINESS	4 Chinese investors to bring \$3 billion investment funds to Pakistan (APP)	5 Trade convoy to open venues of CPEC in CA, EU market (Express Tribune)
6	7	8 Gwadar-Quetta road to be completed next month (Express) Work on Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline to be started	9	10 Chinese containers to reach Gwadar on 12th (Dawn) World Bank projects 5.4 per cent growth rate	11	12
13 Over 17,000MW to be generated PM INAUGURATES DEPARTURE PM Nawaz arrives to inaugurate	14 PAK WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN CHINA (BR) PAK-CHINA IT INDUSTRIAL PARK OPEN NEW VISTA OF	15	16 MoU signed to set up Confucius centre (Daily Times)	17 China to send master trainers to teach Chinese language (Pak Observer)	18 Railways acquires 71 acres of land in Gwadar to expand operations (Dawn)	19
20 Plan to set up five more LNG terminals (Dawn)	21	22	23	24 Gwadar to get 250 mmcf of gas from RLNG pipeline (Pak Observer)	25	26 Boris wants UK firms part of CPEC activities (The Dawn) Russia allowed use of Gwadar Port (The News)
27 Railways to set up office in Gwadar (The News)	28	29 U.K., France, Russia Want To Join Pakistan-China's CPEC [UPDATED] (Value Walk)	30 Pak-China research centre opens at UoS (The Nations) Turkey To Join Pakistan, China, Russia Superpower	Dec 1	2	3

December 2016

December 2016							January 2017						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2 Pak-China direct rail and sea freight service launched (The Nations)	3
4	5	6	7 CPEC & significance of maritime security (Pak Observer) Uzbekistan eyes Gwadar to reach World Market, urges	8 China's Shanghai Electric to invest USD 9bn in Pak upgrades (Business Standard)	9 First-ever Chinese Ambassador Scholarship established at QAU (BR)	10
11	12	13 Pakistan Navy's special 'Task Force-88' set up to guard Gwadar port's PM Nawaz to inaugurate Global Conference in	14 CPEC, GWADAR DEVELOPMENT WILL PROVE TO BE GAME CHANGER FOR ENTIRE REGION: PM (Radio Pakistan)	15	16 PAKISTAN, CHINA TERM NEW CHANDELIER AT QAUID'S Submarine cable landing station to be set up in	17 Bankers for issuance of multi-currency CPEC sukuk (BR) Pakistan-China to revolutionize IT sector (Tech
18 Pakistan Turns to China in Energy Binge (Wall Street Journal, 1025 Connecticut Ave NW # 800, Washington,	19 CHINA TO SET UP LARGE STEEL PAK-CHINA FM98 DOSTI CHANNEL Radio Pakistan proposes launching of	20 China To Set Up Large Steel Factory At Gwadar (HELLENIC SHIPPING NEWS) Gwadar students visit PU (APP)	21 GWADAR HAS MAJOR SHARE IN NATIONAL FINANCE COMMISSION: SHAHBAZ (Radio Pakistan)	22	23 Moscow to host Pak, China for talks on Afghanistan (Observer)	24
25 UZBEKISTAN CONSIDERING BECOMING PART OF CPEC (Nation)	26 'Pakistan's aviation needs boost to capitalise on CPEC,' says Mark Goh, National University Singapore	27 CPEC to usher in 'new era of development': COAS Bajwa (DAWN) Pak-Russia-China talks to focus on Afghanistan,	28	29	30 Eight industrial zones to be set up under CPEC project: Ahsan Iqbal (SAMAA)	31

The title "Gwadar's largest commercial scheme" Al-Noor cargo city holds this distinct. Al-Noor cargo city is also known as Gwadar's first strategic commercial scheme. Al-Noor cargo city is situated in the mid of Gwadar airport and Gwadar sea port. It has one-kilometer wide front on the 205ft wide main Baluchistan Broadway and 150ft wide Existing coastal highway.

Al-Noor Cargo City gives an eye-catching stance to both local and international investors due to its strategic location. In addition, just 1500 yards distance to Deep Sea East Bay gives another edge to Al-Noor Cargo City.



GWADAR

www.alnoorgwadar.com/newsbook2008

NEWSBOOK 2008

In association with

AL-NOOR CARGO CITY GWADAR

NEWS & UPDATES

From January 2008 to December 2008



GWADAR NEWSBOOK 2008

پاکستان خود مختار ملک ہے اور تجارتی مفادات کیلئے جو بہتر سمجھے گا کریگا کسی کی تشویش پر اپنے مفادات کو ترک نہیں کر سکتے

مورخین نے اس کی ایک کاپی بھی پاکستان، سعودی عرب، مشرق وسطیٰ کے معاصرین، انقلابیوں، اشتراکیوں، برادری، تعلقات کا ثبوت ہے۔

صفحہ 3 بقیہ 34 سربراہ پاک بحریہ

[illegible]

بلوچستان میں ملک کی چوتھی بندرگاہ

سوئسائی کی تعمیر کا منصوبہ ملٹوی

کراچی (اے این این) بلوچستان کے ساحل پر ملک کی
چوتھی بندرگاہ سوئیڈان کی صفحہ ۱۰۰ پر ۱۰

صفحه 3 بقیه 10 سونمیا نی

تیسرے فریق میں عدالت کیلئے ہوائی کڑی گئی ہے اس منصوبے کا
 باقاعدہ اعلان صدر شریف نے گورنر ہندو گھی کی اختیاری تقریب
 میں کیا تھا مگر محکمہ حکومت نے یہ منصوبہ غیر موخر کرنے کا فیصلہ
 کیا ہے۔ معروف و نامور نئے ہندو گھی کے چاروں افسر فیہر ہندو
 گھی نے بھی اپنی رائے کے متعلق کہنے ہوئے کہ اگر اس ہندو گھی کی تعمیر
 کے بعد اس چاروں ایک بار مسئلہ بن جائے گا یہ معاملہ پیچیدگی کے
 ساتھ زبردست نہیں آتا



گواہر پورٹ پر پہلا جہاز گندم
لے کر 15 مارچ کو لنگر انداز ہوگا
کراچی (این این آئی) گواہر پورٹ پر پہلا جہاز گندم لے
کر 15 مارچ کو لنگر انداز ہوگا۔ گمران وفاقی وزیر برائے جہاز
رانی ڈاکٹر حفیم انصاری نے بتایا کہ اس جہاز کے ذریعے
50 ہزار ٹن گندم پاکستان پہنچے گی۔



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مسلسل اشاعت کے 67 سال

DAILY
NAWA-I-WAQT
LAHORE

روزنامہ

بانی و مدیر جناب مولانا
 لاہور کے وقت

لاہور کی زراعت و صنعت / اسلام آباد اور ملتان سبک دقت شائع ہوتا ہے

پاکستان اور چین کے سیاسی اور سٹریٹجک اہداف ایک جیسے ہیں: گورنر

دونوں ممالک کی دوستی شہد سے بھی زیادہ مضبوط ہے۔ چین کے میڈیا وفد سے بات چیت

لاہور (خصوصی رپورٹر) عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے ایک میڈیا وفد نے آج گورنر ہاؤس لاہور میں پنجاب کے گورنر لیفٹیننٹ جنرل (ر) خالد مقبول سے ملاقات کی۔ چائینز انٹرنیشنل ڈیپارٹمنٹ آف فوک اینڈ بکچری ڈائریکٹر مسز پنگ وانگ (Ping Wang) کی قیادت میں پاکستان کے خبر رساں دورے پر آئے ہوئے وفد میں شنگھائی انسٹی ٹیوٹ فار سٹریٹجک سٹڈیز، چائنا آکرڈ سکنڈرول اینڈ ڈس آرمانٹ ایسوسی ایشن کے نمائندے، ورلڈ نیوز جرنل اور لگ وی میگزین سے شملک صفائی شامل ہیں۔ گورنر خالد مقبول نے وفد کی لاہور کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے سیاسی اور سٹریٹجک اہداف ایک جیسے ہیں۔ یہ بہت اچھی بات ہے کہ چین اور پاکستان ایک دوسرے کی سیاسی خود مختاری کے احترام پر کامل یقین رکھتے ہیں۔ گورنر نے کہا کہ وقت کی بہت سی آزمائشوں سے کامیابی کے ساتھ عہدہ برآ ہونے کے بعد دونوں ممالک کے مابین دوستی اور شہد سے بھی زیادہ مضبوط ہے۔ چین کے میڈیا وفد سے بات چیت کے مابین دوستانہ مراسم اتنی مضبوط بنیاد پر استوار ہو چکے ہیں کہ بلاشبہ یہ دوستی کوہ ہمالیہ سے کہیں زیادہ بلند، بحر الکاہل سے کہیں زیادہ گہری اور شہد سے بھی زیادہ مضبوط ہے۔ گورنر نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے صوبہ بلوچستان کے ساحل پر گوادار پورٹ کی تعمیر پورے خطے کی اقتصادی ترقی کے لئے بہت زیادہ اہمیت رکھتی ہے۔ اس منصوبے کی تکمیل میں چینی انجینئرز نے نمایاں طور پر حصہ لیا ہے۔ مستقبل میں چین کی تجارتی مصنوعات گوادار پورٹ کے ذریعے ہی مشرق وسطیٰ، وسط ایشیا اور پوری دنیا تک پہنچیں گی جبکہ مشرق ایشیائی ریاستوں سے تیل، گیس اور توانائی کے دیگر وسائل اسی بندرگاہ کے ذریعے عوامی جمہوریہ چین تک پہنچائے جائیں گے۔ دریں اثنا، الابرارام سٹریٹ کارپوریشن سٹریٹجی مصر کے خصوصی نمائندے ڈاکٹر حسن احمد ابو طالب کی قیادت میں مصری میڈیا کے ایک وفد نے بھی آج لاہور میں گورنر خالد مقبول سے ملاقات کی۔

DAWN

Lahore, Rabi-ul-Awwal 6, 1429 Saturday, March 15, 2008 26 PAGES Rs 15.00 + GALLER

First cargo ship anchors off Gwadar

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA, March 14: The first cargo ship carrying 73,000 tons of wheat from Canada arrived at the Gwadar port on Friday.

The ship was anchored about 18 kilometres offshore because the port cannot yet handle such a heavy ship.

Chairman of the Gwadar Deep Sea Port Admiral Ehsan Saeed said that small vessels would take wheat to Karachi while trucks would transport the grain to areas in Balochistan and Sindh.

After the ship is offloaded, it

Continued on Page 3

First cargo ship anchors off Gwadar

Continued from Page 1

would be brought to the port.

Balochistan's caretaker Chief Minister Sardar Mohammad Saleh Bhootani and senior officials visited the vessel.

Sardar Bhootani said that the Gwadar port would make markets in Central Asia globally accessible, besides providing a way to the world for energy resources.

Highlighting commercial pros-

pects of the Gwadar port, Admiral Saeed said that initially it would handle 100,000 containers, 300,000 tons of general cargo and half a million ton of food grains.

The caretaker chief minister also presided over a meeting of the board of directors of the Balochistan Coastal Development Authority.

Decisions were taken to make the Balochistan coastline more attractive for tourists.


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DAILY NAWA-I-WAQT LAHORE

روزنامہ نوازِ وقت

لاہور بانی عظیمی غم ایڈیٹر عظیمی لاہور

لاہور کا پہلی زبیدی اسلام آباد، برتانوی سبک دقت شائع ہوتا ہے

جسکے 2 ریتے 1429ء 11 مارچ 2008ء 28 مارچ 2064ء ب

جلد 67

فون نمبرز UAN 111-222-007-54 6302050-6367551-54

قیمت 7 روپے

صفحات 20

رجسٹرڈ نمبر این 149

شمارہ 347

TUESDAY MARCH 11 2008

گواور بندر گاہ پر پہلا مال بردار بحری جہاز لنگر انداز ہو گیا

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) مکی تاریخ میں پہلی بار 75 ہزار ٹن گندم لے کر آنے والا بحری جہاز بحری جہاز کو گواور میں لنگر انداز ہو گیا جس سے گواور کا پانچواں قصبہ جہاں ہوا کیا ہے۔ وزارت جہاز رانی و بندر گاہیں کے ذرائع نے بتایا کہ صبح 9 بجے 26 مارچ

صفحہ 3 بقیہ 26

گواور بندر گاہ

گواور بندر گاہ چودہ فٹ گہری ہے اور یہاں پر بڑے بحری جہاز آسکتے ہیں اور مکی تاریخ میں پہلی بار 75 ہزار ٹن سامان لے کر آنے والا بحری جہاز کو گواور میں لنگر انداز ہوا ہے۔



SPORTS

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روزنامہ نوازِ وقت

لاہور، پاکستان

لاہور، پاکستان / اسلام آباد اور ملتان ہر ایک وقت شائع ہوتا ہے

منگل، 9 ربیع الاول 1429ھ، 18 مارچ 2008ء، 5 چیت 2065 ب (صفحہ 11)

گواور بندر گاہ مکمل طور پر آئٹل ہو گئی

گواور (ناٹنگ ٹیڈ) گواور پورٹ پر پہلا بحری جہاز ٹکرا کر اٹل ہونے کے بعد گندم اتارنے کا کام جاری ہے اور ملک کی تیسری بندرگاہ آئٹل ہو گئی ہے۔ گواور پورٹ کی تعمیر کا کام 22 مارچ 2001ء کو شروع ہوا تھا۔ اسے چینی تعمیراتی کمپنی نے تقریباً 6 سال کے عرصے میں تیار کر کے گزشتہ سال حکومت پاکستان کے حوالے کیا تھا۔ گواور پورٹ کو چلانے کی ذمہ داری پورٹ آف سنگاپور کے سپرد کی گئی تھی اور 15 مارچ کو پورٹ کا کام شروع کر دیا۔ کینیڈا سے آنے والے 235 میٹر لمبے بحری جہاز پوس گوری کا وزن ایک لاکھ آٹھ ہزار ٹن ہے اور اس کے ذریعے 72 ہزار ٹن گندم لائی گئی ہے۔ جہاز سے گندم اتارنے کا کام سات سے دس روز میں مکمل کر لیا جائے گا۔

مشرقی بحری گواور بندر گاہ کا دورہ کرینگے

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) صدر مشرف علی بدھ کو گواور بندر گاہ کا دورہ کرینگے جہاں وہ گواور پورٹ پر ٹکرا کر اٹل ہونے والے بحری جہاز سے گندم اتارنے کے عمل کا جائزہ لیں گے۔

گواور میں گہرے پانی کی بندرگاہ

نے کام شروع کر دیا، 70 ہزار ٹن سے زائد گندم لیکر پہلا جہاز تیار کیا

کوئٹہ (آن لائن) گواور میں گہرے پانی کی بندرگاہ نے گزشتہ روز سے کام شروع کر دیا ہے۔ پہلا جہاز 70 ہزار ٹن سے زیادہ گندم لے کر بندرگاہ پر پہنچا۔ بی بی سی کے مطابق مقامی لوگوں نے روزگار کے حوالے سے اپنے خدشات کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ کراچی سے بڑی تعداد میں مزدوروں کو گواور لایا گیا ہے۔ بلوچستان کے محکمات ذریعہ ملے ہوئے گندم سے گواور میں بحری جہاز کو خوش آمدید کہا ہے۔ گواور سے ٹیلیفون پر محکمات ذریعہ ملے ہوئے بی بی سی کو بتایا ہے کہ بحری جہاز پاکستان کی تاریخ میں پہلی مرتبہ اتنی زیادہ مقدار میں گندم لایا ہے اور اس سے بدلتی ہوئی صورتحال کی بھرتی ہوئی ہے۔ بلوچستان کے لوگوں کے لیے خوشی کا مقام ہے کیونکہ اس سے معاشی گرمیاں تیز ہوں گی۔ ہزاروں لوگوں کو روزگار ملے گا۔

THE DAILY JANG LAHORE

روزنامہ جنگ لاہور

صفحہ 68 قیمت 88 روپے

بانی: میر غلیل الرحمن

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جلد 29

اتوار 24 محرم الحرام 1429ھ 3 فروری 2008ء 23 مارچ 2064ء

6367480 F83

گواہی کی پیشکش کے باوجود اپنی ترقی نہیں روک سکتے ترقی خیز

اس معاملے پر بات ہو سکتی ہے، پاکستان اور سعودی عرب کی مشترکہ بحری مشقوں کے موقع پر ایڈمرل ایم افضل طاہر کی گفتگو

کراچی (جنگ نیوز) چیف آف نیول سٹاف ایڈمرل ایم افضل طاہر نے کہا ہے کہ گواہی کی پیشکش کے باوجود اپنی ترقی نہیں روک سکتے۔ یہ بات انہوں نے پاکستان اور سعودی عرب کی مشترکہ بحری مشقوں کے موقع پر صحافیوں کی جانب سے ہونے والی پریس کانفرنس میں بتائی۔ ایڈمرل افضل طاہر نے کہا کہ کسی کو گواہی کی پیشکش ہے تو اس پر بات ہو سکتی ہے لیکن ہم اپنی ترقی نہیں روک سکتے۔ یہ بات انہوں نے پاکستان اور سعودی عرب کی مشترکہ بحری مشقوں کے موقع پر صحافیوں کی جانب سے ہونے والی پریس کانفرنس میں بتائی۔

بقیہ	نیول چیف	7
لئے کراچی سے دور کھلے سمندر میں بندر آئی لینڈ پہنچے۔ پاکستان اور سعودی عرب کی فوجی مشقیں سیم بحر ہر دو سال بعد ہوتی ہیں۔ مشقوں میں سعودی عرب کے 7 جہاز حصہ لے رہے ہیں جبکہ پاکستان کے جانب سے تقریباً تمام بحری جہاز فریگیٹ مشقوں میں شرکت کر رہے ہیں۔ سعودی بحری جہازوں نے اس موقع پر صحافیوں سے بات کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان برادرانہ تعلق کا ثبوت ہے۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ پاکستان جن ممالک کے ساتھ بحری مشقیں کرتا ہے ان میں سب سے اعلیٰ سطح کی مشقیں سعودی عرب کے ساتھ ہوتی ہیں۔		

گوار کو گوار کے ذریعے وسط ایشیا، خلیج تک لانداری دینے کی پیشکش

پاکستان کو اور پورے وسطی جنوبی ایشیا، چین اور وسطی ممالک میں تجارت و توانائی کی فراہمی کیلئے رانداری کا کام دے گا

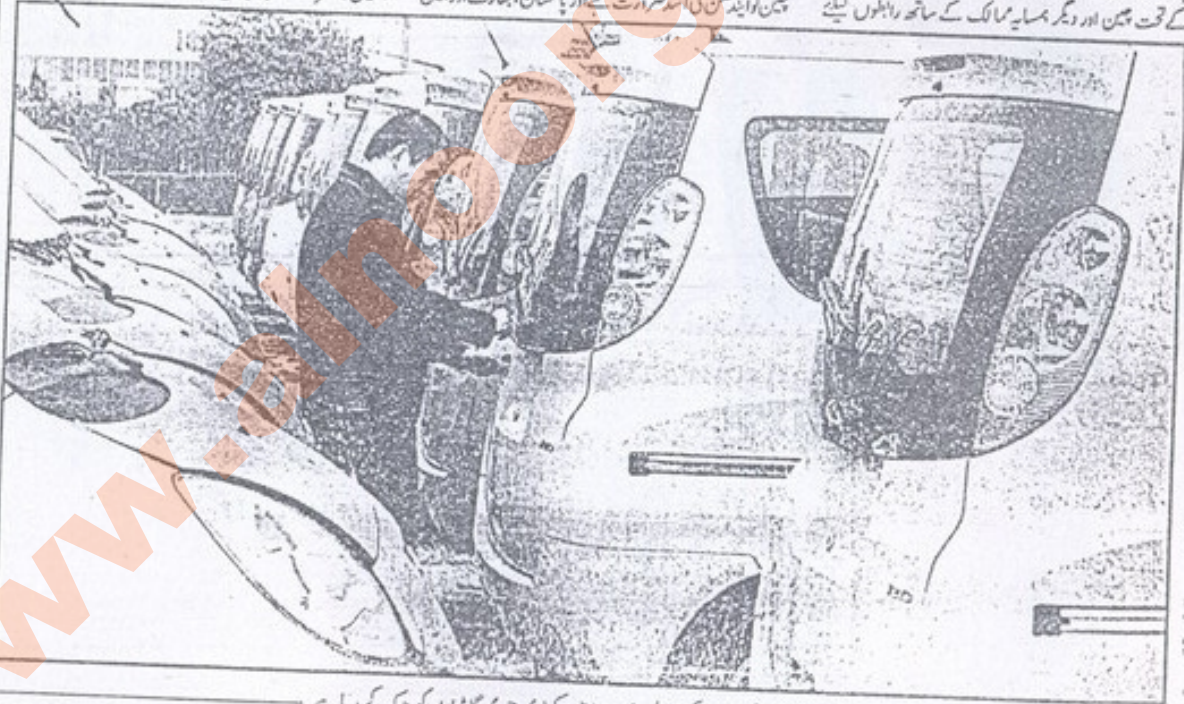
2055 تک ملک کی ایک تہائی تجارت اسی بندرگاہ کے ذریعے ہوگی، چین سمیت مسایہ ممالک سے رابطوں کیلئے مواصلاتی نظام کو بہتر بنالیا

گوار بندرگاہ کی تعمیر فوجی مقاصد کے تحت نہیں کی گئی، پاکستانی سفیر کا جان ہائیکنز نے نیورسٹی میں طلبہ، ماہرین اور سفارتکاروں سے خطاب

کوئٹہ میں کی فراہمی کے لئے موزوں ترین راستہ فراہم کر سکتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ خطے کی تیز رفتار ترقی کے لئے سلامتی اور استحکام کے شعبوں پر بھی خصوصی توجہ دینے کی ضرورت ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بلوچستان میں میگا پراجیکٹس سے علاقے کے لوگوں کی معاشی حالت میں بہتری آنا شروع ہوگئی ہے۔ انہوں نے اس تاثر کو مسترد کیا کہ گوار بندرگاہ کی تعمیر فوجی مقاصد کے تحت کی گئی، ایک اندازے کے مطابق 2055 تک پاکستان کی ایک تہائی تجارت گوار بندرگاہ کے ذریعے ہوگی اور ٹیکس فری اکنامک زون قرار دیے جانے کی وجہ سے ایک بڑے صنعتی اور برآمدی مرکز کے طور پر سامنے آئے گی۔ اس موقع پر سینئرل ویشن کا کہنے کے چیرمین فریڈرک اسٹار نے بھی خطاب کیا۔

سرکوں، بندرگاہوں اور ریلوے ٹریکس کے نظام کو بہتر بنایا ہے، اس کے ساتھ بینکنگ سسٹم، ڈسٹریکٹ سسٹم، کسٹم کیئرٹرس، فریٹ مینجمنٹ، ڈرگنگ اور ٹیلی مواصلاتی رابطوں کے نظاموں میں بھی بہتری لائی گئی ہے۔ انہوں نے اس امید کا اظہار کیا کہ تیز رفتار اقتصادی ترقی اور بیرونی سرمایہ کاری جاری رہنے کی صورت میں پاکستان بین الاقوامی تجارت کے حوالے سے اربوں ڈالر لاگت کے بڑے منصوبے بروقت مکمل کرنے میں کامیاب ہو جائے گا جن کے معاشی فوائد سے نہ صرف پاکستان بلکہ پورے خطے کے عوام مستفید ہوں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ترکمانستان، ایران اور فلپینی ممالک انچین کی دولت سے لالا مال ہیں جبکہ بھارت اور چین کو انچین کی اشد ضرورت ہے اور پاکستان، بھارت اور چین

ویشن (اے پی پی) گوار بندرگاہ کے ذریعے پاکستان وسطی اور جنوبی ایشیا، چین اور وسطی ممالک کے درمیان تجارت اور توانائی کی فراہمی کیلئے رانداری کا کام دے گا۔ یہ بات امریکا میں پاکستان کے سفیر محمد علی ورائی نے جان ہائیکنز نیورسٹی میں طلبہ، ماہرین اور سفارتکاروں سے خطاب میں کہی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان نے خطے میں تجارت کے فروغ کیلئے گوار بندرگاہ کے ساتھ مسایہ ممالک سے زمینی رابطے بھی بہترین بنائے ہیں اور اب وہ ہر طرح سے وسطی ایشیائی اور وسطی ممالک کے درمیان تجارتی اور فرانسپورٹیشن کی سہولتیں فراہم کرنے کیلئے تیار ہے۔ پاکستانی سفیر نے بتایا کہ حکومت پاکستان نے ایک ماسٹر پلان کے تحت چین اور دیگر مسایہ ممالک کے ساتھ رابطوں کیلئے



دوہو: چینی آئو مو نیو ورکرز ڈیوری یارڈ میں کھڑی چیری گاڑیوں کو چیک کر رہا ہے

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روزنامہ نوازِ وقت

لاہور انٹرنیشنل ایئرپورٹ

لاہور گولڈی راولپنڈی / اسلام آباد اور ملتان سب سے قبل شائع ہوتا ہے

جلد	اتوار 7 ربیع الاول 1429ھ 16 مارچ 2008ء 3 جیت 2065 ب	صفحات	رجسٹرڈ نمبر ایل	شمارہ
67	فون نمبر 111-222-007 UAN 6302050-6367551-54	قیمت 10 روپے	52	149
			352	

گندم کی سرکاری خریداری کا ہدف 50 لاکھ ٹن مقرر کر دیا گیا

گندم کی خریداری کے لئے مجموعی طور پر 63 ارب 75 کروڑ روپے خرچ ہونگے

پشاور (آن لائن) وفاقی حکومت نے رواں مالی سال میں گندم کی سرکاری خریداری کا ہدف 50 لاکھ ٹن سے کم کر پچاس لاکھ ٹن مقرر کر دیا ہے۔ ذرائع کے مطابق یہ فیصلہ ملک میں کسان تنظیم کے پیش نظر گندم کے پیداواری ہدف دو کروڑ پچاس لاکھ ٹن حاصل نہ ہونے کے بعد تحفظات کے پیش نظر کیا گیا ہے۔ ذرائع نے بتایا ہے کہ اس سلسلے میں محکمہ خوراک صوبہ سرحد کو بھی اس گندم کی سرکاری خریداری کے لئے امدادی قیمت 510 روپے فی کلو چالیس روپے مقرر کی ہے۔ اس کے حساب سے پچاس لاکھ ٹن گندم کی خریداری کے لئے مجموعی طور پر 63 ارب 75 کروڑ روپے خرچ ہونگے۔

لے رواں مالی سال گندم کی خریداری کے لئے حکومت کو بنکوں سے قرضے لینے کے لئے معمرت کی شرح بارہ فیصد مقرر کی ہے۔ واضح رہے کہ وفاقی حکومت کی جانب سے گندم کے چالیس کلو خریداری کے لئے امدادی قیمت 510 روپے مقرر کرنے پر کاشتکار تنظیموں، غور ملوں اور گندم کی خریداری سے متعلق سرکاری محکموں نے تحفظات کا اظہار کیا ہے کہ اس قیمت پر وفاقی حکومت اور وزارت خوراک کے صوبائی محکموں کو گندم نہیں ملے گی۔ اس وقت دیگر ممالک سے درآمد کی جانے والی گندم پاکستان پہنچ کر فی کلو گرام قیمت 1680 روپے ہیں اور اگر حکومت نے نظر جاتی کر کے گندم کی امدادی قیمت مانی منڈی کی قیمت کے مطابق نہیں کی تو ملک میں بڑی مقدار میں گندم سبوتاہ ہوگی۔



گواذر بندر گاہ پر نئی تاریخ کے سب سے بڑے بحری جہاز سے گندم اتاری جا رہی ہے اس کی لمبائی 235 فٹ ہے

گواذر بندر گاہ نے باقاعدہ کام شروع کر دیا
کینیڈا سے 73 ہزار ٹن گندم لیکر
پہلا بحری جہاز گواذر پہنچ گیا

گواذر (خاندانہ) بلوچستان کے جنوب مغربی ساحلی شہر گواذر میں چین کے مانی تھوان سے بننے والی نئی بندر گاہ نے جمعہ سے باقاعدہ کام کا آغاز کر دیا ہے۔ حکام کے مطابق کینیڈا سے 73 ہزار ٹن گندم لے کر پہلا بحری جہاز گواذر کے لیے پہنچا جہاں حکمران وزیر اعلیٰ سردار صالح بھوٹانی اور دوسرے حکام نے اسے خوش آمدید کہا۔

Ausaf Forum

اوصاف فورم
اوصاف فورم کی مقصد ہے کہ گوارہ میں رہنے والے لوگوں کی ترقی کے لیے ایک ایسا ادارہ بنے جس سے ان کی تعلیم، صحت، روزگار اور دیگر امور میں بہتری آسکے۔ فورم کی قیادت میں ایک ایسا ادارہ بنے جس سے ان کی تعلیم، صحت، روزگار اور دیگر امور میں بہتری آسکے۔ فورم کی قیادت میں ایک ایسا ادارہ بنے جس سے ان کی تعلیم، صحت، روزگار اور دیگر امور میں بہتری آسکے۔

میگا پراجیکٹ کی تعمیر سے معاشی انقلاب آئے گا، بلی ٹی ٹی سی پینوں کو سرمایہ کاری کی دعوت دی جائے

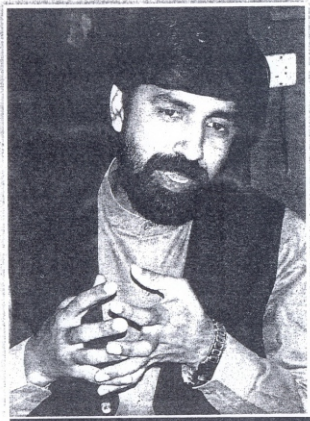
مستقبل کی اقتصادی ترقی کا مرکز، گوارہ

پانچ روزہ ”گوارہ فیسٹول“ کے انعقاد کا مقصد لوگوں میں گوارہ سے متعلق شعور اجاگر کرنا ہے

گوارہ پر موشن الائنس کا ”اوصاف“ فورم میں اظہار خیال

اوصاف فورم

اوصاف فورم کی مقصد ہے کہ گوارہ میں رہنے والے لوگوں کی ترقی کے لیے ایک ایسا ادارہ بنے جس سے ان کی تعلیم، صحت، روزگار اور دیگر امور میں بہتری آسکے۔ فورم کی قیادت میں ایک ایسا ادارہ بنے جس سے ان کی تعلیم، صحت، روزگار اور دیگر امور میں بہتری آسکے۔ فورم کی قیادت میں ایک ایسا ادارہ بنے جس سے ان کی تعلیم، صحت، روزگار اور دیگر امور میں بہتری آسکے۔



حکومت گوارہ پراجیکٹ کی تعمیر کا اولین ترجیح دیتے ہوئے ترقیاتی کاموں کی رفتار تیز کرے۔ قاری سعید الرحمن



گوارہ منصوبہ کی تکمیل ملکی معیشت کی مضبوطی و ترقی کی ضمانت ہے، علی رضا چودھری



گوارہ کے حوالے سے شعور اجاگر کرنے میں میڈیا کی بھرپور کردار ادا کر سکتا ہے، سعید منگل



حکومت اگر ریور ڈیولپمنٹ کمیٹی کی مشینری اور آمد کرنے کی اجازت دے تو گوارہ کی ڈیولپمنٹ 5 سال میں مکمل ہو سکتی ہے، باقر خیال

اوصاف فورم کی مقصد ہے کہ گوارہ میں رہنے والے لوگوں کی ترقی کے لیے ایک ایسا ادارہ بنے جس سے ان کی تعلیم، صحت، روزگار اور دیگر امور میں بہتری آسکے۔ فورم کی قیادت میں ایک ایسا ادارہ بنے جس سے ان کی تعلیم، صحت، روزگار اور دیگر امور میں بہتری آسکے۔ فورم کی قیادت میں ایک ایسا ادارہ بنے جس سے ان کی تعلیم، صحت، روزگار اور دیگر امور میں بہتری آسکے۔

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گوارڈین کیلئے گریٹ ثابت ہو گا کہ ان معاشی انقلاب امریکا کا فور میں اظہار خیال

[illegible]

کتاب: تذکرہ شہداء، ج ۱، ص ۲۰۷، مرقا، سید محمد علی رضا چودھری پاکستان فورم میں اظہار خیال کر رہے ہیں

[illegible]

1 گواہ اور فورم

[illegible]

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تقریباً 300 ہزار چرنوبیل کے پرنسپل ممبروں نے 22 جولائی 2011ء کو ایک قرارداد منظور کی جس میں انہوں نے اپنے آپ کو ایک ایسے ادارے کے ممبر قرار دیا جس کا مقصد چرنوبیل کے حادثہ کی تحقیقات اور اس کے نتائج سے نمٹنا ہوگا۔ یہ قرارداد 22 جولائی 2011ء کو ایک قرارداد منظور کی جس میں انہوں نے اپنے آپ کو ایک ایسے ادارے کے ممبر قرار دیا جس کا مقصد چرنوبیل کے حادثہ کی تحقیقات اور اس کے نتائج سے نمٹنا ہوگا۔

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لاہور اسلام آباد اور راولپنڈی سے بیک وقت شائع ہونے والا کثیر الاشاعتی متنوع قومی اخبار

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روزنامہ جینا

لاہور

چیف ایڈیٹر: زرین ملک

جلد 2

پیر 8 جمادی الاول 1427ھ 5 جون 2006ء 22 جیٹھ 2063 ب ص 16 قیمت 7 روپے شمارہ 152

گوار پورٹ کی آپریشنل مینجمنٹ
کاٹھیکہ امارات کی کمپنی کو دیا گیا

کوئٹہ (مائیک ڈیسک) وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان جام محمد
بوسٹ نے کہا ہے کہ گوار پورٹ کی آپریشنل مینجمنٹ کا
ٹھیکہ پوسے ای کی کمپنی کو دیا گیا (باقی صفحہ 4 بقدر نمبر 24)

گوار پورٹ

24

ہے۔ انہوں نے یہ بات اپنے جیمبر میں صحافیوں سے بات
چیت کے دوران کی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گوار کے ذریعے ایران
کے ساتھ تجارت کو فروغ دینے کے لئے سرحد پر 5 پوائنٹ کو
کھول دیا گیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ شریپندوں کی جانب سے
گیس پائپ لائن پر حملوں کے نتیجے میں صوبائی حکومت کو ایک
اعشاریہ پانچ ارب روپے کا نقصان برداشت کرنا پڑا ہے۔
انہوں نے کہا کہ گیس پائپ لائنوں کی سکیورٹی کو یقینی بنانے
کیلئے اقدامات کئے جا رہے ہیں۔

DAILY EXPRESS

ایکسپریس روزنامہ

لاہور

اسلام آباد کراچی لاہور پشاور ملتان فیصل آباد گوجرانوالہ سرگودھا اور رجمہا خان سے ہیک وقت شائع ہونے والا واحد قومی روزنامہ

جلد 6 شمارہ 92 بدھ 3 جمادی الاول 1427ھ 31 مئی 2006ء فون 7-5878700 فیکس 5878708 صفحات 16 قیمت 6 روپے

گوارڈیئنسٹ میں شصتہتی انقلاب آریگا اور پرموشن فیئول

منصوبہ پوری دنیا کے سرمایہ کاروں کیلئے پرکشش لیکن بد قسمتی سے ہمارے عوام اس سے بے خبر ہیں، آگاہی کیلئے اگلے ماہ لاہور میں پرموشن فیئول کراہینگے

بلوچستان کی صورتحال کو منصوبے سے منسلک نہ کیا جائے، الاصل ڈیپلر ز، انور کارگوٹی، ٹی ایس ڈیپلر ز، وائٹ پرل کے ایگزیکٹوز کی ایکسپریس فورم میں گفتگو

لاہور (ایکسپریس فورم رپورٹ) پاکستان کا معاشی، صنعتی مستقبل اب گوارڈ کے ساتھ وابستہ ہے یہ ایسا میگا پروڈیجٹ ہے جس سے ملک معاشی انقلاب آئے گا، اس کی اہمیت کا اندازہ غیر ملکیوں کو بخوبی (باقی صفحہ 5 نمبر 34)

سمیع سعید وزیر اعظم سیکرٹریٹ میں جوائنٹ سیکرٹری تعینات، یوسف نسیم کو نمبر انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی بورڈ کا اضافی چارج دیدیا گیا

لاہور (اپنے سٹاف رپورٹر سے) پنجاب حکومت نے ڈی ایچ بی کے گریڈ 20 کے افسر سمیع سعید کو تبدیل کر کے اگلی خدمات دفاتی حکومت کے سپرد (باقی صفحہ 5 نمبر 35)



گوارڈ پرموشن ایئس کے رہنما باقر بلال حسین، ابرار خان نیازی، قاری سعید الرحمان، علی رضا چودھری

سعید مغل اور میجر خالد "ایکسپریس فورم" میں اظہار خیال کر رہے ہیں

کروڈیل جہاں انہیں جوائنٹ سیکرٹری وزیر اعظم سیکرٹریٹ اسناد آباد تعینات کیا گیا ہے۔ اس ضمن میں پنجاب نے گزشتہ روز انہیں ریویو کر دیا ہے۔ ایک اور ٹیکسٹ کے ذریعے سیکرٹری وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب یوسف نے کوئٹہ کو نمبر پنجاب انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی بورڈ کے عہدہ کا اضافی چارج دے گیا ہے۔

بقیہ نمبر 34

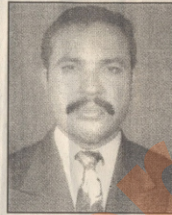
ہے لیکن بد قسمتی سے ہمارے عوام بے خبر ہیں، عوام میں شعور اجاگر کرنے کیلئے ہم چلائی جائے گی، اس سلسلے میں پہلا پانچ روزہ "گوارڈ پرموشن فیئول" اگلے ماہ لاہور میں منعقد کراہیں گے، بلوچستان میں اس وادمان کی صورتحال کو گوارڈ کے ساتھ منسلک نہیں کرنا چاہیے۔ ہم گوارڈ کے حوالے سے حکومت کی پالیسی سے مطمئن ہیں۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار گوارڈ پرموشن ایئس کے رہنما ڈاکٹر ڈیپلر ز نے گزشتہ روز "ایکسپریس فورم" میں کیا، میزبانی کے فرائض اجمل ستار ملک اور شاہ جاوید ڈسکوی نے ادا کئے۔ اس موقع پر الاصل ڈیپلر ز کے ایگزیکٹوز سیکرٹری باقر بلال حسین نے کہا کہ گوارڈ کے حوالے سے پاکستانی عوام میں جو شعور اجاگر ہوتا جا رہا ہے قیادہ نہیں ہو پانچ بجے غیر ملکیوں کو اس منصوبے کی اہمیت کا اندازہ ہے۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ اس وقت امریکہ، چین اور عرب ملک وہاں سرمایہ کاری کر رہے ہیں مگر ہمارے کاروباری طبقے نے اس موقع کا فائدہ نہ اٹھایا تو ان کے پاس بچتھادے کے سوا کچھ باقی نہیں رہے گا۔ گوارڈ کے حوالے سے حکومت نے جو پالیسی اپنائی ہے ہم اس سے مطمئن ہیں وہاں تیزی سے ترقیاتی کام ہو رہے ہیں، گوارڈ ڈیپلٹمنٹ اتھارٹی اپنی ذمہ داریوں کو بخوبی احسن طریقے سے نبھا رہی ہے، کوئل ہائی وے ریکارڈز میں پایہ تکمیل تک پہنچی۔ انور کارگوٹی گوارڈ کے ڈائریکٹر مارک ٹنگ ابرار خان نیازی نے کہا کہ اس حوالے سے لوگوں کے جو تحفظات ہیں وہ بے بنیاد ہیں، بعض لوگوں نے گوارڈ میں سرمایہ کاری کے وقت غلط فیصلے کئے، انہوں نے اتھارٹی سے زمین خریدنے کی بجائے باہر سے زمین خریدی اور مشکلات کا شکار ہوئے۔ ایک سوال کے جواب میں انہوں نے بتایا کہ اس وقت کل 67 ملین ڈالر جن کو این اوی حاصل ہے اور وہ جی ڈی اے سے منظور شدہ اتھارٹی ہیں آج تک کوئی ایسا فراڈ سامنے نہیں آیا جن میں ان منظور شدہ

اتھارٹوں کا نام آیا ہو۔ ملین ڈالروں میں دیکھیں اور زمین ان لوگوں سے خریدیں جن کے پاس این اوی موجود ہے۔ ٹی ایس ڈیپلر ز کے پروڈیجٹ ڈائریکٹر چودھری خالد محمود نے کہا کہ گوارڈ پرموشن پوری دنیا کیلئے انتہائی اہمیت کی حامل ہے اور پوری دنیا کی نظریں اس پر جمی ہوئی ہیں، اس منصوبے کی تکمیل سے پاکستان کے اندر معاشی انقلاب آئے گا پاکستان کا معاشی اور صنعتی مستقبل اب گوارڈ کے ساتھ وابستہ ہے۔ گوارڈ نہ صرف بلوچستان کے لئے بلکہ پنجاب کے لئے بھی گیٹ وے کا کردار ادا کرے گا حکومت ہمیں اپنے ساتھ لے کر چلے، وائٹ پرل کے ڈائریکٹر مارک ٹنگ علی رضائے نے کہا کہ عوام کے اندر اس حوالے سے شعور بیدار کرنے کے لئے ہم نے باقاعدہ کام کا آغاز کر دیا ہے اس سلسلے میں پہلا پانچ روزہ "گوارڈ پرموشن فیئول" جن میں لاہور میں منعقد کراہیں گے اس کے بعد ملک اور بیرون ملک بھی یہ سلسلہ جاری رہے گا۔ چائے وٹلج کے جنرل میجر سعید مغل نے کہا کہ حکومت گوارڈ میں کام کرنے کے لئے ہمیں مزید سہولیات فراہم کرے قیادہ اتھارٹی مشنری پر ڈیوٹی ختم کی جائے، اشتہاری ہم کے دوران ہمیں سہولت فراہم کی جائے۔ بیادوٹن کے ڈائریکٹر مارک ٹنگ قاری سعید الرحمان نے کہا کہ ایئس بنانے کا مقصد گوارڈ کے حوالے سے متنی رجحان کا خاتمہ اور مثبت خبروں کی فراہمی ہے تاکہ عوام کے تحفظات کو دور کیا جاسکے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ عوام کو یہ بات اچھی طرح سمجھ لینی چاہیے کہ گوارڈ کوئی فراڈ نہیں بلکہ یہ پاکستان پر اللہ کی نعمت ہے۔

روزنامہ "لیڈر" (6) 30 مئی 2006ء

گودار پراجیکٹ کی تکمیل پاکستان میں معاشی انقلاب کا باعث بنے گی

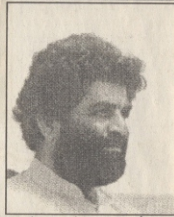
پراجیکٹ 70ء میں شروع کیا جاتا تھا اور دینی کی طرح مقام کا حال ہو گا، گودار پروجیکٹ کے انجینئروں نے انجینئر، علی رضا، جباری، سعید الرحمن کا "لیڈر" فورم میں اظہار خیال



ابراہیم خان یار (ڈائریکٹر مارکیٹنگ انفرکاسٹریکچر) اور سعید الرحمن (انجینئر) گودار پراجیکٹ کے انجینئروں نے انجینئر، علی رضا، جباری، سعید الرحمن کا "لیڈر" فورم میں اظہار خیال

آگے بڑھ رہے ہیں۔ بلوچستان جو کہ معدنی ذخائر کی دولت ہے، اہل ہاں ہے اس صنعت میں بھی سرمایہ کاری کی ضرورت ہیں ہم اس فورم سے لوگوں تک یہ پیغام پہنچانا چاہتے ہیں کہ آج وہاں جا میں اور ملکی معیشت کی قسمت بدلنے والے پراجیکٹ کی تیز تکمیل کو خود دیکھیں اور اس عظیم منصوبے میں سرمایہ کاری کریں جو کسی بھی خطے میں ہو سکتی ہیں مستقبل میں گودار کی اہمیت سے انکار ممکن نہیں ہوگا۔ سرمایہ کاروں کیساتھ ساتھ عام آدمی کو بھی اس سہری موقع سے فائدہ اٹھاتے ہوئے وہاں سرمایہ کاری کرنی چاہیے۔ گودار پروجیکٹ کے قیام کا مقصد یہی ہے کہ لوگوں میں گودار کے حوالے سے شعور راجا کر دیا جائے اور میڈیا کو اپنے ساتھ لے کر چلتے ہوئے گودار پراجیکٹ کو آگے بڑھنے اور گودار کی ترقی کے حوالے سے اپنا کردار بہتر طریقے سے ادا کر سکیں اور اسی عزم

کاری ہو رہی ہے اسے شیت درج دینے کی ضرورت ہے ہماری میڈیا سے گزارش ہے کہ جس مقصد کے لیے ہم نے گودار پروجیکٹ کو شروع کیا اس کے پلٹ فارم سے اپنی جدوجہد کا آغاز کیا اس میں شعور اجاگر کر کے، بی بی سی ایس ایس کو ایک تحریک کاروبار دینے کے لیے کوششیں کر رہے ہیں ہماری حکومت سے درخواست ہے کہ گودار پراجیکٹ کو آگے بڑھنے اور گودار کی ترقی کے حوالے سے اپنا کردار بہتر طریقے سے ادا کر سکیں اور اسی عزم



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بدلتے ہوئے عالمی حالات کے تناظر میں گودار بارے، حکومتی اقدامات قابل ستائش ہیں

پانچ روزہ گودار فیسٹیول کا مقصد عوام میں پراجیکٹ کے حوالے سے شعور اجاگر کرنا ہے

گودار پراجیکٹ میں صدر اور وزیراعظم خصوصی دلچسپی لے رہے ہیں

میڈیا کو اپنے ساتھ ساتھ لے کر چلتے ہوئے گودار کی ترقی کے حوالے سے اپنا کردار بہتر طریقے سے ادا کر سکیں اور اسی عزم کو ہم گودار پراجیکٹ کے انجینئروں نے انجینئر، علی رضا، جباری، سعید الرحمن کا "لیڈر" فورم میں اظہار خیال کرتے ہوئے گودار کی ترقی کے حوالے سے اپنا کردار بہتر طریقے سے ادا کر سکیں اور اسی عزم

مسلحہ کی سلامتی اور دفاع کیلئے جاکر قرار دیتی رہی ہیں تو بدلتی ہوئی اقتصادی دنیا میں اس کی کئی اہمیت بھی نمایاں ہوئی ہے ہاسکوائے، شنگ آباد، قدر حاد اور گودار تک ریلوے لائن کا تذکرہ ہے تو مسلم لیٹائی ریاستوں سے مل کر سیٹائی کی باتیں بھی زبان زد عام ہیں بیجنگ سے شاہراہ کراچی کے راستے تھمڑت کا حوالہ بھی دیا جاتا ہے اور پھر اسی عدم علاقہ کو دشمن کی صف سے دور دھکی کر مگر نہانے کا مزمع کا اظہار بھی

جن کی بنیاد پر گودار کی ترقی کے ساتھ شعیر

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کرے۔ علی رضا نے کہا کہ گودار پراجیکٹ کو اگر 70ء کے عشرے میں شروع کیا جاتا تو پاکستان آج دنیا میں چاند اور دینی کی طرح مقام حاصل کر چکا ہوتا اقتصادی و معاشی ترقی کی صورت حال بکسر مختلف ہوتی۔ قاری سعید الرحمن نے کہا کہ گودار پراجیکٹ کا دوسرا سٹر پلان سے آباد کیا جائے گا شہر ہے جس کے لئے اگلے سو سال کی منصوبہ بندی کرنی کی ہے انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ گودار پراجیکٹ کے انجینئر، علی رضا، جباری، سعید الرحمن کا "لیڈر" فورم میں اظہار خیال کرتے ہوئے گودار کی ترقی کے حوالے سے اپنا کردار بہتر طریقے سے ادا کر سکیں اور اسی عزم

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الاخبار
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 جلد 3
 شمارہ 248
 باندھنے کی تاریخ: 28 جولائی 1427ھ = 27 مئی 2006ء 14 جولائی 2062ء



قاری محمد (ڈائریکٹر مارکیٹ ڈائل فائن کارپوریشن) سے ملنے کے بعد (پیشوا کیلئے چارٹرنگ کارپوریشن)

گوار میں مواصلاتی نظام سڑکوں اور انفراسٹرکچر کی حالت بہتر بنانے کی ضرورت ہے۔

گوار میں مواصلاتی نظام سڑکوں اور انفراسٹرکچر کی حالت بہتر بنانے کی ضرورت ہے۔



قاری محمد (ڈائریکٹر مارکیٹ ڈائل فائن کارپوریشن) سے ملنے کے بعد (پیشوا کیلئے چارٹرنگ کارپوریشن)

گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے
 گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔ گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔ گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔



قاری محمد (ڈائریکٹر مارکیٹ ڈائل فائن کارپوریشن) سے ملنے کے بعد (پیشوا کیلئے چارٹرنگ کارپوریشن)

گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔ گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔ گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔

قاری محمد (ڈائریکٹر مارکیٹ ڈائل فائن کارپوریشن) سے ملنے کے بعد (پیشوا کیلئے چارٹرنگ کارپوریشن)

گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔ گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔ گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔

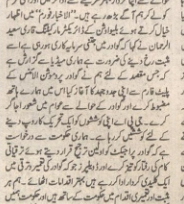


قاری محمد (ڈائریکٹر مارکیٹ ڈائل فائن کارپوریشن) سے ملنے کے بعد (پیشوا کیلئے چارٹرنگ کارپوریشن)

گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔ گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔ گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔

گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔ گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔ گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔

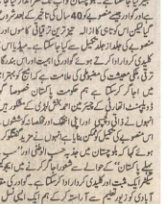
گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔ گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔ گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔



قاری محمد (ڈائریکٹر مارکیٹ ڈائل فائن کارپوریشن) سے ملنے کے بعد (پیشوا کیلئے چارٹرنگ کارپوریشن)

گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔ گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔ گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔

گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔ گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔ گوار کی ترقی کیلئے حکومت کی شمولیت کی ضرورت ہے۔



قاری محمد (ڈائریکٹر مارکیٹ ڈائل فائن کارپوریشن) سے ملنے کے بعد (پیشوا کیلئے چارٹرنگ کارپوریشن)

NAWA-I-WAQT

نوائے وقت

30 اپریل 2006ء

انور کارگوٹی نہ صرف گوار کا سب سے بڑا کمرشل پراجیکٹ ہے
بلکہ کارگو متعلق ایک پہلا پراجیکٹ ہے



ہوت شفیع محمد (منیجر شیئر ہولڈر)

بلوچ قوم جو کہ فلسفہ دینی، خلوص و محبت اور امن و روایات کی علمبردار ہے اس قوم کے ایک بہت معتبر اور بہادر قبیلہ ”ہوت بلوچ“ کے فرزند شفیع محمد ہیں۔ آپ گوار کی ایک بہت بڑی کاروباری سماجی و سیاسی شخصیت ہیں۔ آپ کی پہچان انتہائی قابل اعتبار گوار کی ساکھ ہے آپ سالہا سال سے وسیع پیمانے پر جائیداد کی خرید و فروخت کا تجربہ رکھتے ہیں۔ آپ کی ایمانداری خلوص اور فلسفہ کی بدولت گوار میں آنے والا کوئی بھی شخص آپ سے ملے بغیر نہیں رہ سکتا۔ آپ ایس پی فورائر پرائز کے نام سے انور کارگوٹی کے سب سے بڑی شیئر ہولڈر ہیں اس کے علاوہ آپ کی گوار میں مندرجہ ذیل سیکس ڈیولپمنٹ کے مراحل طے کر رہی ہیں۔

گوار پولانسٹی (GDA Approved)

سرانے نور (GDA Approved)

نور مروئی (GDA Approved)

ہاؤسز کا سائز مستقبل کی ضروریات کے مطابق ہے۔
فرانسپورٹ کے کاروبار کے متعلق تمام سہولیات ایک جگہ پراکسی کی گئی ہیں۔

یہ سمندر سے صرف 800 گز پر واقع ہے اور گوار پورٹ سے قریب ترین ہے جگہ پر واقع ہے۔ انور کارگوٹی نہ صرف گوار کا سب سے بڑا کمرشل پراجیکٹ ہے بلکہ کارگو متعلق ایک پہلا پراجیکٹ ہے۔



ابرار خان نیازی (ڈائریکٹر انور کارگوٹی)

نیازی گروپ جو کہ کسی تعارف کا محتاج نہیں ہے یہ گروپ بھٹہ انڈسٹری سے شروع ہو کر گڈ فرانسپورٹ پبلک فرانسپورٹ ایکسپورٹ، ایکری پچرل فارمز پراپرٹی کے کاروبار میں بڑا نام کمایا ہے اور عوام کی خدمت میں دن رات مصروف عمل ہے اسی گروپ کے ایک نامور سپورٹ و امیر خان نیازی اپنے نئے گروپ کے نئے پراجیکٹ انور کارگوٹی گوار کے متعلق بتا رہے ہیں۔
نمائندہ فوائد وقت کو بتایا کہ
انور کارگوٹی آف نیازی گروپ ایک گوار میں بنائی گئی سیکسوں میں مندرجہ ذیل خصوصیات کی بنیاد پر منفرد منصوبہ ہے۔

1۔ گوار کا سب سے بڑا کمرشل پراجیکٹ ہے۔ یہ تین اطراف سے بلوچستان

2۔ براڈ ویس پورٹ روڈ اور سر بندر میں اپروچ پر واقع ہے۔

3۔ اسے بین الاقوامی معیار کے مطابق بنایا گیا ہے۔

انور کارگوٹی میں تمام روڈ 150 اور 120 فٹ چوڑے ہیں یہ ہر طرح کی گاڑیوں کی آمد و رفت میں سہولت کا باعث ہیں یہ پاکستان کی واحد کارگو سیکم ہے۔ جو کہ بین الاقوامی معیار پر پورا اترتی ہے۔ تمام ٹرک سٹینڈرڈ اور ویز ہاؤسز اس طرح بنائے گئے ہیں کہ کسی کی بھی اہمیت کم نہیں ہوتی۔

تمام ٹرک سٹینڈرڈ اور ویز ہاؤسز اس طرح بنائے گئے ہیں کہ کسی کی اہمیت کم نہیں ہوتی۔ تمام ٹرک سٹینڈرڈ اور ویز

THE DAILY JANG LAHORE

روزنامہ جنگ لاہور

صفحہ 68

108 نمبر

29 جولاء 24 محرم الحرام 1429ھ 3 فروری 2008ء 23 جولاء 2004ء

بانی: میر خلیل الرحمن

6367480 ف 83 ٹ 159

گادر بھائی تیشویش کے بارے میں ترقی پسندوں کی پسندیدہ خبریں

اس معاملے پر بات ہو سکتی ہے، پاکستان اور سعودی عرب کی مشترکہ بحری مشقوں کے موقع پر ایڈمرل ایم افضل طاہر کی گفتگو

کراچی (جنگ نیوز) چیف آف نیول سٹاف ایڈمرل ایم افضل طاہر نے کہا ہے کہ گادر کی بندرگاہ پر بحارت کو کوئی دھتے ہوئے نہیں۔ ایڈمرل افضل طاہر نے کہا کہ کسی کو گادر کی تیشویش ہے تو اس پر بات ہو سکتی ہے تاہم کسی کی تیشویش پر اپنی بندرگاہ پر تیشویش ہے تو اس پر بات ہو سکتی ہے لیکن ہم اپنی ترقی ترقی نہیں روک سکتے۔ یہ بات انہوں نے پاکستان اور سعودی عرب کی مشترکہ بحری مشقوں کے موقع پر صحافیوں کی جانب سے 23 بقیہ نمبر 7

بقیہ	نیول چیف	7
لئے کراچی سے دور سٹے سینٹر میں بندر آئی لینڈ پہنچے۔ پاکستان اور سعودی عرب کی فوجی مشقیں ہم، مگر ہر دو سال بعد ہوتی ہیں۔ مشقوں میں سعودی عرب کے 7 جہاز حصہ لے رہے ہیں جبکہ پاکستان کے جانب سے تقریباً تمام بحری جہاز فریگیٹ مشقوں میں شرکت کر رہے ہیں۔ سعودی بحریہ کے سربراہ نے اس موقع پر صحافیوں سے بات کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان اتنی بڑی مشقیں دونوں اسلامی ممالک کے درمیان برادرانہ تعلق کا ثبوت ہے۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ پاکستان جن ممالک کے ساتھ بحری مشقیں کرتا ہے ان میں سب سے اعلیٰ سطح کی مشقیں سعودی عرب کے ساتھ ہوتی ہیں۔		



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مسلسل اشاعت کے 67 سال

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روزنامہ

لاہور کے بانی خلیفہ عظیم
 لاہور کے بانی خلیفہ عظیم
 لاہور کے بانی خلیفہ عظیم

لاہور کے بانی خلیفہ عظیم / اسلام آباد اور ملتان بیک وقت شائع ہوتا ہے

پاکستان اور چین کے سیاسی اور سٹریٹجک اہداف ایک جیسے ہیں: گورنر

دونوں ممالک کی دوستی شدید سے بھی زیادہ بڑھتی ہے: چین کے میڈیا وفد سے بات چیت

لاہور (خصوصی رپورٹر) عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے ایک میڈیا وفد نے آج گورنر ہاؤس لاہور میں پنجاب کے گورنر یلینٹ جنرل (ر) خالد مقبول سے ملاقات کی۔ چائینیز انٹرنیشنل ڈیپارٹمنٹ آف فوک اینڈ کچر کی ڈائریکٹر سزینگ وانگ (Ping Wang) کی قیادت میں پاکستان کے خبر سگالی دورے پر آئے ہوئے اس وفد میں شنگھائی انسٹی ٹیوٹ فار سٹریٹجک سٹڈیز، چائنا آرمر کنٹرول اینڈ ڈس آرمانٹ ایسوسی ایشن کے نمائندے، ورلڈ نیوز جرنل اور لگ وی میگزین سے شملک صفائی شامل ہیں۔ گورنر خالد مقبول نے وفد کی لاہور کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے سیاسی اور سٹریٹجک اہداف ایک جیسے ہیں۔ یہ بہت اچھی بات ہے کہ چین اور پاکستان ایک دوسرے کی سیاسی خود مختاری کے احترام پر کامل یقین رکھتے ہیں۔ گورنر نے کہا کہ وقت کی بہت سی آزمائشوں سے کامیابی کے ساتھ عہدہ برآ ہونے کے بعد دونوں ممالک کے مابین دوستانہ مراسم اتنی مضبوط بنیاد پر استوار ہو چکے ہیں کہ بلاشبہ یہ دوستی کوہ ہمالیہ سے کہیں زیادہ بلند، بحر الکاہل سے کہیں زیادہ گہری اور شدید سے بھی زیادہ بڑھتی ہے۔ گورنر نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے صوبہ بلوچستان کے ساحل پر گوادر پورٹ کی تعمیر پورے خطے کی اقتصادی ترقی کے لئے بہت زیادہ اہمیت رکھتی ہے۔ اس منصوبے کی تکمیل میں چینی انجینئرز نے نمایاں طور پر حصہ لیا ہے۔ مستقبل میں چین کی تجارتی مصنوعات گوادر پورٹ کے ذریعے ہی مشرق وسطیٰ، وسطی ایشیا اور پوری دنیا تک پہنچیں گی جبکہ مشرق ایشیا کی ریاستوں سے تیل، گیس اور توانائی کے دیگر وسائل اسی بندرگاہ کے ذریعے عوامی جمہوریہ چین تک پہنچائے جائیں گے۔ درس اثناء الابرار سفر فار پولیٹیکل سٹریٹجی مصر کے خصوصی نمائندے ڈاکٹر حسن احمد ابو طالب کی قیادت میں مصری میڈیا کے ایک وفد نے بھی آج لاہور میں گورنر خالد مقبول سے ملاقات کی۔

تعمیراتی کاموں میں شروع ہو گا، منصوبے پر 5 ارب ڈالر کی آئینی 8 ہزار افراد کو روزگار ملے گا۔

یاؤٹ 2.066 ڈالر کا ہو گیا

لندن (مانیٹرنگ سیل) برطانوی پاؤنڈ 2.066 ڈالر کی
26 سالہ بلند ترین سطح پر پہنچ گیا۔

پاکستان کے 25 فیصد شیئر ہونگے، منصوبے سے 5 سے 8

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روزنامہ نوازِ وقت

لاہور، بانی و نایاب

لاہور کی راولپنڈی / اسلام آباد اور ملتان میں وقت شائع ہوتا ہے

جلد 68	بر 2 رات 1429 ہ 9 پر 27، 2008، 2065 ب	صفحات 20	رجسٹرڈ نمبر 149	شمارہ 18
68	فون نمبر 111-222-0077 UAN 6302050-6367551-54	قیمت 7 روپے		

وزیراعظم سواتی تجاویز اور اقتصادی ترقی کے سالہ منصوبے پر پاک چین اتفاق

پاکستان اور چین سے تعلقات کو مزید مضبوط بنانے کیلئے ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ معاہدہ کی طرف پیش رفت کر لی ہے: وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی

ریٹھ (اسے پی پی) پاکستان اور چین نے اپنے ٹریڈ معاہدہ کی بنیاد پر ایک سالہ منصوبہ پر اتفاق کیا۔ وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے چین کے نائب وزیر خارجہ کی قیادت میں وفد کو گوارہ سے چین تک شاہراہ

مطابق 18 ستمبر 19

قرارداد کے ساتھ ساتھ دہلی سے لائن اور کس پاکستان بھائی جانے اور اس سلسلے میں امکانات کا جائزہ لیا گیا۔ صدر پرویز مشرف جو چین کے 6 روزہ دورہ پر ہیں، نے چینی رہنماؤں کے ساتھ چار بات چیت کے دوران مختلف معاملات پر اہم فیصلہ کیے۔ صدر مشرف نے باؤ فورم کے سالانہ اجلاس میں شرکت اور شیا میں چینی صدر ہوجن تاؤ سے بات چیت کے بعد دارالحکومت بیجنگ میں وزیراعظم باؤس میں چین کے وزیراعظم ون جیا باؤ سے ملاقات کی۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے تمام شعبوں میں اسے تعلقات کو مزید مضبوط بنانے کے لئے اپنے عزم کا اعادہ کیا۔ صدر مشرف نے کہا کہ وہ چین کی تیز رفتاری اور ترقی دیکھنے کے لئے آئے ہیں۔ چینی وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ صدر مشرف کے دور سے دووں ممالک کے درمیان دوستانہ تعلقات کو مزید فروغ ملے گا۔ وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے "اسے پی پی" کو بتایا کہ بات چیت کے حدود اور اس میں فریقین نے پاک چین تجارتی دہلی دوڑ کرنے کے لئے مناسب اقدامات کرنے کی ضرورت پر بھی بات چیت کی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک نے تجارت اور اقتصاد کی ترقی کے لئے پاک چین معاہدے سے اتفاق کیا اور اس درجے میں آنے والے منصوبوں کو ماحولیاتی قرضے دینے جائیں گے۔ پاکستان اور چین نے 2006ء میں آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدے پر دستخط کیے تھے۔ دہلی تجارت کا حجم اس وقت تقریباً 7 ارب ڈالر ہے۔ دونوں ممالک نے خزانہ، شماری منصوبہ بندی اور تعمیرات کی وزارتوں اور پی پی وی و جائیدادیں ملٹی وچین کے درمیان تعاون کے لئے مزید چین معاہدوں پر دستخط کیے۔ ٹیکس کے بارے میں معاہدے کا مقصد دونوں ممالک کے بینکاری شعبوں کو پالیسیاں وضع کرنے، معلومات کے تبادلے اور عالمی مالیاتی اداروں کے ساتھ چین دین میں رابطے کرنے کے حوالے سے قریب لانا ہے۔ سی ڈی ایس اور چین کی ایکٹیو فارم ایڈوائز ان کے درمیان معاہدے سے سی ڈی ایس کو ماحول کی ڈی انکلیک اور ٹاؤن پلاننگ میں مدد ملے گی۔ بات چیت کے دوران فریقین نے گوارہ بندرگاہ کو چین کے ساتھ ملانے کے لئے شاہراہ اور قراقرم کے ساتھ ملنے لائن تعمیر کرنے کی ضرورت پر مشرف کی تجویز کو عملی شکل دینے پر بھی تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ چین کی ایک قریبی پہلے ہی فریقین ملٹی کرائی سے اور اپنی تجارت صدر ہوجن تاؤ کو چین کر دی ہے۔ صدر مشرف نے کہا کہ یہ منصوبہ مکمل ہونے پر دنیا کو اس جوہر کا بارہا بات چیت کے دوران پاکستان اور چین کے مابین ویزا، ریس اور دیگر معاملات میں آسان بنانے کے لئے کام کر رہی ہیں۔ چین کے امکان پر بھی غور کیا گیا۔ دونوں ممالک نے شاہراہ قراقرم کے ساتھ کس پاکستان بھائی کے مابین باہمی جائیداد

All Day

گواڈر بندرگاہ نے باقاعدہ کام شروع کر دیا -- خبریں

بلوچستان کے جنوب مغربی ساحلی شہر گواڈر میں چین کے مالی تعاون سے بننے والی نئی بندر گاہ نے جمعے سے باقاعدہ کام کا آغاز کر دیا ہے۔ حکام کے مطابق کینیڈا سے 73 ہزار ٹن گندم لے کر پہلا بحری جہاز گواڈر کے لیے پہنچا جہاں نگران وزیر اعلیٰ سردار صالح بھوٹانی اور دوسرے حکام نے اسے خوش آمدید کہا۔ تاہم مجموعی طور پر ایک لاکھ ٹن سے زیادہ وزنی یہ جہاز گواڈر بندر گاہ سے 10 ناٹیکل میل کے فاصلے پر کھڑا کیا گیا ہے جس کی وجہ بتاتے ہوئے گواڈر پورٹ اتھارٹی کے چیئر مین ایڈمرل احسان سعید نے کہا کہ کہ بندرگاہ اس وقت 50 ہزار ٹن کارگو کو ہینڈل کرنے کی استعداد رکھتا ہے اور ہانگ کانگ کی ایک شپنگ کمپنی کی ملکیت یہ جہاز پاکستان کی تاریخ میں پہلی مرتبہ اتنی زیادہ مقدار میں گندم لے کر پہنچا ہے۔

ان کا کہنا تھا کہ اس جہاز سے چھوٹے بحری جہازوں میں گندم اتاری جا رہی ہے تاکہ اس کا وزن کم ہو اور ایک دو روز میں گواڈر کی بندر گاہ پر باقاعدہ لنکر انداز ہو۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ کراچی کے پورٹ قاسم پر صرف 35 ہزار ٹن تک کے جہاز آ سکتے ہیں۔ ادھر گواڈر سے صحافیوں نے بتایا ہے کہ مقامی لوگوں نے بندر گاہ میں روزگار کے حوالے سے تحفظات کا اظہار کیا ہے ان کے بقول گندم سے لدے بحری جہاز کو خالی کرنے کے لئے کراچی سے 700 کے لگ بھگ مزدوروں کو گواڈر لایا گیا ہے۔

واضح رہے کہ چین کی جانب سے 248 ملین ڈالر کے مالی تعاون سے گواڈر میں گہرے پانیوں کی بندرگاہ پر کام کا آغاز 2002ء میں ہوا تھا اور گزشتہ سال مارچ میں صدر پرویز مشرف نے اس کا افتتاح کیا تھا

All Day

Nidaia -- روسی جہاز پہنچ گئے، آج گوادری پورٹ کو فنکشنل کرنے کا اعلان ہو گا**Waqat**

گوادر (ندائے وقت رپورٹ) گوادر پورٹ پر ہفتہ کی شام 2 روسی جہاز 55 ہزار میٹرک ٹن یوریا لیکر پہنچ گئے ہیں۔ وفاقی وزیر پورٹس اینڈ شپنگ نبیل احمد گبول آج ایک تقریب میں گوادر پورٹ کو فنکشنل کرنے کا اعلان کریں گے، جس کے بعد باقاعدہ طور پر دونوں جہاز پورٹ پر یوریا اتارنے کا عمل شروع کریں گے۔ یہ بات وفاقی وزیر نے صحافیوں سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہی۔ نبیل احمد گبول نے کہا ہے کہ بلوچستان کے عوام کے ساتھ پیپلز پارٹی کی حکومت نے جو وعدے کئے تھے ان کو پورا کیا جا رہا ہے۔ گوادر کے عوام کو روزگار کی فراہمی کے لئے میرٹ کی بنیاد پر ملازمتیں فراہم کی جائیں گی۔

All Day

Daily Jang -- گزشتہ نو ماہ میں گوادر پورٹ سے 12 لاکھ ٹن یوریا درآمد کی گئی

20 دسمبر 2008 سے 30 ستمبر 2009 تک گوادر پورٹ سے 12 لاکھ ٹن سے زائد یوریا کھاد درآمد کی... گوادر گنی شپنگ ذرائع کے مطابق پورٹ آف سنگا پور، گوادر کی ناکامی اور حکومت بلوچستان کے اصرار پر پورٹ آپریشنل بنانے کے لیے یوریا کھاد کی درآمد کا سلسلہ 20 دسمبر 2008 سے شروع کیا گیا تھا اور اب تک اس عرصے میں پورٹ پر 42 جہاز لنگر انداز ہو چکے ہیں۔ ذرائع کے مطابق اب تک 12 لاکھ 14 ہزار ٹن یوریا کھاد کی درآمد بذریعہ گوادر پورٹ کی گئی ہے تاہم قومی خزانے کو اس ضمن میں شدید نقصانات کا سامنا رہا ہے جس کی اہم وجہ گوادر سے کراچی آمد و رفت کی مد میں بھاری اخراجات کے ساتھ ٹی سی پی کی جانب سے پورٹ چارجز اور پی ایس اے گوادر سے مذاکرات نہ کیا جانا ہے۔ شپنگ ذرائع نے بتایا کہ مزید چھ لاکھ ٹن یوریا کھاد کی درآمد کا سلسلہ رواں ماہ کے اواخر سے شروع ہو کر دسمبر میں مکمل ہو جائے گا اور اس طرح دسمبر 2008 سے دسمبر 2009 تک کل درآمد 18 لاکھ ٹن سے تجاوز کر جائے گی۔

The title "Gwadar's largest commercial scheme" Al-Noor cargo city holds this distinct. Al-Noor cargo city is also known as Gwadar's first strategic commercial scheme. Al-Noor cargo city is situated in the mid of Gwadar airport and Gwadar sea port. It has one-kilometer wide front on the 205ft wide main Baluchistan Broadway and 150ft wide Existing coastal highway.

Al-Noor Cargo City gives an eye-catching stance to both local and international investors due to its strategic location. In addition, just 1500 yards distance to Deep Sea East Bay gives another edge to Al-Noor Cargo City.



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AL-NOOR CARGO CITY GWADAR

NEWS & UPDATES

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All Day

-- گوادر ایکسپورٹ زون دس سال کیلئے ٹیکسو ں سے مٹنتی 46 ہزار ایکڑ زمین مختص

APP

گوادر ایکسپورٹ زون دس سال کیلئے ٹیکسو ں سے مٹنتی 46 ہزار ایکڑ زمین مختص

اسلام آباد (آن لائن) وفاقی حکومت نے گوادر ایکسپورٹ پروسیسنگ زون کو دس سالوں کیلئے ہر قسم کے ٹیکسو ں سے مٹنتی قرار دے دیا گیا ہے تعمیراتی کاموں کیلئے بھی استعمال ہونے والی مشینری پر بھی سیلز ٹیکس وصول نہیں کیا جائے گا۔ تیار کی جانے والی مصنوعات کا نصف حصہ برآمد کرنے کی اجازت ہو گی خریف میں یو ریا پر بیس ارب روپے کی سبسڈی دیں گے حکومت نے 65 لاکھ ٹن گندم کی خریداری کے مقابلے میں 80 لاکھ ٹن گندم خریدی ہے بدھ کو پریس کا نفرنس میں کا بینہ کمیٹی کے فیصلوں سے آگاہ کرتے ہوئے وفاقی وزیر صنعت منظور وٹو نے کہا کہ دس سال کیلئے گوادر کو ٹیکس فری ایریا قرار دے دیا گیا ہے گوادر میں تیار کی جانی والی مصنوعات کا پچاس فیصد حصہ برآمد کیا جاسکے گا گوادر کا 46 ہزار ایکڑ حصہ ایکسپورٹ پروسیسنگ زون پر مشتمل ہو گا انہوں نے کہا کہ ملک کو دیگر پروسیسنگ زونز کو حاصل مراعات بھی گوادر کو حاصل ہوں گی گوادر میں ترقیاتی کاموں کیلئے استعمال ہونے والی مشینری بھی سیلز ٹیکس سے مٹنتی ہو گی گوادر ایک ڈیپ سی پورٹ ہے جس کے ذریعے ملکی تجارت میں اضافہ ہو گا افغانستان چین مشرق وسطیٰ سے دو طرفہ تجارت میں اضافہ ہو گا انہوں نے کہا گوادر بندرگاہ ٹرانس شپمنٹ کے طور پر کام کرے گی گوادر میں ترقیاتی کاموں کا آغاز کر دیا گیا ہے انہوں نے کہا کل چھ لاکھ چوں ہزار ٹن کھاد درآمد کی جائے گی جبکہ ہماری ضروریات تین لاکھ ٹن ہے ہم پانچ سو روپے فی بو ری سبسڈی مہیا کریں گے انہوں نے کہا یہ ہمارے لیے چیلنج ہے کہ ہم جو لائیو تک تمام یو ریا درآمد کر لیں انہوں نے کاشتکاروں سے مطالبہ کیا کہ وہ خریف کے دوران کھاد کے حصول کیلئے افراتفری کا شکار ہو کر ذخیرہ اندوزوں کو فائدہ نہ پہنچائیں مینظور وٹو نے ایک سوال کے جواب میں کہا کہ موجودہ حکومت اپنے ناراض بلوچ بھائیوں کو منانے کے لیے ہر ممکن کوشش کرے گی گوادر میں سرمایہ کاروں کو تحفظ فراہم کریں گے۔

گوادر کو ریل اور سڑک سے ملانے کا منصوبہ جلد شروع ہو گا، گیلانی اسلام آباد۔ وزیراعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی نے کہا کہ گوادر کو ریل اور سڑک کے ذریعے ملک کے دوسرے حصوں سے ملانے کیلئے جلد منصوبہ شروع کیا جائے گا وزیراعظم نے قومی اسمبلی میں اظہار خیال کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ گوادر بندرگاہ میں درآمدی گندم آنے سے کاروباری سرگرمیاں شروع ہو چکی ہیں بجٹ پر بحث میں حصہ لیتے ہوئے چوہدری پرویز الہی کا کہنا تھا کہ ملا زمین کی تنخواہیں 33 فیصد بڑھا ئی جائیں پلاننگ کے وفاقی وزیر مخدوم شہاب الدین نے بتایا کہ فرینڈز آف پاکستان کی طرف سے رواں سال دو ارب بیس کروڑ ڈالے ملنے کی توقع ہے فاٹا کے پارلیمان لیٹر منیر اورکزئی کا کہنا تھا کہ حکومت نے قبائلی علاقوں کا بجٹ دوگنا کرنے سے انحراف کیا ہے صدر زرداری نے اڑا ہائی ارب روپے دینے کا وعدا کیا تھا جو پورا نہیں کیا گیا۔

All Day

اومان نے گوادر کے ساحلی شہر میں عجائب گھر کے قیام کے لیے بیس ہزار ڈالر امداد کے

World News -- علاوہ کئی قیمتی نوادرات پاکستان کے حوالے کی ہیں۔

اومان نے گوادر کے ساحلی شہر میں عجائب گھر کے قیام کے لیے بیس ہزار ڈالر امداد کے علاوہ کئی قیمتی نوادرات پاکستان کے حوالے کی ہیں۔ اسلام آباد میں تعینات اومان کے سفیر محمد الواتی نے امداد رقم اور نوادرات جمعرات کے روز سیکرٹری ثقافت کے ساتھ ایک ملاقات میں ان کے حوالے کی۔ اومان کے سفیر نے جو نوادرات پاکستان کے حوالے کی ہیں ان میں ایک بندوق، ڈھال، خنجر اور زیورات شامل ہیں۔

All Day

BBC Urdu -- گوادر میوزیم کے لیے امداد، نوادرات

نوادرات گوادر قلعے میں قائم عجائب گھر میں رکھی جائیں گی اومان نے گوادر کے ساحلی شہر میں عجائب گھر کے قیام کے لیے بیس ہزار ڈالر امداد کے علاوہ کئی قیمتی نوادرات پاکستان کے حوالے کی ہیں۔ اسلام آباد میں تعینات اومان کے سفیر محمد الواتی نے امداد رقم اور نوادرات جمعرات کے روز سیکرٹری ثقافت کے ساتھ ایک ملاقات میں ان کے حوالے کی۔ اومان کے سفیر نے جو نوادرات پاکستان کے حوالے کی ہیں ان میں ایک بندوق، ڈھال، خنجر اور زیورات شامل ہیں۔

یہ نوادرات گوادر قلعے میں قائم عجائب گھر میں رکھی جائیں گی۔ امدادی رقم عجائب گھر کی تزئین و آرائش پر خرچ کی جائے گی۔

حکومت پاکستان نے شاہی تمپ اور مری قلات سے ملنے والے نوادرات بھی جو اس وقت کراچی میں محکمہ آثار قدیمہ کے پاس رکھے ہیں گوادر کے عجائب گھر منتقل کرنے کا ارادہ کر رکھا ہے۔ گوادر قلعہ اس وقت پولیس کے زیر استعمال ہے۔

گوادر عجائب گھر کی تزئین و آرائش کے بعد باقاعدہ افتتاح توقع ہے کہ آئندہ تین ماہ میں کر دیا جائے گا۔ اس سے توقع ہے کہ اس دلکش ساحلی شہر کی اہمیت میں اضافہ ہوگا۔

اگرچہ صوبہ بلوچستان کی آثار قدیمہ کے اعتبار سے اہمیت کسی سے ڈھکی چھپی نہیں لیکن بدقسمتی سے پورے صوبے میں کوئی باقاعدہ عجائب گھر موجود نہیں۔ حکومت صوبائی دارالحکومت میں بھی ایسے ہی ایک

عجائب گھر کی عمارت کے لیے اراضی حاصل کرنے کی کوشش کر رہی ہے۔

All Day

گواڈر پورٹ سے درآمدہ 63 ہزار ٹن گندم، ایک ہزار 7 ٹن یوریا کھاد کی ملک بھر میں ترسیل

APP -- کی گئی ہے

گواڈر پورٹ سے درآمدہ 63 ہزار ٹن گندم، ایک ہزار 7 ٹن یوریا کھاد کی ملک بھر میں ترسیل کی گئی ہے، پورٹ کے فعال ہونے سے مقامی افراد کو بڑی تعداد میں روزگار مل رہا ہے، ملک کی تیسری بڑی پورٹ کی گہرائی 14.5 میٹر سے زائد ہے

چینرمین گواڈر پورٹ اتھارٹی ریئر ایڈمرل (ر) احسان سعید کی صحافیوں سے بات چیت

گواڈر - 4 جنوری (اے پی پی) گواڈر پورٹ فعال ہونے کے بعد یہاں ایک ہزار 7 ٹن یوریا اور 63 ہزار ٹن گندم درآمد کیا جا چکا ہے، گواڈر پورٹ جغرافیائی لحاظ سے خطے کی بہترین لوکیشن پر واقع ہے، پورٹ کے فعال ہونے سے مقامی افراد کو بڑی تعداد میں روزگار مل رہا ہے۔ یہ بات گواڈر پورٹ اتھارٹی کے چینرمین ریئر ایڈمرل (ر) احسان سعید نے اتوار کو یہاں صحافیوں سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کہی۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ گواڈر پورٹ اتھارٹی کے قیام کا منصوبہ 1974ء میں شروع کیا گیا تھا تاہم 90 کی دہائی میں باقاعدہ کام شروع کیا گیا اور مارچ 2007ء میں گواڈر پورٹ کو فعال کر دیا گیا

All Day

46 ہزار ایکڑ حصہ ایکسپورٹ پروسیسنگ زون میں شامل ہو گا، ٹل وئیر باؤسز قائم کیے

Daily Express -- جائیں

سز قائم کیے جائیں گے گواڈر 46 ہزار ایکڑ حصہ ایکسپورٹ پروسیسنگ زون میں شامل ہو گا، ٹل وئیر باؤسز قائم کیے جائیں گے۔

گندم خریداری کا حذف بڑھا دیا خریف پر کاشتکاروں کو 500 روپے فی ہری سبسڈی دی جائیگی۔ منظور وٹو کی پریس کانفرنس

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ ایکسپریس) وفاقی حکومت نے گواڈر پورٹ کو دس سال کیلئے ٹیکس فری زون قرار دینے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ اس ضمن میں وفاقی وزیر براؤن صنعت و پیداوار میاں منظور وٹو کی سربراہی میں قائم کا بینہ کی کمیٹی کا اجلاس بدھ کو اسلام آباد ہوا جس میں مشیر خزانہ، چینرمین فیڈرل بورڈ آف ریونیو، وفاقی سیکرٹری تجارت، سیکرٹری صنعت و پیداوار اور بلوچستان کے ایڈیشنل چیف سیکرٹری سمیت دیگر حکام نے شرکت کی۔ وفاقی وزیر نے اجلاس کے بعد پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ اجلاس میں گواڈر کی تعمیر کے لیے سہلائی کئے جانے والے سامان کے سیلز ٹیکس سے زیرو ریٹ اور سٹیپنڈیو ٹی سے مستثنیٰ قرار دینے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ گواڈر کا ڈویلپمنٹ انفراسٹرکچر سیلز ٹیکس سے زیرو ریٹ قرار دیا گیا ہے۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ گواڈر میں لگائی جانے والی انڈسٹری کی پچاس فیصد اشیا برآمد کرنے کی اجازت دی گئی ہے جبکہ پچاس فیصد مقامی مارکیٹ میں فروخت کی جا سکیں گی۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ گواڈر کے ماسٹر پلان میں 46 ہزار ایکڑ رقبہ پروسیسنگ زون میں شامل ہو گا جس میں ہوٹل سز تعمیر کئے جائیں گے گواڈر بندرگاہ ٹرانس شپمنٹ کا کام کرے گی۔ وئیر باؤسز نے کہا کہ گواڈر میں سرمایہ کاروں کو پلاٹ لیز پر دینے کا فیصلہ بلوچستان حکومت سے مشاورت سے بعد میں کیا جائے گا۔ اس منصوبے سے بلوچستان سرگرمیاں عروج پر پہنچ جائیں گی اور مقامی لوگوں کو روزگار کے وسیع مواقع میسر آئیں گے۔ چین، وسطی ایشیائی ریاستوں، افغانستان، مشرق وسطیٰ اور ایران کے ساتھ تجارت میں اضافہ ہو گا۔ منظور وٹو نے کہا کہ ملک میں گندم کی اضافی پیداوار کے بعد خریداری کا حذف بڑھا دیا گیا ہے خریف کی فصل کے لیے حکومت کاشتکاروں کو کنٹرول رٹ پر کھاد فراہم کرے گی۔ اس مقصد کے لیے 20 ارب 88 کروڑ روپے کی سبسڈی دی جائے گی۔

All Day

Commerce -- گوادر میں پانچ ارب روپے سے آئل ریفا نٹری قائم کرنے کا منصوبہ Report

گوادر میں پانچ ارب روپے سے آئل ریفا نٹری قائم کرنے کا منصوبہ کراچی (کامرس رپورٹر) 5 ارب ڈالر سے پاکستان کے ساحلی شہر گوادر میں قائم کی جانے والی آئل ریفا نٹری خلیفہ کو سٹل ریفا نٹری کے قیام کیلئے باقائده کام شروع کر دیا گیا اور توقع ہے کہ یہ کمپنی 2012ء میں پیداواری عمل شروع کر دے گی۔

ذرائع کے مطابق ابو ظہبی کی ایک بڑی سرمایہ کار کمپنی 5 ارب ڈالر کی لاگت سے گوادر میں آئل ریفا نٹری قائم کر رہی ہے اور اس ریفا نٹری کے ذریعے تقریباً 10 ہزار مقامی افراد کو روزگار میسر آسکے گا۔ ریفا نٹری قائم کرنے کے سلسلے میں پاکستان ابو ظہبی کے مابین باضابطہ معاہدہ 8 ماہ قبل ہوا تھا۔ کثیر لاگت سے قائم ہونے والی اس آئل ریفا نٹری کا نام خلیفہ کو سٹل ریفا نٹری رکھا جائے گا۔ اس منصوبے میں ابو ظہبی کی انٹرنیشنل کمپنی کے 75 فیصد حصص ہوں گے۔ کمپنی حکام کا کہنا ہے کہ 2012ء میں پیداواری عمل شروع کیا جاسکے گا۔ منصوبے کے قیام کے نتیجے میں پاکستان اپنی ضرورت کی مصنوعات خاصہ بڑی حد تک خود تیار کر سکے گا جبکہ مقامی سطح پر روزگار فراہمی کی صورت میں معاشرتی تعمیر بھی ممکن ہو سکے گی۔

All Day

Gwadar Oil City Project -- ISLAMABAD - APP

Gwadar oil city project

Gwadar oil city project stumbles By Khalid Mustafa ISLAMABAD: A mega oil city at Gwadar port, which is the most strategic project with an investment of \$40 billion, has hit snags as the process of acquiring land has been delayed because of a massive rise in prices of real estate. The Government of Balochistan has informed the federal government that the cost of land for the oil city has increased manifold, which is why it is not possible to acquire land on nominal rates. The government wants to establish at the Gwadar port the biggest crude and refined oil storage base in the region, for which it had allotted 12,500 acres of land in 2006. It had announced that the required land be made available on lease at nominal rates to interested parties for setting up refineries or making investment in oil logistics and storage facilities. But in the latest scenario, the cash-strapped Balochistan government has no money to pay the high cost of the land needed for the project. An official said the Balochistan administration had told the Centre that it had identified 100,000 acres of land for the project at a cost of Rs38,000 to 40,000 per acre. Balochistan also requested for release of Rs3.8 billion to acquire the land and warned of more increase in land prices if funds were not released timely. Under the plan, the official said, the project would be executed in two phases. In Phase-1, a petrochemical city will be set up with an initial investment of \$12.5 billion. In this city, a big refinery, along with petrochemical, oil logistics and storage complexes will be set up. In the first three years, the refinery will be able to refine 10.5 million tonnes of oil annually. This capacity will be increased up to 21 million tonnes in seven to nine years. The official said Chinese Petroleum Chamber would come up with a \$12.5 billion investment plan for the project. On behalf of China, Great United Petroleum Holdings Company Limited (GUPC) is working on the feasibility study of the petrochemical city project. The official said GUPC would first conduct the feasibility study and preparation work for the project and then both countries would enter into a formal agreement for materialising the petrochemical city project. The official said GUPC would also build 1,000-2,000 service stations in Pakistan as service terminals for the petrochemical city.

All Day

گواڈر بندرگاہ کو اقتصادی لحاظ سے خطہ میں انتہائی اہمیت حاصل ہے، گواڈر کے ذریعے وسطی ایشیائی ریاستوں تک اہم تجارتی راہگزر قائم ہو گئی ہے، غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کو APP -- گواڈر میں سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع سے بھرپور فائدہ اٹھانا چاہیے گواڈر بندرگاہ کو اقتصادی لحاظ سے خطہ میں انتہائی اہمیت حاصل ہے، گواڈر کے ذریعے وسطی ایشیائی ریاستوں تک اہم تجارتی راہگزر قائم ہو گئی ہے، غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کو گواڈر میں سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع سے بھرپور فائدہ اٹھانا چاہیے گواڈر بزنس ایسوسی ایشن کے چیف ایگزیکٹو کرنل (ر) فضل مقبول آفریدی کا انٹرویو

اسلام آباد - 9 جنوری (اے پی پی) گواڈر بزنس ایسوسی ایشن کے چیف ایگزیکٹو کرنل (ر) فضل مقبول آفریدی نے کہا ہے کہ گواڈر بندرگاہ کو اقتصادی لحاظ سے خطہ میں انتہائی اہمیت حاصل ہے، گواڈر کے ذریعے وسطی ایشیائی ریاستوں تک اہم تجارتی راہگزر قائم ہو گئی ہے، غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کو گواڈر میں سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع سے بھرپور فائدہ اٹھانا چاہیے۔ یہاں ایک انٹرویو میں انہوں نے کہا کہ گواڈر میں ترقیاتی کام اور کاروباری سرگرمیاں تیزی سے جاری ہیں اور ان سرگرمیوں نے گواڈر کو سرمایہ کاروں کے لئے ایک پرکشش مقام بنا دیا ہے۔

January 15, 2009

Thu

All Day

Govt Seeks Foreign Capital in Balochistan -- ISLAMABAD - The News

Govt Seeks Foreign Capital in Balochistan

Thursday, January 15, 2009

By By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Industries and Production, Dr Ayatullah Durrani, has said the government has invited foreign investors to invest in Balochistan, which provides many opportunities of investment, particularly in the field of mines and minerals.

Besides the education sector, he said, various development schemes had been launched in Balochistan and Gwadar port was one of them. After the start of the port, he said, business activities had increased in the province, "which is a good sign for the people of Balochistan."

All Day

گواہر بندرگاہ: ریل اور سڑکوں کے رابطے مکمل کیے جارہے ہیں -- خبریں

گواہر پورٹ اتھارٹی کے چیئرمین ریٹائرڈ ایڈمرل احسان سعید کا کہنا ہے کہ گہرے پانیوں کی زیر تعمیر نئی بندرگاہ اس وقت تک مکمل فائدہ مند ثابت نہیں ہوسکتی جب تک اسے ریلوے اور سڑکوں کے ذریعے ملک کے دوسرے علاقوں سے نہیں ملایا جاتا۔

انہوں نے بتایا ہے کہ بنیادی طور پر یہ بندرگاہ وسطی ایشیائی ممالک اور افغانستان کے ساتھ ٹرانزٹ تجارت کے لیے بنائی گئی ہے، اور ان ممالک کی طرف کوئٹہ اور چمن تک راستے بنانے میں مزید کئی سال لگ سکتے ہیں۔

اس حوالے سے یہ بات اہم ہے کہ 'وائس آف امریکہ سے بات چیت میں ایڈمرل (ر) احسان سعید نے کہا کہ: گواہر کے ساتھ سڑک کے ذریعے رابطہ ہو۔ اس بندرگاہ کا اہم مقصد ہے وسطی ایشیائی ریاستوں سے ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ، جس کے لیے سڑک کے رابطے کا ہونا لازم ہے۔ جب یہ رابطہ بحال ہوگیا تب ہی کمرشل رابطے شروع ہوں گے۔

احسان سعید کا کہنا تھا کہ اب تک بندرگاہ پر سرکاری کارگو کے بارہ بڑے جہاز لنگر انداز ہوئے ہیں جس پر درآمد کیے جانے والا گندم اور کیمیائی کھاد لدا ہوا تھا اور اس سے علاقے میں بڑے پیمانے پر روزگار اور ٹرانسپورٹیشن کے مواقع پیدا ہوئے۔ مگر ان کا کہنا تھا کہ وفاقی حکومت نے گواہر کی طرف بحری جہازوں کا رُخ اسے فعال بنانے کے لیے کیا ہے جس پر بھاری سبسڈی دی جارہی ہے۔

ان کے بقول، اس وقت گواہر بندرگاہ سے تقریباً پندرہ ہزار ٹن کیمیائی کھاد روزانہ ملک کے دوسری حصوں کو بھجوا رہا ہے، جب کہ عنقریب گندم اور کوئلے سے لدے مزید بحری جہاز بھی گواہر پر لنگر انداز ہوں گے۔

یاد رہے کہ چین کے مالی تعاون سے بننے والی بندرگاہ ایک ماہ قبل فعال کردی گئی تھی۔

February 17, 2009

Tue

All Day

Development of Gwadar Port road linkages NHA's top priority -- The News

Development of Gwadar Port road linkages NHA's top priority

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

ISLAMABAD: The National Highway Authority (NHA) was attaching top priority to development of road linkages to the Gwadar Port which can prove backbone of the country's economy in the near future.

The source said construction work would be started on Kallat-Quetta-Chaman road in few days while the roads from Khanozai to Qilla Saifullah and Gwadar to Jewani have been completed. He also said work on Gwadar-Gabd and Qilla Saifulah-Zhob is near completion, as the Federal Government has released funds. The road from Ratodero to Shahdadkot is also nearing completion and would be opened within one month.

All Day

Daily Jang -- گوادر ایئر پورٹ کیلئے زمین حاصل کرنے کی منظوری آج دی جائیگی

اسلام آباد . . . قومی اکنامکس کونسل کی ایگزیکٹو کمیٹی آج گوادر میں بین الاقوامی ہوائی اڈے کیلئے زمین حاصل کرنے کے منصوبے کی منظوری دے گی۔ مشیر خزانہ شوکت ترین کمیٹی کے اجلاس کی صدارت کریں گے۔ اجلاس میں 25 اہم منصوبے منظوری کیلئے پیش کئے جائیں گے۔ جنہیں سالانہ ترقیاتی پروگرام میں بڑی کٹوتی کے باوجود مؤخر نہیں کیا گیا ہے۔ کمیٹی توانائی کے شعبے کے 11 منصوبوں کی منظوری کا بھی جائزہ لے گی جن میں فیصل آباد، ملتان، اسلام آباد، لاہور، کوئٹہ اور پشاور الیکٹرک سپلائی کمپنیز میں سہولیات کو بہتر بنانے کا منصوبہ شامل ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ نجی شعبے کے چھ بجلی گھروں کو قومی نظام ترسیل سے منسلک کرنے، ڈیرہ بگٹی کے دیہاتوں کو بجلی کی فوایمی اور مظفر آباد میں 43.5 ور 14.4 میگاواٹ کے بجلی گھروں کے قیام کے منصوبے شامل ہیں۔ اس کے علاوہ پاکستان ریلوے کے لئے 500 نئی بوگیاں حاصل کرنے کے لئے منصوبے کی منظوری کے علاوہ پانی ذخیرہ کرنے کے منصوبوں پر بھی غور کیا جائیگا۔

All Day

حکومت گوادری کی بندرگاہ کو ترقی دینے کیلئے اقدامات کر رہی ہے، دہشت گردی اور عالمی
APP -- اقتصادی کساد بازاری سے ہماری برآمدات متاثر ہونیں۔ امین فہیم
حکومت گوادری کی بندرگاہ کو ترقی دینے کیلئے اقدامات کر رہی ہے، دہشت گردی اور عالمی اقتصادی کساد
بازاری سے ہماری برآمدات متاثر ہونیں۔ امین فہیم

اسلام آباد - 12 مئی (اے پی پی) سینٹ کو بتایا گیا ہے کہ حکومت گوادری کی بندرگاہ کو ترقی دینے کیلئے
اقدامات کر رہی ہے، دہشت گردی کیخلاف جنگ اور عالمی اقتصادی کساد بازاری سے ہماری برآمدات متاثر
ہوئی ہیں۔ بدھ کو حافظ رشید احمد اور دیگر ارکان کے سوالات کے جواب میں وزیر تجارت مخدوم امین فہیم نے
ایوان کو بتایا کہ حکومت گوادری کی بندرگاہ کو بہت اہمیت دے رہی ہے اور درآمدی گندم اور چینی گوادری بندرگاہ
کے ذریعے بھی منگوائی جاتی ہے۔

All Day

گواہ کو بلوچستان کا سرمائی دارالحکومت بنانے کا فیصلہ آئندہ بجٹ میں منظور ی کا امکان -- (کوئٹہ / اسلام آباد آن لائن)

گواہ کو بلوچستان کا سرمائی دارالحکومت بنانے کا فیصلہ آئندہ بجٹ میں منظور ی کا امکان

گواہ کو بلوچستان کا سرمائی دارالحکومت بنانے کا فیصلہ
آئندہ بجٹ میں منظور ی کا امکان

وزیر اعلیٰ نواب رئیسانی کی قیادت میں وفد کی وزیراعظم اور وفاقی وزراء سے ملاقاتیں گواہ کی فعالیت سے متعلق اہم فیصلے کئے گئے۔

کوئٹہ / اسلام آباد (آن لائن) ساحلی شہر گواہ کو موسم سرما میں بلوچستان کا صوبائی دارالحکومت بنانے کی ۷ فیصلہ کر لیا گیا انتہائی باوثوق ذرائع "آن لائن" کو بتایا کہ مستقبل میں تجارتی سرگرمیوں کے حوالے سے اہمیت کے حامل شہر گواہ کو بلوچستان کے لئے موسم سرما میں صوبائی دارالحکومت بنانے کی فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے آئندہ مالی سال کے بجٹ میں گواہ کو صوبائی دارالحکومت کا درجہ دینے سے متعلق منظوری دینے جانے کا امکان ہے جس کا مقصد گواہ کی تیز رفتار ترقی اور گواہ کے عوام کو ہزاروں میل سفر کر کے کوئٹہ پہنچنے والی مشکلات سے نجات دلانا ہے گواہ کو دارالحکومت بنانے کا فیصلہ وہاں کے مواصلاتی نظام کو بہتر اور مزید فعال بنانا ہے تاکہ نہ صرف وہاں تجارتی سرگرمیوں کو فروغ دیا جا سکے بلکہ عوام کو جدید دور کے تقاضوں کے مطابق سہولیات فراہم کی جائیں اس سے سیاسی اور معاشی تبدیلیاں رونما ہونگی جس کے پاکستان بالخصوص بلوچستان کی سیاسی اور معاشی صورتحال پر مثبت اور دور رس اثرات مرتب ہونگے ذرائع نے بتایا کہ گواہ کو موسم سرما میں دارالحکومت بنانے کے ساتھ ساتھ وہاں بلوچستان ہائی کورٹ کا بینچ قائم کرنے کا بھی فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے اس سلسلے میں وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان نواب محمد اسلم رئیسانی کی قیادت میں ایک وفد نے اسلام آباد میں وزیراعظم سمیت مختلف محکموں کے وفاقی وزراء اور اعلیٰ افسران سے ملاقاتیں کیں وفد میں اسپیکر بلوچستان محمد اسلم بھٹانی، صوبائی وزراء میر عاصم کرد گیلو، میر حمل کلمتی، چیف سیکرٹری بلوچستان اور دیگر اعلیٰ افسران بھی شامل تھے۔ وفد نے وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان نواب محمد اسلم رئیسانی کی قیادت میں وفاقی وزیر پانی و بجلی سے بھی ملاقات کی اور گواہ کی ترقی اور فعالیت کے حوالے سے اہم فیصلے کئے گئے۔ سرکاری ذرائع نے بتایا کہ ملک میں کسانوں کے لئے شروع کی گئی گرین ٹریکٹر اسکیم کی طرز پر گواہ کے ماہی گیروں کے لئے گرین بوٹ اسکیم متعارف کرانے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے ماہی گیروں کو انتہائی آسان اقساط پر گرین بوٹ فراہم کی جائیں گی جس سے ان کے ذریعہ معاش بہتر ہو گا بلکہ گواہ کے ماحول پر بھی مثبت اثرات مرتب ہونگے۔ ذرائع نے بتایا کہ گواہ کو صوبائی دارالحکومت بنانے کے حوالے سے آئندہ مالی سال کے بجٹ میں منظوری دی جائے گی اور وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان کی قیادت میں وفد نے وزیر اعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی اور دیگر وزراء سے ملاقاتوں کے دوران گواہ کی ترقی اور عوام کی بنیادی سہولیات کی فراہمی یقینی بنانے کے حوالے سے انتہائی اہم فیصلے کئے۔

May 16, 2009

Sat

All Day

Gwadar as Capital -- The News

Gwadar as capital

Saturday, May 16, 2009

A proposal is on to make the port city of Gwadar on the Makran Coast Balochistan's winter capital. The plan could bring big economic gains for the area, currently one of the least developed in Pakistan, and for the province as a whole. For these reasons the plan should be encouraged. Using two centres as administrative capitals is after all not unique, and was the established practice in colonial times when the entire administrative apparatus shifted with the first heat-laden winds of summer from New Delhi to Simla.

May 20, 2009

Wed

All Day

Balochistan will soon become regional -- QUETTA - The News
Balochistan will soon become regional

Wednesday, May 20, 2009
trade gateway: Raisani

: Balochistan will be connected through a railway network with other provinces and also Iran and Afghanistan following which the province will become trade gateway in the region, said Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Muhammad Aslam Raisani on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Bilor said preliminary work on Zhob-Dera Ismail Khan and Chaman-Kandahar railway track had been completed while work on the remaining portion of the railway line would be started soon.

Bilor said the Cargo-Container Train Services (CCTS) would be started between Islamabad and Tehran on August 14, 2009, adding the CCTS would run from Islamabad via Quetta and Taftan following which it would enter Iran.

Referring to the Gawadar-Mastung railway track, the federal minister said its preliminary feasibility report had been prepared which had also been sent to the planning division for consideration and subsequent approval.

May 21, 2009

Thu

All Day

Gwadar Port declared tax free zone for 10 years: Wattoo -- ISLAMABAD - The News

Gwadar Port declared tax free zone for 10 years: Wattoo

Thursday, May 21, 2009

ISLAMABAD: The government has declared the Gwadar Port as a tax free zone for ten years with an aim to boost the exports besides promoting trade and industrial sector of the country, said Federal Minister for Industries and Production Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo.

Daily -- گوادرنندر گاہ کے ذریعے یو ریا کھا د کی درآمد بند کی جائے، قائمہ کمیٹی

Intekhab

گوادرنندر گاہ کے ذریعے یو ریا کھا د کی درآمد بند کی جائے، قائمہ کمیٹی اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) قومی اسمبلی کی قائمہ کمیٹی برا ئے خوراک و زراعت نے وزیر خوراک اور چیمبرمین پے اے رسی کی غیر رسمی حاضری پر سخت برہمی کا اظہار کیا ہے اور کمیٹی کو ہدایت کے باوجود چیمبرمین پی آر سی کی جانب سے غیر قانونی طور پر بھرتی کئے گئے ملا زمین کو تنخواہیں دینے پر وزارت خوراک و زراعت اور چیمبرمین پی اے آر سی کوشو کا ز نوٹس دینے کی ہدایت کی ہے اور وزیراعظم کو خط لکھا جائے گا کہ گوادرنندر گاہ کے ذریعے درآمد کی جانے والی اشیاء کی فہرست سے یو ریا کھا د کا نام خارج کیا جائے اور اسے وہاں منگوا یا جائے جہاں سے جلد از جلد پہنچ جائے۔ ایس ایس پی کے حوالے سے افتخار نذیر کی سربراہی میں ایک سب کمیٹی تشکیل دے دی ہے اور کہا ہے کہ اس سال بھی کھا د کئی ماہ لیٹ ہے۔ گیس کی صورت میں کھا د کمپنیوں کو 30 ارب روپے سبسڈی دی جا رہی ہے قومی اسمبلی کی قائمہ کمیٹی برا ئے خوراک و زراعت کا اجلاس چیمبرمین کمیٹی جا وید اقبال وڑائچ کی زیر صدارت ہوا۔ کمیٹی میں بریفنگ دیتے ہوئے وزارت خوراک و زراعت نے بتایا کہ ملک میں کل 80 لاکھ ٹن کھا د کی ضرورت ہے جس میں سے 60 لاکھ ٹن یو ریا اور 20 لاکھ ٹن ڈی اے پی اور دوسری کھا دوں کی ضرورت ہوتی ہے جس میں سے نصف کھا د فصل ربیع اور نصف کھا د فصل خریف کے لیے درکار ہوتی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ 49 لاکھ ٹن کھا د ملک میں پیدا ہوتی ہے باقی باہر سے منگوائی جاتی ہے۔ اس سال دو نئی فیکٹریاں قائمہ فرٹیلائزر ملتان میں اور اینگرو فرٹیلائزر سندھ میں قائم ہو رہی ہیں جو جلد کام شروع کر دیں گی جس کے بعد باہر سے کھا د منگوانے کی ضرورت پیش نہیں آئے گی۔ کمیٹی کو آگیا گیا کی بدھ کے روز وفاقی کابینہ نے 3,2 لاکھ کھا د منگوانے کی اجازت دے دی ہے وزارت ان کو دی جانے والی سبسڈی کے حوالے سے کام کر رہی ہے انہیں 500 روپے سبسڈی دی جائے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گزشتہ سال فنڈنگ کے لئے پہلے حکومت سعودی عرب کے پیچھے پڑی رہی اور پھر کویت کے پیچھے جا کے باعٹ کھا د منگوانے میں تاخیر ہوئی اور یہاں کی لوکل مینوفیکچررز نے مصنوعی قلت پیدا کی وزارت صنعت و پیداوار نے بتایا کہ اس وقت ملک میں ایک لاکھ 13 ہزار ٹن کھا د ذخیرہ ہے۔ 25 لاکھ 50 ہزار ٹن کھا د مختلف مالک سے لائی جا رہی ہے اور اب ایران کے زمینی راستے کے ذریعے بھی کھا د لانے کی تجویز زیر غور ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس وقت تمام فیکٹریاں پرائیویٹ ہیں جو پہلے حکومت کے پاس تھیں ہم کھا د پیدا کرنے کے لئے منصوبوں پر کام کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گیس کی صورت میں کھا د بنانے والی فیکٹریوں کو 30 ارب روپے سالانہ سبسڈی دی جاتی ہے گیس پر سبسڈی دینے کی وجہ سے ہی ملک میں اتنی فیکٹریاں قائم ہیں۔ اب یہ تجویز بھی زیر غور ہے کہ فیکٹریوں کو سبسڈی دینے کی بجائے کسانوں کو براہ راست سبسڈی دی جائے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ابھی جو 2 لاکھ 20 ہزار ٹن کھا د جون میں پاکستان پہنچے گی جہاں سے معاہدہ ہوا ہے کہ اگر کراچی میں برتھ مل گیا تو کھا د وہاں اتاری جائے گی۔ اخراجات میں اضافے کے بغیر یہ عمل کیا جائے گا۔ انہوں نے کمیٹی کو بتایا کہ کھا د فیکٹریوں کے پورے ملک میں 78 ہزار 97 ٹنلرز ہیں جو کھا د ملک میں تقسیم کرتے ہیں۔ اس موقع پر پنجاب کے نمائندے نے کمیٹی کو بتایا کہ پنجاب میں اس سال ایک کروڑ 70 لاکھ ایکڑ پر گندم کاشت ہوتی تھی۔ ابھی پنجاب نے اچھی فصل پیدا کرنے والے کسانوں کو 173 ٹریکٹر دینے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پنجاب میں کھا د ذخیرہ کرنے کی اطلاع ہے جس پر حکومت کا روائی کر رہی ہے۔ اس میں اور اس سال بھی کھا د ایک ماہ وئے وزارت صنعت و پیداوار نے کہا کہ ملک میں چار بڑے وئر با لیٹ ہو چکی ہے

June 13, 2009

Sat

All Day

**Govt. allocates over Rs45599m for Finance Division -- ISLAMABAD -
The News**

Govt. allocates over Rs45599m for Finance Division

Updated at: 1845 PST, Saturday, June 13, 2009

ISLAMABAD: The government has allocated an amount of Rs. 45599.270 million for various ongoing and new projects of Finance Division, under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2009 10.

The government under PSDP also allocated Rs.1000 million for Lyari Express resettlement Project and another Rs.1000 million have been earmarked for Gwadar Development Authority.

All Day

APP -- بجٹ: اے این پی اور جے یو آئی کا حکومت کا دفاع کرنے سے انکار

بجٹ: اے این پی اور جے یو آئی کا حکومت کا دفاع کرنے سے انکار
 اتحادی جماعتوں اے این پی اور جے یو آئی نے بجٹ پر حکومت کا دفاع کرنے سے انکار کر دیا۔
 وزیر اعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی نے کہا کہ گوادرنندگاہ کو فعال بنا کر ریلوے نظام سے منسلک کرنا حکومتی ترجیحات میں شامل ہے۔ بجٹ میں حصہ لیتے ہوئے وزیر اعظم کا کہنا تھا کہ گوادرنندگاہ پر درآمدی گندم آنے سے تجارتی سرگرمیاں شروع ہو چکی ہیں گوادرنندگاہ کو ملک کے دوسرے حصوں سے ملانے کے لیے ریل اور سڑک کے منصوبے جلد شروع کیے جائیں گے مسلم لیگ (ق) کے پریز الہی کا کہنا تھا کہ افراط زر میں مسلسل اضافہ ہو رہا ہے جبکہ بجلی بحران کے خاتمے کے بھی حکومت کی نیت صاف نہیں مسلم لیگ (ن) کے خرم دستگیر کا کہنا تھا کہ حکومت اخراجات کم کرنے کے لیے وزرا کی تعداد کم کرے۔ حزب اختلاف نے کاربن ٹیکس پر تنقید کری اور کہا کہ بجٹ میں زرعی شعبہ کو نظر انداز کیا گیا ہے منیر اورکزئی کا کہنا تھا کہ فائٹا میں بیروزگاری پر قابو پانے کے لئے اقدامات نہیں کئے گئے پیپلز پارٹی کے مخدوم شہب الدین کا کہنا تھا کہ بجٹ پر اپوزیشن کی تنقید بلا جواز ہے مولانا فضل الرحمن اور اسفند پاری نے بجٹ قف اختیار کیا کہ حکومت نے بجٹ سازی میں اتحادی جماعتوں کو وپر تقریر سے معذرت کرتے ہوئے ماعتماد میں نہیں لیا۔ اسفند پاری نے ولی خان کا کہنا تھا کہ بجٹ میں متاثرین مالکانڈٹویژن کے لیے 50 ارب روپے کی جو رقم مختص کی گئی ہے وہ ضرورت سے بہت کم ہے وفاقی وزیر خورشید شاہ نے دونوں رہنماؤں کو تقریر کیلئے راضی کرنے کی کوشش کی لیکن کامیاب نہ ہو سکے قومئ اسمبلی کا اجلاس کل صبح ۱۰ بجے دوبارہ ہوگا۔

All Day

APP -- گوادرنندگاہ ریلوے نظام سے منسلک کرنا ترجیح ہے۔ وزیر اعظم

گوادرنندگاہ ریلوے نظام سے منسلک کرنا ترجیح ہے۔ وزیر اعظم
 قومی اسمبلی میں بجٹ پر بحث جاری ہے وزیر اعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی نے کہا کہ گوادرنندگاہ کو ریلوے نظام سے منسلک کرنا حکومتی ترجیحات میں شامل ہے قومئ اسمبلی میں بجٹ پر بحث میں حصہ لیتے ہوئے وزیر اعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی نے کہا کہ گوادرنندگاہ نہایت اہمیت کی حامل ہے۔ اسے ریلوے نظام سے منسلک کرنا حکومتی ترجیحات میں شامل ہے مسلم لیگ (ق) کے چودھری پرویز الہی کا کہنا تھا کہ افراط زر میں مسلسل اضافہ ہو رہا ہے لیکن حکومتی دعویٰ ہے کہ مہنگائی قابو میں ہے جبکہ بجلی بحران کے خاتمہ کے بھی حکومت کی نیت صاف نہیں۔ انہوں نے بلوچستان کے مسئلہ پر فوری طور پر کل جماعتی کانفرنس بلانے کا مطالبہ کیا۔ پیپلز پارٹی کے مخدوم شہب الدین کا کہنا تھا کہ بجٹ پر حکومتی تنقید بلا جواز ہے۔

All Day

Gwadar to be linked through rail, road networks: PM -- ISLAMABAD - Daily Times

Gwadar to be linked through rail, road networks: PM
18.06.09 -

ISLAMABAD: The government plans to link the Gwadar seaport with the rest of the country through rail and road networks, Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani said on Wednesday.

Responding to a suggestion of Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) parliamentarian Ghous Buksh Mehar during the debate on the 2009-10 budget in the National Assembly, he said the government would develop the infrastructure in Balochistan and link Gwadar to other parts of the country. He said the Gwadar port was being used to import wheat and fertilizer, adding it would be transformed into a business and economic hub that would generate employment opportunities for the local population.

Source: Daily Times

All Day

فرینڈز آف پاکستان سے ملنے والی رقم گوادرمیت بلوچستان پر خرچ کریں گے، وزیراعظم -- APP

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ جنگ) وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی نے کہا ہے کہ گوادرمیت حکومت کی اولین ترجیح ہے کھادیں اور گندم گوادرمیت بندرگاہ کے ذریعہ درآمد کی گئی ہیں اس بندرگاہ کی کامیابی کیلئے ریلوے اور شاہراہوں کو بہتر کیا جا رہا ہے احباب پاکستان سے فنڈز ملنے کے ساتھ ہی بلوچستان سمیت گوادرمیت میں مزید رقم خرچ کی جائیں گی۔ قبل ازیں ڈپٹی سپیکر فیصل کریم کنڈی کی زیرصدارت قومی اسمبلی کا اجلاس شروع ہوا اور بجٹ برائے 2009-10 پر بحث میں حصہ لیتے ہوئے مسلم لیگ ق کے مرکزی رہنما چوہدری پرویز الہی نے کہا کہ افسوس کی بات یہ ہے کہ اس بجٹ میں نہ کوئی پروگرام ہے نہ کوئی وژن ہے نہ کوئی امید کی کرن ہے۔ آزاد معاشی ماہرین کی رپورٹ ہے کہ مہنگائی میں 33 فیصد اضافہ ہوا ہے اس لئے سرکاری ملازمین کی تنخواہوں میں 33 فیصد اضافہ کیا جائے۔ وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی و ترقیات مخدوم شہاب الدین نے کہا کہ مہنگائی میں 33 فیصد اضافہ کا دعویٰ بالکل غلط ہے ہمیں ورثہ میں افراط زر کی شرح 25 فیصد ملی ہم اسے کم کر کے 14 فیصد پر لائے ہیں قبائلی علاقہ جات سے رکن قومی اسمبلی منیر اورکزئی نے بجٹ پر جاری بحث میں حصہ لیتے ہوئے کہا کہ گورنر سرحد نے قبائلی علاقہ جات کے بجٹ میں 100 فیصد اضافے کا وعدہ کیا تھا صدر مملکت نے بھی قبائلی جرگہ میں 17 ارب روپیہ کے بجٹ اور اڑھائی ارب روپے کی امداد کا وعدہ کیا تھا، قومی مالیاتی ایوارڈ میں قبائلی علاقہ جات کو نمائندگی دی جائے غوث بخش مہر نے بجٹ بحث میں حصہ لیتے ہوئے کہا کہ عالمی اقتصادی بحران کے باوجود خوش کن بجٹ پیش کیا گیا ہے۔ اگر فرینڈز آف پاکستان سے پیسے نہ مل سکے تو ہم کس طرح حکومت چلائیں گے اس پر توجہ دینے کی ضرورت ہے متحدہ قومی موومنٹ کے رکن اسمبلی ڈاکٹر عبدالقادر خانزادہ نے کہا کہ بزنس کمیونٹی کو اس بجٹ پر بہت سے تحفظات ہیں ان کی رائے لیکر اس میں بہتری لائی جائے۔ ق لیگ کے رکن اسمبلی ریاض فتیانہ نے کہا کہ ایٹم بم اور میزائل ترقی کا نشان نہیں عوام کی فلاح و بہبود پر توجہ دی جائے۔ وفاقی وزیر اقلیتی امور شہباز بھٹی نے بجٹ میں حصہ لیتے ہوئے کہا کہ 2008 میں ہمیں اقتدار ملا تو ورثے میں معاشی بد حالی اور دہشت گردی ملی موجودہ بجٹ میں عوام کی خوشحالی اور ترقی کیلئے اہم اقدامات کئے گئے۔ رکن قومی اسمبلی سرار ایاز صادق نے کہا کہ بروکر ہر وزارت کو بیچ رہا ہے جو جمہوری حکومت کی بدنامی ہے 75 لوگوں کو موٹرز کٹینڈر ہوا وفاقی وزیر ریلویز اسے روکنے کی کوشش کرتے رہے کہ رولز کی خلاف ورزیوں کو روکا جائے لیکن ایسا نہ ہو سکا۔ رکن اسمبلی عبدالقادر پٹیل نے کہا کہ منتخب نمائندے عوام کے مسائل بہتر طور پر جانتے ہیں انہوں نے کہا کہ ہمیں امریکہ کے بجٹ سے موازنہ نہیں کرنا چاہیے، عوامی نیشنل پارٹی کے رکن اسمبلی پرویز خان ایڈووکیٹ نے کہا کہ بجٹ پر سب سے بڑا اعتراض یہ ہے کہ ابھی تک این ایف سی ایوارڈ کا فیصلہ نہیں کیا گیا ہونا تو یہ چاہیے تھا کہ بجٹ سے قبل این ایف سی ایوارڈ کا فیصلہ کر لیا جاتا ایوارڈ عرصہ سے لٹکا ہوا ہے حالانکہ یہ آئینی اور

July 1, 2009

Wed

All Day

Gwadar airport to be given to CAA in 2010 -- Lahore - APP

Gwadar airport to be given to CAA in 2010

By Correspondent

Lahore—Two new airports New Islamabad International Airport (NIIA) and New Gawadar International Airports (NGIA) are scheduled to be handed over to Civil Aviation Authority(CAA) in December 2010 and November 2010 respectively. According to sources here, Civil Aviation Authority is carrying out mega development projects for upgradation of airports across the country with huge sum of Rs 9 billion earmarked for annual Development Programme (ADP). Forty three hundred acres of land has been earmarked for New Gawadar international Airport (NGIA) which is in finalization for handing over to CAA at a site located at "Gurandani", 26 km east of Gawadar city and payment amounting to Rs. 1.47 billion stand released by the Government of Pakistan.

July 3, 2009

Fri

All Day

**Tajikistan seeks access to Gwadar port for exports -- ISLAMABAD -
Daily Times**

Tajikistan seeks access to Gwadar port for exports

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Tajikistan, Zubaydov Zubaydullo Najotovich on Thursday said that his country is in a dire need of access to the world through Gwadar port of Pakistan.

The ambassador expressed these views during a meeting with the Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo here today. During discussion he also pointed out that Pakistan was also looking to import Tajik power to its Northern Areas as Tajikistan has the huge hydropower potentials and cheapest electricity in the world.

Source: Daily Times

July 19, 2009

Sun

All Day

Pakistani, Kashmiri expatriates urged to invest in Pakistan -- QUETTA - Business Recorder

Pakistani, Kashmiri expatriates urged to invest in Pakistan

QUETTA – The Balochistan government has allocated 46,000 acres of lands for setting up a tax-free industrial zone at Gwadar, said Balochistan Industries Minister Syed Ehan Shah while talking to The Nation here on Saturday.

He said that the federal cabinet had approved the tax free zone for a time period of 10 years, adding that under the light of the federal cabinet decision, the Ministry of Industries and Production had asked the provincial government for identification of land. He said that the provincial govt had identified 46,000 acres of lands at east bay in Gwadar and sent it to the federal govt for issuance of formal notification.

Source: Business Recorder

July 21, 2009

Tue

All Day

Pakistan, Tajikistan sign joint protocol -- ISLAMABAD - APP

Pakistan, Tajikistan sign joint protocol

ISLAMABAD, Jul 21 (APP): Pakistan and Tajikistan on Tuesday signed a joint protocol at the end of Pak-Tajik Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting for further cooperation in many areas. The protocol was signed by Minister for Water and Power Raja Pervez Ashraf and Tajik Minister for Energy and Industry Gul Sherali.

Both sides decided to establish Joint Business Forum between the business community of both countries. Tajik Government invited businessmen from Pakistan to participate in exhibition in Dushanbe during late part of this year.

Both sides agreed to sign the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) 2009.

To facilitate trade between the two countries Tajik side offered warehouse facility to Pakistan at Panji Poyon and requested for similar facility for Tajik business community at Gwadar Port. Pakistani side noted the request for further action.

July 22, 2009

Wed

All Day

**FBR announces 10-year tax holiday for projects in SEZs -- ISLAMABAD
- Daily Times**

FBR announces 10-year tax holiday for projects in SEZs

22.07.09

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Monday announced 10-year tax holiday for corporate zone developers who would undertake projects in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

The development of Special Economic Zones for Chinese investors especially in Punjab and Sindh are underway and government is also negotiating with Japanese, Korean, Malaysian and other investors from key investment partner countries for setting up of Special economic Zones for them at places of their own choice.

Gwadar Economic Zone is also one of the flagship investment destination is being developed with the help of investors from Singapore and China.

Source: Daily Times

July 23, 2009

Thu

All Day

First ever Panamax cargo ship anchors at Gwadar -- KARACHI - Daily Times

First ever Panamax cargo ship anchors at Gwadar

23.07.09 -

KARACHI: The first ever Panamax cargo ship, Al-Fahdah, berthed at Gwadar deep seaport laden with around 650 metric tonne of dates, said the traders on Wednesday.

With the arrival of Panamax cargo ship at the Gwader deep seaport, the doors are opened for large vessels to arrive in the country, they added. The Panamax ships are the largest ships and are built to carry the maximum amount of cargo.

"The Gwadar deep seaport has proved that it can cater large size cargo ships and it is hoped that more ships carrying wheat and other goods from US and Canada will also be berthed here,"

Source: Daily Times

All Day

China agree to cooperate for modernization of Pakistan -- BEIJING APP

China agree to cooperate for modernization of Pakistan Railways: Haji Bilour
BEIJING, July 28 (APP): Pakistan and China have agreed to cooperate for modernization of Pakistan Railways network, said Railways Minister Haji Ghulam Ahmed Bilour. Haji Bilour who are currently visiting China at the invitation of Chinese government while talking to APP said Tuesday that during his meeting with Chinese Railways Minister Liu Zhi Jun he exchanged views with him on modernization, strengthening and converting existing Pakistan Railways tracks to meet the international standard. He pointed out that the Chinese said has agreed and assured their readiness for cooperation for modernization of Pakistan Railways. It has also been decided to constitute a consortium in this regard in which both Pakistan and China will be partners.

He pointed out that China has nominated their experts to help assist Pakistani side for carrying out technical feasibility studies for cooperation and modernization of railways projects. The projects would be put on place under BOO (Build-Own-Operate) basis, he noted. Bilour said that Pakistan Railways wanted to strengthening and expansion of Torkham railway line to meet the international standard, Quetta-Chaman-Kandahar section, Quetta-Iran, and Quetta-Peshawar railway link via Zhob- D I Khan-Bakhar. He pointed out that by doing so we would be able to help better facilitate passenger traffic and transportation of cargo from Gwadar port to various parts of the country as well as adjoining regional countries. Bilour said that by replacing the existing Karachi-Peshawar track to meet the international standard, Pakistan Railways will be able to facilitate people of the two provinces to have comfortable journey and swift transportation of cargo from Karachi port. The Chinese sides during the meeting stressed the need for initiation of laying a railway network from Havalian to Khanjrab pass on priority. The railways minister said that Chinese side emphasized the need for early laying of Torkham-Jalalabad railway track as they wanted to connect this section with Afghanistan so that they could use the Pakistan Railways network for transporting their goods and equipments for development of copper mines and various other projects launched in Afghanistan. Bilour said that the government wanted to invite Chinese side to launch railways projects under joint ventures. The present government, Bilour said did not want to opt unnecessary for obtaining loans, instead prefer to launch various schemes under joint ventures and cooperation. Regarding loan for the 75 locomotives to be purchased from China, the railways minister said that all impediments in this regards have been removed.

All Day

Pak-Iran-Turkey freight train from Aug 14: Bilour -- ISLAMABAD - The News

Pak-Iran-Turkey freight train from Aug 14: Bilour

Updated at: 0430 PST, Wednesday, August 05, 2009

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Railways Haji Ghulam Ahmed Bilour here on Tuesday said the Pakistan Railways would launch Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul international freight train service from August 14, and it will reach its destination within 15 days.

He was addressing at a press conference, the minister said that Iran will provide transshipment facilities in Zahedan till a standard gauge line is laid between Zahedan and Mirjaveh.

The Minister also told about the successful visit of China, said that with the cooperation of China government six projects would be launched soon for the development of the country.

Pakistan and China would construct these projects including, Hoshab to Rawalpindi, Karachi to Torkham, Torkham to Kabul and Tajikistan, Gawadar to Quetta, Quetta to Iran and Quetta to Peshawar.

He said that six-member committee would look after the completion for these projects, three members from China and three from Pakistan, while China has finalized and Pakistan would soon finalize the names of three members.

He said out of total 6,506 kilometers Islamabad-Istanbul rail track, the train service would cover about 1,900 km of the distance in Pakistan, 2,570 km in Iran and 2,036 km in Turkey.

The minister said the planned train service will be operated as pilot project of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in line with agreement signed by the three countries in March this year.

He said the service would be of great advantage to the business community of Pakistan, Turkey and Iran because earlier the containers used to be sent to Karachi by ship and after unloading them here used to be sent forward to respective destinations in the country either by road or rail and this was costing them quite high.

All Day

Shah Zain Bugti to Support PML-N -- LAHORE - The News

Wednesday, August 05, 2009

By By Faizan Bangash

LAHORE: Shah Zain Bugti, the president of the Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP), Balochistan, and a grandson of slain Baloch leader Nawab Akbar Bugti, has demanded the trial of former president Pervez Musharraf for subverting the Constitution and allegedly killing the people of Balochistan.

In an interview with The News the other day, he supported the stance of Nawaz Sharif on democracy and the Federation, saying his party would back all the positive steps taken by the PML-N.

Shah Zain alleged that the establishment was conspiring to form another faction of the JWP, led by Sardar Aali Bugti, to serve its interests. But, he added, the new faction was being formed under a man who ditched his own people and had no political standing.

He said formation of the new faction was aimed at dividing the real party of Akbar Bugti, led by Nawab Talal Bugti, who was nominated by the central executive committee of the party. He alleged that Aali Bugti had provided information about the location of Akbar Bugti to the military.

All Day

اسلام آباد کے بعد گوادری کا ترقیاتی ڈھانچہ سائنسی بنیادوں پر ہے، ایکسپورٹ زون اتھا

Daily Intekhab -- رٹی

اسلام آباد کے بعد گوادری کا ترقیاتی ڈھانچہ سائنسی بنیادوں پر ہے، ایکسپورٹ زون اتھا رٹی گوادری (خ ن) ایکسپورٹ پروسسنگ زون (ایزا) کے ایک وفد نے ادارہ ترقیات گوادری کے آفس کا معائنہ کیا بعد ان پلانٹر رفیق احمد بلوچ نے وفد کو بریفنگ دیتے ہوئے بتایا کہ وزارت ادارہ ترقیات گوادری کے ڈائریکٹر ڈاکٹر گوادری شہر میں جی ڈی اے کی زیر نگرانی 132 کلو میٹر کشادہ سڑکیں باقاعدہ منصوبہ بندی کے تحت تیار کی گئی ہیں، اس موقع پر ڈپٹی ڈی سی اور رحمت دشتی و دیگر ضلعی افسران بھی موجود تھے بریفنگ میں بتایا گیا ہے کہ اسلام آباد کے بعد گوادری واحد شہر ہے جس میں ترقیاتی ڈھانچہ کی بنیاد سائنسی بنیادوں پر رکھی گئی ہے، انہوں نے کہا ہے کہ وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان نواب اسلم خان رئیس نے اس کے حالیہ اقدامات کے بعد گوادری شہر کی تعمیر و ترقی میں مزید بہتری آئے گی، انہوں نے کہا کہ گوادری پورٹ کے تمام منصوبوں میں روزگار کی فراہمی کے سلسلے میں مقامی افراد کو ترجیح دی جا رہی ہے، 80 فیصد سے زائد منصوبے کے مقامی لوگوں کو روزگار فراہم کیا گیا ہے، گوادری پورٹ کے آپریشنل ہونے سے روزگار کے مواقع مزید بڑھیں گے جبکہ طویل ساحلی شاہراہ سے ماہی گیروں کو منڈی تک رسائی میں مدد ملے گی۔ اس کے علاوہ، لک کے دیگر حصوں کے مقابلے میں گوادری میں اپنی نوعیت کا مثالی انٹر پورٹ تعمیر ہو رہا ہے، گوادری سنگ اسکیموں کو جدید طرز تعمیر، زلزلہ و دیگر قدرتی آفات سے محفوظ رکھنے کے لیے وڈر شہر میں باہلنگ کوڈ کے نفاذ پر خصوصی توجہ دی جا رہی ہے، بعد ازاں ڈپٹی ڈی سی اور گوادری رحمت دشتی نے بھی وفد کو ضلع گوادری میں جاری ترقیاتی منصوبوں کے بارے میں بریفنگ دی اور کہا کہ گوادری اپنی معاشی، اقتصادی اہمیت کے پیش نظر درست حیثیت کا حامل شہر بن چکا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ موجودہ صورباتی و وفاقی حکومت اس کی تعمیر و ترقی میں مزید بہتری کے لیے جو اقدامات کر رہی ہے۔ ان کے پیش نظر صوبے میں احساس محرومی کا خاتمہ ممکن ہو سکے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ساحلی شاہراہ پر کنڈملیر بڑی پاس، اور ماڑہ، کلمت و پسٹی جیسے مقامات اور جیوانی کا غروب آفتاب سیاحوں کے لیے تفریح کا باعث بن سکتے ہیں، انہوں نے کہا کہ ضلعی حکومت کی جانب سے سماجی شعبہ رقی، نوجوانوں کے معاملات، فن تعلیم ور کھیلوں پر خطیر رقم خرچ کی جا رہی ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ ضلعی حکومت، ضلع مینٹلیم، صحت عامہ لوگوں کو پینے کے صاف پانی کی فراہمی کے ساتھ ساتھ زندگی کے مختلف شعبوں کی ترقی کے لیے مختلف منصوبوں پر عملدرآمد کر رہی ہے۔

All Day

-- پاکستان اور ترکی کے درمیان ریل سروس 14 اگست سے شروع ہوگی، غلام بلور

Daily Intekhab

پاکستان اور ترکی کے درمیان ریل سروس 14 اگست سے شروع ہوگی، غلام بلور اسلام آباد۔ ریلوے کے وفاقی وزیر غلام احمد بلور نے کہا ہے کہ چین کے تعاون سے پاکستان میں ریلوے کے چھ منصوبے شروع کئے جائیں گے۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ چودہ اگست سے پاکستان سے ترکی کے درمیان ریل سروس شروع کی جائے گی۔ اسلام آباد میں پریس کانفرنس میں وفاقی وزیر کا کہنا تھا کہ منصوبوں کے مطابق پنجاب سے اسلام آباد، کراچی سے طورخم، گوادری سے کوئٹہ اور کوئٹہ سے ایران قندھار اور پشاور تک ریلوے لائنیں بچھائی جائیں گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ان منصوبوں کے لئے کنسورشیم تیار کیا جائے گا۔

August 6, 2009

Thu

All Day

SHAH Zain Bugti, grandson of Nawab Akbar Bugti, has alleged that Indian involvement is being claimed in Balochistan to justify the military operation. -- Lahore Daily Times

Thursday, August 06, 2009

By By Our Correspondent

LAHORE

SHAH Zain Bugti, grandson of Nawab Akbar Bugti, has alleged that Indian involvement is being claimed in Balochistan to justify the military operation. He said the government should prove the allegations about the Indian interference in Balochistan with cogent evidences.

He negated the allegations of target killing of Punjabis in Balochistan. The allegations were wrong because Balochs did not hate Punjabis and considered them their brothers, he said.

All Day

Balochistan wants 250mmcf of Iran gas for Gwadar -- ISLAMABAD - Business Recorder

Balochistan wants 250mmcf of Iran gas for Gwadar: National Assembly informed ZAFAR BHUTTA

ISLAMABAD (August 08 2009): Balochistan government has requested the federal government to allocate 250 mmcf gas for Gwadar port, out of the gas to be imported through Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project. In the 8th steering committee/subcommittee meeting of the Economic Co-ordination Committee (ECC), Balochistan Chief Minister requested for allocation of 250 mmcf gas for Gwadar port, Advisor to Prime Minister on Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Asim Hussain told National Assembly in a written reply on Friday.

He informed the lower house that the ECC supported the proposal, subject to clearance of price affordability issue, adding that afterwards the matter would be taken up by the ECC and the Cabinet for allocation of additional gas to Gwadar port. Soon after the approval of additional volume, gas would be supplied to the port of Gwadar, the Advisor said responding to a question raised by Maulvi Asmatullah.

About Saindak project, he said that royalty amounting to Rs 787,268,000 had been paid to Balochistan government by MRDL from 2004 to December 2008, and no amount remained unpaid against the Chinese company. The Chinese company earned Rs 38,989.938 million during last five years, against expenditure of Rs 33,377.14 million.

He said that according to information furnished by Saindak Metals Limited, total amount of Rs 36,580,000 has been spent by Chinese company, MCC, out of its income from Saindak project on the provision of facilities to locals like education, medical, electricity and water. He told National Assembly that oil marketing companies (OMCs) and oil refineries had earned Rs 14770464 during last six months, from December 8 to May 9.

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All Day

Federal Government has declared the Gwadar City -- Business Recorder

Federal Government has declared the Gwadar City "Capital of Baluchistan", 80 billion rupees of funding has been already announces. Heavy machines are being transferred from Dubai to Gwadar, because Gwadar is Duty & tax free port of Pakistan.

All Day

SNG technology may play important role to overcome -- Business Recorder

'SNG technology may play important role to overcome energy crisis'

KARACHI (August 08 2009):

In Gwadar through SNG technology 60 MMBTU gas per hour is being produced and successfully transmitted to the consumers. Moreover textile and ceramic tile industry have already started having the benefit of SNG as alternative source of energy.

country.-PR

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All Day

The limping Gwadar port By Syed Fazl-e-Haider -- APP

The limping Gwadar port By Syed Fazl-e-Haider
Monday, 10 Aug, 2009 | 09:33 AM PST |

In view of the port operations, which have boosted the trucking activity, the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) needs to build a truck stand in the port area. — File The arrival and anchorage of first commercial cargo ship Al-Fahdah carrying 650 tons of dates at the Gwadar deep-sea port on July 22 indicated that the port can handle big cargo vessels. Presently, three berths are functional but significant issues in making the port fully operational have yet to be addressed.

‘There are two key issues in port operations: one is land connectivity and other is land acquisition’, said Khurram Abbas, director PSA Gwadar, while talking to this scribe on phone. He said, ‘the land under possession of Pakistan Navy and coast guards has not yet been handed over to the Singapore Port Authority (PSA) for development of free zone and other port-related infrastructure.’ ‘Without port connectivity through rail and road links, goods cannot be transported to Afghanistan, the Central Asian States and other regional countries’, he added. Abbas said, ‘we need land for the development of a free zone for the port related facilities at East Bay of Gwadar. Without land acquisition, the PSA is unable to develop offices, residential facilities, port back up area in the proposed free zone and provide the traders, industrialists, businessmen, shipping companies, stevedoring firms, transporters with all possible facilities for doing business at Gwadar’. The ball is in government’s court to make the port fully functional. Under the concession agreement signed with PSA in February 2007, the government was committed to hand over 923 hectares of land to the Singaporean firm by June 2008 on lease for the development of a free zone. The Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) is bound to acquire 350 hectares for ‘free zone area’ in addition to 584 acres in the possession of Pakistan Navy and 70 acres with the coast guards.

All Day

APP -- چین پاکستانی بندر گاہوں سے فائدہ اٹھا رہے، زرداری

چین پاکستانی بندر گاہوں سے فائدہ اٹھا رہے، زرداری
تعاون کی تین مفاہمتی معاہدات پر دستخط، چینی وزیر خارجہ کی صدر سے ملاقات؛ زرداری 26 اگست کو برطانیہ جائیں گے

بیجنگ (نیوز ایجنسیاں) صدر آصف علی زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان تمام شعبوں میں چین کے ساتھ تعاون کو فروغ دینا چاہتا ہے۔ چینی تاجر پاکستانی تاجروں سے روابط بڑھا ئیں۔ پاک چین ٹریڈ اینڈ ٹویلمنٹ فورم سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے صدر زرداری نے کہا کہ چین کی اپنی بندر گاہوں سے زیادہ قریب پاکستانی بندر گاہیں ہیں چینی حکومت ان سے فائدہ اٹھا ئے۔ انہوں نے چینی تاجروں پر زور دیا کہ وہ پاکستانی تاجروں سے روابط بڑھا ئیں۔ پاکستان کی خواہش ہے کہ دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان دوستی کے اثرات تجارتی تعلقات میں بھی نظر آئیں۔ اس موقع پر پاکستان کے سرما یا کاری بورڈ اور چین کی متعلقہ وزارت کے درمیان مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر بھی دستخط کئے گئے۔ اس سے پہلے صدر آصف علی زرداری نے گوانگ زو میں پرل فشریز انسٹی ٹیوٹ کا دورہ کیا جہاں پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان ریور فشریز کے شعبے میں تعاون کیلئے مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط کئے گئے۔ دو شوگر کین ریسرچ انسٹی ٹیوٹ بھی گئے اور مختلف لیبارٹریز کا دورہ کیا۔ علاوہ ازیں چین کے وزیر خارجہ بینگ جنے چی نے پیر کو صدر آصف زرداری سے ملاقات کی۔ ملاقات میں دوطرفہ امور، خطے میں سلامتی کی صورتحال اور عالمی امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ چینی وزیر خارجہ نے صدر آصف زرداری کی آمد کا خیر مقدم کرے ہوئے کہا کہ چین کی قیادت اور عوام پاکستان کے ساتھ تمام شعبوں میں پائیدار طویل المدتی سٹریٹیجک تعلقات چاہتے ہیں اور اعلیٰ سطح کے دوروں اور روابط سے اس میں بڑی مدد ملے گی۔ انہوں نے علاقائی استحکام، دہشت گردی کیخلاف جنگ اور عالمی امن کیلئے پاکستان کی کوششوں کی تعریف کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین پاکستان کی ہر شعبے میں مدد اور تعاون جاری رکھے گا۔ علاوہ ازیں، پاکستان گوانگ دونگ تجارت و سرمایہ کاری مواقع موجود تعاون اور آئندہ کے امکانات، کے موضوع پر فورم سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے صدر آصف علی زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کیلئے مثالی سرمایہ کاری ماحول پیش کرتا ہے چینی کاروباری شخصیات ملک میں کاروبار اور سرمایہ کاری مواقع سے بھرپور استفادہ کریں چین کے تعاون سے زراعت کے شعبے میں مزید ترقی کریں گے۔ دونوں ممالک کی قیادت کو پاک چین پائیدار تعلقات کو تھوس اقتصادیت میں ڈھالنا ہو گا ہمیں مزید آگے لے جانا ہو گا۔ دریں اثنا صدر نے زونگ زنگ ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن ایکو پمنٹ کمپنی نائب صدر رشی لی رائے سے ملاقات میں گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان مو بائل کمیونیکیشن کے شعبے میں تیزی سے ترقی کر رہا ہے، چین کی ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن اور مو بائل کمپنیوں کو پاکستان کے اندر اس کا بھرپور فائدہ اٹھانا چاہیے۔ صدر نے چائنا آن کیو کنسٹرکشن اینڈ انجینئرنگ کا رپورٹیشن کے صدر وانگ شی بانگ سے بھی ملاقات کی۔ بعد ازاں زونگ ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن اور پاکستان نیشنل ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن کا رپورٹیشن کے درمیان معاہدے کی یادداشت پر دستخط کئے گئے ہوئے صدر آصف علی زرداری 26 اگست سے برطانیہ کا تین روزہ دورہ شروع کریں گے۔ اپنے چار روزہ دورہ چین کے اختتام پر صدر 25 اور 26 اگست کی درمیانی شب چین سے براہ راست برطانیہ روانہ ہوں گے جہاں وہ برطانوی وزیر خارجہ ڈیوڈ ملی بینٹ اور ایم کیو ایم کے قائد الطاف حسین سے بھی و طانوی وزیر اعظم گورڈن برا ملاقات کریں گے۔

All Day

-- : پا کستان نیشنل شپنگ کا رپو ریشن نے 4 کروڑ 5 لاکھ ڈالر کا ایک اور جہاز خرید لیا

Daily Intekhab

: پا کستان نیشنل شپنگ کا رپو ریشن نے 4 کروڑ 5 لاکھ ڈالر کا ایک اور جہاز خرید لیا
کراچی۔۔۔ پا کستان نیشنل شپنگ کا رپو ریشن نے 4 کروڑ 5 لاکھ ڈالر مالیت کا ایک اور جہاز خرید لیا۔ پی این ایس سی حکام کے مطابق چار تھے جہاز کی 1 لاکھ پانچ ہزار ٹن گنجائش ہو گی جس کے بعد مجموعی گنجائش 3 لاکھ 84 ہزار ٹن تک پہنچ جائے گی، چوتھے جہاز کی خریداری کے بعد پی این ایس سی کی گنجائش میں 37 فی صد کا اضافہ ہو جائے گا۔ پی این ایس سی حکام نے مزید بتایا کہ یہ جہاز ڈیلر کے ساتھ ہے جبکہ اسے کو ریہا سے درآمد کیا گیا ہے اور یہ پانچ سال پرانا جہاز یعنی 2003 کا ماڈل ہے۔ اس جہاز کی خریداری کے بعد پی این ایس سی کے پاس اب سو فی صدی خام تیل لانے کی صلاحیت آجائے گی جس کے بعد حکومت کو اب دیگر نجی شپنگ کمپنیوں کا سہارا نہیں لینا پڑے گا۔

All Day

-- : جی ڈے اے کے اسکول کو نجی فرم کے حوالے کر نیکی منصوبہ بندی

Intekhab

: جی ڈے اے کے اسکول کو نجی فرم کے حوالے کر نیکی منصوبہ بندی
گوا در (بیورو رپورٹ) ادارہ ترقیات گوا در (جی ڈے اے) کی جانب سے تعمیر شدہ اسکول کو پرائیویٹ ادارے کے حوالے کرنے کے انتظامات کئے جا رہے ہیں۔ اسکول کی عمارت کی تعمیر پر 8 کروڑ روپے کی لاگت آئی ہے۔ دریں اثنا نیشنل پارٹی ضلع گوا در کے ترجمان نے مبینہ طور پر اسکول کی حوالگی کیلئے ایک غیر مصروف فرم سے معاہدہ کرنے پر تشویش کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ بیان میں کہا گیا ہے کروڑوں روپے کی لاگت سے تعمیر شدہ تعلیمی ادارے کو عصر حاضر کے تقاضوں سے ہم آہنگ کرنے کے بجائے روا بٹی پالیسی پر عمل کیا جا رہا ہے جس سے اہل ان گوا در کو جدید اور معیاری تعلیم فراہم کرنے کے وعدے مفروضے ثابت ہو سکتے ہیں۔ بیان میں مطالبہ کیا گیا کہ گوا در کے شہریوں کے مستقبل کو روشن اور محفوظ بنانے کیلئے جی ڈے اسکول آپریٹ کرنے کیلئے ماہر تعلیم پر مشتمل اور اچھی شہرت کے فرموں سے معاہدہ کیا جائے بصورت دیگر اسکول موجود ہوئے نا ہو اس سے کوئی فرق نہیں پڑتا۔

All Day

APP -- پاکستان ترکی تک کنٹینر ٹرین سروس کا کل سے آزما نشی آغاز

پاکستان سے ایران کے راستے ترکی تک کنٹینر ٹرین سروس کا کل سے آزما نشی آغاز
 آئندہ ایک برس میں مسافر ٹرین بھی شروع کی جائیگی۔ پاکستان سے ترکی تک ٹرین سروس کے حوالے سے
 اقتصادی تعاون تنظیم کے ممبر ممالک کے ریلوے حکام کا اجلاس اسلام آباد میں ہوا۔ اجلاس میں بتایا گیا
 کہ استنبول تک پہلی ٹرین یوم آزادی کے موقع پر کل اسلام آباد سے روانہ ہوگی جو براستہ کوئٹہ،
 زاهدان، ایران سے ہوتی ہوئی ترکی جائے گی، کنٹینر ٹرین اسلام آباد سے استنبول تک چھ ہزار تین سو کلو
 میٹر سفر طے کرے گی۔ ای سی او حکام کے اجلاس میں ٹرین سروس کے ٹیرف اور دیگر تکنیکی ایشوز پر
 تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ سیکرٹری ریلوے سمیع اللہ خلجی نے بتایا کہ استنبول تک کنٹینر ٹرین سروس کے آغاز
 سے پاکستان ریلوے تجارت کے عالمی کلب کا رکن بن گیا ہے، پاکستان سے ایران کے راستے ترکی تک ما
 فر ٹرین سروس کا آغاز ایک سال میں ہو جائے گا۔ کل جانے والی ٹرین سے بیس کنٹینر بھیجے جائیں گے جن
 میں چاول سے لے کر دہ کنٹینر ایران اور ٹیکسٹائل مصنوعات کے 6 کنٹینر ترکی کے لئے ہوں گے۔ اس
 ٹرین سروس کو بعد میں ای سی او کے دیگر ممالک سے بھی ملا جائے گا، کل کی ٹرین کے ساتھ ریلوے
 کے جائزہ حکام جائیں گے اور واپس آکر اس ٹرین کا مستقل بنا نے میں سہو لیا ت کیلئے رپورٹ دیں گے۔

All Day

APP -- پاک چین ٹرین سروس کی فزیبلیٹی رپورٹ پر کام شروع

پاک چین ٹرین سروس کی فزیبلیٹی رپورٹ پر کام شروع

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) وفاقی وزیر براہ ریلوے حاجی غلام احمد بلور نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان ٹرین سروس کی فزیبلیٹی رپورٹ پر کام شروع کر دیا گیا ہے، کام بین الاقوامی کنسورٹیم کو دیا گیا ہے، رپورٹ کی تیاری پر 7 کروڑ 20 لاکھ روپے لاگت آئے گی۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ منصوبے کے تحت پاکستان اور چین مل کر ریلوے ٹریک بچھا ئیں گے، پاکستان حویلیاں سے خنجراب تک 400 کلو میٹر جبکہ چین کا شغور سے خنجراب تک 350 کلو میٹر لا ئن بچھا ئے گا، ریلوے لا ئن قراقرم کے پہاڑی سلسلے میں 4 ہزار 730 میٹر بلندی پر بچھا ئی جائے گی، ابتدا میں مال بردار پھر مسافر ٹرینیں چلا ئی جائیں گی، ریلوے لا ئن کی تعمیر سے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان زمینی روابط مستحکم ہوں گے اور چین کی مصنوعات کو پاکستانی بندر گاہوں تک تیز ترین رسائی ممکن ہو جائے گی۔

All Day

APP -- پاک ایران گیس پائپ لائن منصوبے کا تکنیکی آغاز ہو گیا

اسلام آباد۔۔۔ ایران سے پاکستان تک گیس پائپ لائن کے منصوبے کا تکنیکی آغاز ہو گیا ہو گا جبکہ اس منصوبے کا تکنیکی آغاز اسلام آباد میں آج شروع ہونے والے تین روزہ اجلاس سے کر دیا گیا ہے۔ ایران گیس پائپ لائن منصوبے کے تکنیکی امور پر اسلام آباد میں انٹر اسٹیٹ گیس کمپنی کا تین روزہ اجلاس شروع ہوا، اس میں اس منصوبے کیلئے ایران کے پروجیکٹ ڈائریکٹر حامد شرت کی قیادت میں ایرانی وفد بھی شریک ہوا۔ اجلاس کے پہلے دن گیس پائپ کے ڈیزائن سے متعلق امور پر غور کیا گیا ذرا ئع نے جیونیوز کو بتایا ہے کہ ایران سے گیس پائپ لائن کی عملی تعمیر کا آغاز آئندہ برس کے اوائل میں ہو گا، اس منصوبے سے پاکستان کو 2013 میں گیس فراہم ہو گی۔ ایران سے اس گیس کو لائے کیلئے پاکستان کے اندر 784 کلو میٹر طویل پائپ لائن تعمیر ہو گی اور منصوبے پر کل سوا ارب ڈالر ائے گی۔ ذرا ئع کے مطابق ایران سے گیس کی خرید کا نرخ جاپان کا کئیل فارمولے کے تحت تیل کی عالمی نرخوں کے 78 فیصد کے مطابق ہو گا۔

All Day

APP -- پاکستان، ایران گیس پائپ لائن گواہ سے گزرے گی، نوید قمر

پاکستان، ایران گیس پائپ لائن گواہ سے گزرے گی، نوید قمر
 کراچی۔ پاکستان ایران گیس پائپ لائن بلوچستان کے ساحلی علاقے اور گواہ سے گزرے گی۔ یہ بات وفاقی وزیر براؤن پیٹرولیم سید نوید قمر نے کراچی میں صحافیوں سے گفتگو میں کہی، انہوں نے کہا کہ پائپ لائن پر آنے والے اخراجات 40 فی صد حکومت 40 فی صد نجی ادا روں جبکہ 20 فی صد اسٹاک ایکسچینج سے حاصل کرنے پر غور کر رہے ہیں، انہوں نے کہا حکومت کو دھمکیاں موصول ہو رہی ہیں تاہم پائپ لائن کی سکیورٹی کی ذمہ داری حکومت کی ہو گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ رچرڈ بالبروک کے دورے میں پاک ایران گیس پائپ لائن زیر غور نہیں آئی، انہوں نے کہا کہ آئندہ ہفتے قطر سے ایل این جی کے حصول کیلئے طویل المیعاد معاہدے حاصل کرنے کیلئے بات چیت کی جائے گی، سید نوید قمر کا کہنا تھا کہ اگر بھارت پائپ لائن منصوبے میں شمولیت چاہتا ہے تو اس کیلئے علیحدہ پائپ لائن بچھانی ہو گی

All Day

امریکہ نے سفارتخانے کی توسیع کیلئے ساڑھے 18 ایکڑ اراضی مانگ لی، توسیع پر تشویش APP -- نہیں، سیکرٹری خارجہ

امریکہ نے سفارتخانے کی توسیع کیلئے ساڑھے 18 ایکڑ اراضی مانگ لی، توسیع پر تشویش نہیں، سیکرٹری خارجہ

سیکرٹری خارجہ سلمان بشیر نے کہا ہے کہ امریکہ نے اسلام آباد میں اپنے سفارت خانے کو بڑھانے کے لئے ساڑھے اٹھارہ ایکڑ اراضی زمین کے لئے رابطہ کیا ہے جبکہ چین نے بھی زمین کے حصول کے لئے درخواست دے رکھی ہے تاہم دونوں ممالک کو زمین دینے سے متعلق کوئی فیصلہ نہیں کیا گیا۔

اسلام آباد: سیکرٹری خارجہ سلمان بشیر نے کہا ہے کہ امریکہ نے اسلام آباد میں اپنے سفارت خانے کو بڑھانے کے لئے ساڑھے اٹھارہ ایکڑ اراضی زمین کے لئے رابطہ کیا ہے جبکہ چین نے بھی زمین کے حصول کے لئے درخواست دے رکھی ہے تاہم دونوں ممالک کو زمین دینے سے متعلق کوئی فیصلہ نہیں کیا گیا۔ سیکرٹری خارجہ سلمان بشیر نے بلیک وائٹرز کی تحقیقات کے لئے جاوید ہاشمی کی سربراہی میں ہونے والی قومی اسمبلی کی قائمہ کمیٹی کی ذیلی کمیٹی برائے انسانی حقوق کے اجلاس میں بتایا کہ امریکہ پشاور میں بھی قونصلیٹ میں توسیع چاہتا ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ اسلام آباد میں امریکیوں کی جانب سے دو سو پچاس مکان کرانے پر لینے کے بارے میں دفتر خارجہ کو کوئی علم نہیں اور انہوں نے اس سلسلے میں اجازت بھی حاصل نہیں کی۔ سیکرٹری خارجہ نے بتایا کہ پاکستان میں امریکہ کا اڑھائی سو سفارتی جیکے دو سو کے قریب دیگر سٹاف موجود ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ ایسا عملہ بھی موجود ہے جو آتا جاتا رہتا ہے لیکن اس کا دفتر خارجہ کو علم نہیں ہوتا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دفتر خارجہ کو امریکی سفارتخانے کی توسیع پر تشویش نہیں لیکن طریقہ کار درست ہونا چاہئے۔ ایڈیشنل سیکرٹری داخلہ محمد عاصم راجہ نے اجلاس کو بتایا کہ بلیک وائٹرز پاکستان میں موجود نہیں۔ انہوں نے سکیورٹی ایجنسی انٹر رسک کی تفصیلات بتاتے ہوئے کہا کہ اس کو امریکی ایجنسی ڈائین کوپ نے کنٹریکٹ دے رکھا تھا جو 1991ء سے پاکستان میں کام کر رہی ہے، 1995ء میں اس کمپنی کو بند جبکہ 1996ء میں بحال کر دیا گیا، اب پاکستان کے مفادات کے خلاف کام کرنے والے لوگوں سے رابطے رکھنے پر اس کا این او سی منسوخ کر دیا گیا ہے۔ قائم مقام سیکرٹری دفاع حیدر علی خان نے بتایا کہ ڈرون کے مختلف ماڈلز تیار کئے گئے ہیں جبکہ کچھ کو ٹیسٹ کیا جا رہا ہے۔ ان لائن کے مطابق سیکرٹری خارجہ سلمان بشیر نے کہا کہ امریکہ نے سفارت خانے کے لئے الاٹمنٹ اور پشاور قونصلیٹ میں توسیع کے مطالبات کئے ہیں۔ اقوام متحدہ کو اپنے اسلام آباد میں قائم دفاتر کو ڈپلومیٹک انکلیو میں منتقل ہونے کی تجویز دے دی گئی ہے۔ غیرملکی سفارت خانے نجی سکیورٹی کمپنیز کی خدمات حاصل کرنے سے متعلق دفتر خارجہ کو اعتماد میں نہیں لیتے۔

All Day

APP -- گوادر بندرگاہ پاک چین دوستی کا زندہ ثبوت ہے، صدر زرداری

اسلام آباد: صدر آصف علی زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ گوادر بندرگاہ آنے والی نسلوں کیلئے پاک چین دوستی کا زندہ ثبوت ہو گی۔

ایوان صدر میں چائنہ ہاربر انجینئرنگ کمپنی کے وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے صدر نے کہا کہ حکومت نے گوادر کو ٹرانس شپمنٹ انرجی پورٹ کے طور پر ترقی دی ہے جو پاکستان اور چین دونوں کے اقتصادی مفادات پورے کر سکے گی۔ چینی سرمایہ کار پاکستان میں اپنی سرمایہ کاری و ترقیاتی منصوبوں میں اضافہ کریں۔

All Day

APP -- بلو چستان کے لئے جلد پیکج کا اعلان کیا جائے گا، صدر زرداری

اسلام آباد۔ صدر آصف علی زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ بلوچستان کے عوام کو ماضی میں نظر انداز کیا گیا، موجودہ حکومت سیاسی ہم آہنگی، اقتصادی ترقی اور امن و امان کی صورت حال پر توجہ دے رہی ہے، بلوچستان کے وزیر اعلیٰ اسلم رئیسانی کی قیادت میں ایک وفد نے صدر آصف علی زرداری سے ایوان صدر اسلام آباد میں ملاقات کی۔ وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے صدر نے کہا کہ حکومت بلوچستان کے عوام کا احساس محرومی ختم کرنے اور انہیں ملک کے دیگر حصوں کے برابر لانے کیلئے بلوچستان کے وفد سے گفتگو میں صدر نے کہا کہ پی پی پی ماضی میں بلوچستان سے ہونے والی ذلتوں کی تلافی کے لئے معافی مانگ چکی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بلوچستان پر پارلیمان کی کمیٹی نے اپنی سفارشات کو حتمی شکل دے دی ہے وزیر اعظم تمام سیاسی جماعتوں کی مشاورت کے بعد جلد اس پیکج کا اعلان کریں گے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان نے صدر کو صوبے میں جاری ترقیاتی منصوبوں کے حوالے سے آگاہ کیا۔

All Day

Daily -- بلوچستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے پرکشش مواقع موجود ہیں، اسلم رئیسانی Intekhab

بلوچستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے پرکشش مواقع موجود ہیں، اسلم رئیسانی اسلام آباد۔ وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان نواب اسلم رئیسانی نے کہا ہے کہ بلوچستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے پرکشش مواقع موجود ہیں حکومت جا پان کے سرمایہ کاروں کو صوبے میں مختلف شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کی دعوت دیتی ہے۔ اسلام آباد میں جا پانی سفا رتخانے کے دورے کے موقع پر جا پان کے سفیر چمبر واسومی سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے گڈانی میں جہاز سازی کی صنعت کے قیام کیلئے جا پانی سرمایہ کاروں کو بلوچستان بھجوانے کی دعوت دی۔ اس موقع پر جا پان کے سفیر نے گوادر بندرگاہ کے بارے میں اپنے تحفظات کا بھی اظہار کیا جس پر وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان نے جا پان کے سفیر کو بتایا کہ رپورٹ آف سنگاپور اٹھارہ گواہ بندرگاہ کے نظم و نسق دینے پر بلوچستان کی حکومت کے بھی تحفظات ہیں اور صوبائی حکومت کے ساتھ گوادر پورٹ کا کنٹرول سنگاپور کی کمپنی سے لیکر بلوچستان حکومت کے حوالے کر کے معاملہ اٹھا رکھا ہے۔

All Day

APP -- تجارت کا فروغ، ریل روابط اشیا و یورپ تک بڑھانے پر غور

تجارت کا فروغ، ریل روابط اشیا و یورپ تک بڑھانے پر غور

پاکستان و ایشیائی ممالک میں تجارت کیلئے ایشین ٹرانزٹ سروس کی کاہنہ نے منظوری دیدی

منصوبے پر مشاورت کیلئے ورکنگ گروپ کا اہم اجلاس 15 دسمبر کو ہنکا ک میں ہو گا

پراجیکٹ کی تکمیل سے پاک ریلوے کو یورپی ممالک تک رسائی حاصل ہو جائیگی، ذرائع

بھارت اور بنگلہ دیش نے یورپ و ایشیا تک رسائی کیلئے ریلوے سے راہداری مانگی لی

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) پاکستان ریلوے نے ایران اور ترکی کیلئے کامیاب مال بردار ترین سروس منصوبے کے بعد دیگر ممالک کے لیے بھی ترین سروس شروع کرنے کا منصوبہ بنایا ہے اور پاکستان کی ایشیائی ممالک تک بذریعہ ترین رسائی کیلئے ایشین ٹرانزٹ گروپ کا اہم اجلاس 15 دسمبر کو ہنکا ک میں ہو گا۔ ذرائع کے مطابق پاکستان اور ایشیائی ممالک کے درمیان تجارت کے فروغ کیلئے ایشین ٹرانزٹ سروس کے منصوبے کی کاہنہ نے منظوری دے دی ہے اور اس سلسلے میں ورکنگ گروپ کا اہم اجلاس 15 دسمبر کو ہنکا ک میں ہو گا جس میں اس منصوبے پر عملدرآمد کو یقینی بنا نے کیلئے مشاورت کی جائے گی، پاکستان کا وفد خاص طور پر اجلاس میں شرکت کرے گا، اس منصوبے کی تکمیل سے پاکستان ریلوے کو نہ صرف ایشیائی ممالک بلکہ یورپی ممالک تک بھی رسائی حاصل ہو جائے گی۔ واضح رہے کہ پاکستان ریلوے پہلے ہی ایران اور ترکی کیلئے مال بردار ترین سروس شروع کر چکا ہے اور چین کیلئے ترین سروس کے آغاز کی منصوبہ بندی کی جا رہی ہے، ادھر بھارت اور بنگلہ دیش نے بھی یورپی اور ایشیائی ریاستوں تک رسائی کیلئے پاکستان ریلوے سے راہداری حاصل کرنے کی درخواست کی ہے۔

All Day

-- One Pakistan -- گوادر ٹیکس فری زون قرار

گوادر ٹیکس فری زون قرار

اسلام آباد (اُردو پوائنٹ اخبار تازہ ترین۔ 5 نومبر۔ 2009ء) وفاقی حکومت نے گوادر کو ٹیکس فری زون قرار دے دیا۔ نوٹیفکیشن جاری حکومت بلوچستان کے ترجمان کے مطابق بلوچستان کی حکومت طویل عرصے سے گوادر کو ٹیکس فری زون قرار دینے کا مطالبہ کر رہی تھی لیکن بیوروکریسی نے اسے التوا میں ڈالے رکھا وزیر اعلیٰ نواب اسلم رئیسانی اور پیپلز پارٹی بلوچستان کے صدر نوابزادہ لشکری رئیسانی کی قیادت میں بلوچستان کے وزرا اور ارکان اسمبلی نے صدر آصف زرداری اور وزیر اعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی سے ملاقاتیں کیں اور ان میں یہ مسئلہ اٹھایا گیا۔ صدر اور وزیر اعظم نے اسکا فوری نوٹس لیتے ہوئے گوادر کو ٹیکس فری زون قرار دینے کے احکامات جاری کئے جس پر عملدرآمد پانچ نومبر کو ہوا اور نوٹیفکیشن جاری کر دیا گیا۔ ترجمان کا کہنا ہے کہ گوادر کو ٹیکس فری زون قرار دئے جانے کے بعد اب یہاں ملکی اور بیرونی سرمایہ کاری میں اضافہ ہو گا اور صوبے میں خوشحالی آنے گی۔

All Day

APP -- بلوچستان پیکج سے عوام کے دل جیتنے میں مدد ملے گی، صدر زرداری

اسلام آباد (نیوز ایجنسیاں) وزیر اعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی نے ایوان صدر میں صدر زرداری سے ملاقات کر کے بلوچستان پیکج پیش کرنے پر بھنگ دی۔ صدر نے امید ظاہر کی کہ بلوچستان پیکج سے عوام کے دل اور دماغ جیتنے میں مدد ملے گی اور شکایات کا ازالہ ہو سکے گا۔ ایک بیان میں صدر نے کہا کہ بے نظیر بھٹو نے بلوچستان کی عوام کی شکایات کا ازالہ کرنے کا وعدہ کیا تھا، سیاسی کارکنوں کی رہائی، جلا وطنی کے خاتمے، سیاسی سطح پر مذاکرات کے آغاز اور لاپتہ افراد کے حوالے سے کمیشن کے قیام جیسے اقدامات دور رس اہمیت کے حامل ہیں۔ صدر زرداری نے پیپلز پارٹی کے ارکان پارلیمنٹ کے اعزاز میں عشاء نہ دیا، اس موقع پر ارکان کو ہدایت کی گئی کہ وہ بعض عناصر کے حکومت مخالف پروپیگنڈے کا جواب دیں۔ برطانوی خفیہ ایجنسی ایم آئی 6 کے سربراہ رابرٹ جان بھی صدر سے ملاقات کی۔

All Day

جرمنی کی گوادر سے افغانستان، ایران اور حویلیاں سے چین تک ریلوے ٹریک بچھا نے**APP -- میں تعاون کی پیشکش؛**

جرمنی کی گوادر سے افغانستان، ایران اور حویلیاں سے چین تک ریلوے ٹریک بچھا نے میں تعاون کی پیشکش؛

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) جرمنی نے پاکستان ریلوے کو گوادر سے افغانستان، ایران اور حویلیاں سے چین تک ریلوے ٹریک بچھا نے میں تعاون کی پیشکش کی ہے جبکہ رولنگ سٹاک اور فریٹ ٹرین مینجمنٹ کے شعبہ میں بھی تعاون فراہم کرنے کے عزم کا اظہار کیا ہے، اس سے قبل 1970ء میں اسلام آباد کیرج فیکٹری جرمنی کی تکنیکی اور اقتصادی تعاون سے قائم کی گئی تھی۔ جرمن وفد سے ملاقات کے بعد وفاقی وزیر ریلوے غلام احمد بلور نے انٹر ویو میں کہا کہ انہوں نے ریلوے کو جدید خطوط پر استوار کرنے کے سلسلے میں جرمنی سے تعاون کی درخواست کی ہے اور جرمنی نے پاکستان ریلوے کے انفراسٹرکچر کو بہتر بنانے میں تعاون کی پیشکش کی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جرمن وفد نے اس موقع پر زیادہ سے زیادہ تعاون کی یقین دہانی کراتے ہوئے کہا کہ جرمن حکومت گوادر سے افغانستان، ایران اور حویلیاں سے چین تک معیاری گیج کے نئے ریلوے ٹریک بچھا نے میں مدد کرے گا۔

November 15, 2009

Sun

All Day

Multi-Billion Dollar Pakistan China rail link moving forward -- APP
Multi-Billion Dollar Pakistan China rail link moving forward

November 15, 2009 by Moin Ansari

Pakistan is working with China to hook up the Pakistan Railways to the Trans Asian Railway Network. This will facilitate trade to the Central Asian Republics, Russia and China.

* Chinese president describes relations with Pakistan as 'high priority'

Pakistan Railways linked to Trans Railway Network (TARN). Fibre-optic line, oil & gas pipeline rail track linking Karakorum Highway to Gwadar. the Federal Minister informed that in this connection a six-member committee comprising equal number of experts from both China and Pakistan was already constituted to move forward in this regard. China has already prepared a feasibility report of laying a railway track in the difficult terrain of Karakoram linking both the states through Khunjarab Pass. To another question, Bilour said that it was the policy of Pakistan Railways that in future it would lay all the new tracks as per the international specification. He explained that at present the existing railway tracks in the country were of broad gauge whereas internationally the narrow gauge tracks are in vogue.

He said that initially they would be planning to establish a rail link with China and at later stage they could connect Torkhum with Jalalabad from where they could go into Central Asian states up to Russia.

To a question he said that India was also expressing interest in getting Rail link with Iran and Turkey from Pakistan and hoped that this would help boost the country's economy.

All Day

Khalifa oil refinery project: UAE decides to go ahead -- ISLAMABAD - The News

Khalifa oil refinery project: UAE decides to go ahead

ISLAMABAD (November 16 2009): The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has decided to go ahead with the construction of a 5-billion-dollar oil refinery in Balochistan, officials said Sunday. The refinery with an output capacity of 250,000 barrels per day was postponed in January, due to the global recession and a row over management issues with Islamabad.

Pakistan, Thailand to sign investment MoU

In order to promote tourism and hotel facilities a Thai company, Invision Hospitality, showed interest in making investment in Pakistan and hoped to create facilities of hotels at Gwadar Port, Gilgit-Baltistan, Swat and the adjoining areas of Murree and the NWFP.

dawn dot com

Navy establishes medical facility at Gwadar

Pakistan Navy has established a medical facility for the local population of Gwadar. The facility includes free medical check up and provision of medicines to the people who are unable to meet basic medical needs due to inadequate financial resources. Apart from male doctors, a lady medical officer has especially been appointed for medical check up of female patients.

The medical facility is a continuation of the efforts that Pakistan Navy has been making for long to help people along the coastal belt in basic healthcare and education, spokesperson, Inter Services Public Relations, said on Thursday.

The spokesman added that a school would also be set up at Ormara and free medical camps and establishment of 'Naval Utility Centres' in various coastal cities would be set up as well.

the news

All Day

گواہ تربت ہوشاب منصوبے کی تکمیل کیلئے ٹینڈر طلب -- Daily Intekhab

گواہ تربت ہوشاب منصوبے کی تکمیل کیلئے ٹینڈر طلب

فٹنڈز کی عدم دستیابی کے باعث رٹوڈیرونیشنل ہائی وے کا 35 سے 40 فیصد کام کافی عرصے سے التوا کا شکار

ہے

شاہراہ کے باقی ماندہ تعمیراتی کام کیلئے کنٹریکٹر زکو 3 دسمبر تک پری کوالیفیکیشن درخواستیں جمع کروانے کی ہدایت

مکران (نمائندہ خصوصی) نیشنل ہائی وے گواہ تربت، ہوشاب، منصوبے کی پایہ تکمیل پہنچانے کیلئے باقی ماندہ تعمیراتی کام کیلئے کنٹریکٹرز اور فرمز سے پری کوالیفیکیشن طلب کر لئے گئے۔

All Day

APP -- گوا در پلینری جیوا نی منصوبہ تکمیل کے قریب پہنچ گیا

گوا در پلینری جیوا نی منصوبہ تکمیل کے قریب پہنچ گیا

وزیراعظم جلد افتتاح کریں گے، 67 کلو میٹر طویل شاہراہ پر پلوں کی تعمیر تیزی سے جاری

شاہراہ کراچی سے اورماڑہ، پسنی، گوا در اور جیوا نی پورٹ راہ طے میں اہم کردار ادا کرے گی

اسلام آباد (رپورٹ: مسعود ماسود) وزارت مواصلات نے گوا در پورٹ سے اندرونی و بیرونی دنیا کا رابطہ بحال کرنے کے لیے گوا در پلینری جیوا نی منصوبے پر کام تقریباً مکمل کر لیا ہے جس کا وزیراعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی جلد افتتاح کریں گے، ذرائع سے ملنے والی معلومات کے مطابق 67 کلو میٹر اس منصوبے پر کل ڈھائی ارب روپے لاگت آئی ہے، اس کا تعمیراتی ٹھیکہ فرنٹئر ورکس آرگنائزیشن کو دیا گیا ہے، منصوبے میں 6 بڑے اور 218 چھوٹے پلوں کی تعمیر کا کام باقی رہ گیا تھا جسے تیزی سے مکمل کیا جا رہا ہے، یہ منصوبہ مکران کو سٹل بانے وے کا ایک حصہ ہے اور یہ بانے وے کل 639 کلو میٹر طویل ہے جو اسی ڈی بانے وے پر شیخ راج سے شروع ہو گا اور پاک ایران بارڈر پر گبد کے مقام پر جا کر اختتام پذیر ہو گا، اس شاہراہ کی تعمیر کی ایک اہم بات یہ ہے کہ یہ پورے سال ہر موسم میں ساحلی پٹی پر واقع آبادی کو تجارت اور مواصلات کی سہولیات فراہم کرے گی اور کراچی سے پورٹ اورماڑہ، پورٹ پسنی، گوا در پورٹ، جیوانی پورٹ سے رابطہ بحال کرانے میں پیش پیش ہو گی۔ شاہراہ کراچی سے اورماڑہ، پسنی، گوا در اور جیوانی پورٹ راہ طے میں اہم کردار ادا کرے گی۔

All Day

Germany assures cooperation in railway, CDM, HRD sectors --

ISLAMABAD - Daily times / APP

Germany assures cooperation in railway, CDM, HRD sectors

ISLAMABAD: A German delegation Friday called on minister for Railways, Haji Ghulam Ahmed Bilour and discussed matters of mutual interests and future cooperation in railways, Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and human resources development. The delegation comprised German Consular Head Press and Economic Section Dr Gregor Schotten and Minister Counselor Deputy Head of Mission Stephan Roken. During the meeting, the Railways' Minister sought German cooperation in CDM and infrastructural development including signaling, environment and low carbon emission. He requested the German government to provide grants or soft loans in these sectors and also sought cooperation in freight train management, adding that in 1970, the Islamabad Carriage Factory was established following technical and economic cooperation by the German government. The delegation assured the government of Pakistan for maximum possible cooperation in CDM, human resource development and hinted at support for standard gauge for new railway lines from Gwadar to Afghanistan, Iran and Havelian to China. The delegation said Pakistan railways is environment friendly so it could be realised that investment could be made by German government in Pakistan's railways sector to make it more environment friendly and pollution-free. The delegation also reassured cooperation in Rolling Stock and highlighted various aspects of Pak-German historic ties in economic and other sectors, hoping that these relations would enrich in future. Secretary Ministry of Railways and chairman Pakistan Railway briefed the delegation about functioning of Pakistan Railways and its ongoing projects with the cooperation of different international partners. app
Daily times

All Day

-- بلوچستان کی معاشی صورتحال بہتر بنانے کیلئے ہر ممکن اقدامات کرینگے صدر زرداری APP

بلوچستان کی معاشی صورتحال بہتر بنانے کیلئے ہر ممکن اقدامات کرینگے صدر زرداری بلوچستان کے حوالے سے پارلیمانی کمیٹی نے سفارشات مکمل کر لیں، وزیراعظم جلد اعلان کرینگے، حکومت عوامی مسائل حل کرنے کیلئے پر عزم ہے اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) صدر آصف علی زرداری نے کہا کہ حکومت غربت کے بلوچستان کی معاشی صورتحال کو بہتر بنانے کیلئے ہر ممکن اقدامات کرے گی غربت کا خاتمہ کیا جائے گا بلوچستان کے وزیراعظم نواب اسلم رئیسانی کی قیادت میں ایک وفد سے ملاقات کے دوران انہوں نے کہا کہ بلوچستان کے حوالے سے قائم پارلیمانی رٹ اور متعلقہ فریقوں و کمیشن اپنی سفارشات اور رپورٹس مکمل کر لی ہیں جس کا وزیراعظم نے سیاسی رہنما سے مشاورت کے بعد اعلان کریں گے صدر نے کہا کہ ماضی میں بلوچستان کے نظر انداز کیا جاتا رہا جس کے باعث وہاں کی عوام میں احساس محرومی پیدا ہوا انہوں نے کہا کہ صوبے میں سیاسی استحکام، معاشی ترقی اور امن و امان کی صورتحال پیپلز پارٹی کی حکومت کی اولین ترجیحات میں شامل ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ حکومت صوبے کے عوام کے مسائل حل کرنے اور دوسرے صوبوں کو برابر لانے کیلئے پر عزم ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پیپلز پارٹی بلوچستان کی عوام کی زیادتیوں پر معافی بھی مانگ چکی ہے قطع نظر اس کے کہ وہ اس حکومت میں بھی نہیں تھی اس موقع پر وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان نے حکومت کی جانب سے صوبہ بلوچستان کیلئے کئے گئے اقدامات کو سراہا۔

All Day

APP -- وزیراعظم نے اسلام آباد تہران، استنبول کنٹینرز ٹرین کا افتتاح کر دیا

وزیراعظم نے اسلام آباد تہران، استنبول کنٹینرز ٹرین کا افتتاح کر دیا اسلام آباد وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی نے اسلام آباد، تہران، استنبول کنٹینرز ٹرین کا افتتاح کر تے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ ٹرین چلنے سے اقتصادی رابطہ تنظیم کے رکن ممالک کے درمیان معاشی تعاون مستحکم ہوگا۔ مارگلہ ریلوے اسٹیشن اسلام آباد سے ٹرین کو روانہ کرنے سے قبل وزیراعظم نے افتتاحی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ کنٹینرز ٹرین سے علاقائی اور معاشی تعاون بڑھے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ عالمی تناظر میں یہ ایک چھوٹا قدم ہے تاہم اس سے اقتصادی رابطہ تنظیم کے رکن ممالک کیلئے سماجی اور اقتصادی ترقی کی نئی راہیں کھلیں گی۔ وزیراعظم نے بتایا کہ کوئٹہ تفتان ریلوے لائن کی فزلیٹی اسٹڈی مکمل ہوگئی ہے۔ اور اس ریلوے ٹریک پر کام شروع کرنے کیلئے ایکوممالک سے تعاون درکار ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ریلوے نظام کو بہتر کرنے کی اشد ضرورت ہے امید ہے کہ عالمی مالیاتی ادارے اس سلسلے میں مدد فراہم کریں گے۔ وزیراعظم نے یقین دلایا کہ کنٹینرز ٹرین کیلئے کسٹم قوانین کو آسان بنایا جائے گا تاکہ سامان کی نقل و حمل میں تاخیر کم سے کم ہو۔

All Day

پسنى كے دورے كا اعلان گواڊر پورٲ سے تجارتى سرگرمىوں ميناضافه هوا نواب رئيسائى

-- APP

پسنى كے دورے كا اعلان گواڊر پورٲ سے تجارتى سرگرمىوں ميناضافه هوا نواب رئيسائى
ٲيكس فرى زون قرار دينے سے سرمايه كارى ميں اضافه هوا ، سرمايه كاروں كو تمام سهوليات فراهم كى
جانے نكي

پورٲ سميت صوبے كے تمام ترقيائى ومسائل كو منصوبے كى ترقى ، فلاح بهبود كيلئے استعمال كرنے كى
جدوجهد كى جا رھى ھيں ، وفد سے ملاقات

كونٲہ (اين اين آئى) اور وزير اعلىٰ بلوچستان نواب محمد اسلم خان رئيسائى نے كہا كہ پورٲ كو نہال بنانے سے
وبانتجارتى واقتصادى سرگرمىوں ميں اضافه هوا ہے

All Day

APP -- گوادر پورٹ کے فنکشنل ہونے سے کوئی بیروزگار نہیں رہے گا صوبائی وزراء

گوادر پورٹ کے فنکشنل ہونے سے کوئی بیروزگار نہیں رہے گا صوبائی وزراء کوئٹہ (آن لائن) بلوچستان اسمبلی میں بی این پی (عوامی) کے پارلیمانی لیڈر و صوبائی وزیر صنعت سید احسان شاہ نے گوادر ٹیکس فری زون کے نو ٹیفیکیشن کے اجراء کو ترقی کی جانب پہلا قدم قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے گوادر کی ترقی سے بلوچستان میں معاشی انقلاب آئیگا اور بلوچستان کی پسماندگی ختم ہوگی انہوں نے نوٹیفیکیشن کے اجراء پر وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان نواب محمد اسلم رئیسائی، وفاقی وزیر صنعت و پیداوار میاں منظور وٹوسے اظہار تشکر کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان کی خصوصی دلچسپی اور کاوشوں سے بلوچستان کا دیرینہ مسئلہ حل ہوا ہے یہاں آن لائن سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے صوبائی وزیر نے کہا کہ وزیر اعلیٰ کی خصوصی دلچسپی اور کاوشوں سے صوبے کا یہ دیرینہ مسئلہ حل ہو گیا جس سے نہ صرف صوبہ بلکہ ملک ترقی کرے گا اور معیشت کی بہتری کے ساتھ ساتھ غربت و بیروزگاری کا بھی خاتمہ ہوگا سید احسان شاہ نے کہا کہ گوادر تھا جس کے تحت جہازوں (Transit and Trans Shipment) پورٹ بنیادی مقصد ٹرانزٹ اور ٹرانز شپمنٹ سے سامان گوادر پورٹ پر لا کر اتار جائے گا اور دوسرے جہازوں کے ذریعے دیگر متعلقہ ممالک جائے گا جبکہ بڑے جہاز سے سامان چھوٹے جہازوں پر منتقل کیا جائے گا، صوبائی وزیر نے کہا ہے کہ پہلے مرحلے میں گوادر اور ماسٹر پلان کے مشرقی حصے کو ٹیکس فری زون قرار دے دیا گیا ہے اور یہ ترقی کی جانب پہلا قدم ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ گوادر پورٹ کی ابھی چار برتھیں کام کر رہی ہیں جبکہ ہمارا منصوبہ ہے کہ مزید بیس برتھیں اور بنائی جائیں جس کے لئے ہمارے پاس وسیع سمندری حدود ایک نعمت سے کم نہیں، انہوں نے کہا کہ گوادر پورٹ کے فنکشنل اور ٹیکس فری زون ہونے سے گوادر کے مقامی افراد میں سے کوئی بھی بیروزگار نہیں رہے گا، معاشی اور ترقی ہوگی اور گوادر میں جدید سہولتیں عالمی معیار کے مطابق فراہم کی جائیں گی۔ دریں اثنا صوبائی وزیر مواصلات و تعمیرات میر صادق عمرانی نے گوادر کو دس سال کیلئے ٹیکس فری زون قرار دینے کے نوٹیفیکیشن کے باقاعدہ اجراء کو وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان نواب محمد اسلم رئیسائی کی قیادت میں بلوچستان کی مخلوط حکومت کی ایک اہم ترین کامیابی قرار دیا ہے صوبائی وزیر نے این این اے سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ موجودہ صوبائی حکومت نے وزیر اعلیٰ کی قیادت میں صوبے کی صنعتی، معاشی اور معدنیات کے شعبوں کے لئے جو ترقی کی ہے اور اس حوالے سے جو اہداف حاصل کئے ہیں وہ گذشتہ 63 سالوں میں حاصل نہیں کیئے جا سکے، انہوں نے کہا وزیر اعلیٰ نواب محمد اسلم رئیسائی کی مخلصانہ و مدبرانہ قیادت اور صوبے کے حقوق کے حصول کیلئے مدلل اور دو ٹوک موقف اختیار کرنے سے ممکن ہو سکا ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ وزیر اعلیٰ نے اہداف کے حصول کیلئے صدر مملکت، وزیر اعظم اور وفاقی حکومت کے سامنے جو واضح موقف اختیار کیا اور اس موقف کو منوانے کیلئے جو کوششیں کی ہیں وہ قابل قدر ہیں، صوبائی وزیر نے کہا ہے کہ گوادر سی پورٹ کو فعال بنانے اور وہاں کے 47 ہزار ایکٹر علاقے کو ٹیکس فری زون قرار دینے سے علاقے میں ترقی و کاروباری سرگرمیوں میں تیزی آئے گی

All Day

APP -- پاک افغان تجارتی راہداری معائدہ

پاک افغان تجارتی راہداری معائدہ

پاکستانی ٹرکوں کو وسطی ایشیائی ریاستوں تک رسائی دینے پر اتفاق اسلام آباد(آن لائن) پاک افغان تجارتی راہداری معائدہ پر مذاکرات کا پانچواں دور ختم ہو گیا ہے۔ مذاکرات میں اتفاق کر لیا گیا ہے کہ پاکستان افغانی ٹرکوں کو وسطی ایشیائی ریاستوں تک رسائی دیگا مذاکرات کا پانچواں تین روزہ دور اسلام آباد میں منعقد ہوا جس میں وزارت تجارت کے اعلیٰ سطح کے وفد نے پاکستان کی نمائندگی کی۔ مذاکرات میں طے پایا ہے کہ تجارتی راہداری کے ذریعے تجارت میں استعمال ہونے والے ڈیموں کی خصوصی رجسٹریشن کی جائی گی جبکہ ٹرکوں میں ٹریکنگ سسٹم نصب کرنے کے علاوہ ڈرائیوروں کو وےزے اور ورکنگ پرمٹ جاری ہونگے مذاکرات میں پاک افغان مشترکہ ایوان صنعت و تجارت کے قیام پر بھی اتفاق کیا گیا جو سرحد پر سمگلنگ روکنے میں حکومت کی مدد کرے گا۔ یاد رہے کہ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تجارتی حجم سالانہ 3 ارب ڈالر کے قریب ہے۔ ذرائع کی مطابقت مذاکرات میں پاکستان نے افغانستان کی جانب سے بھارت کو معائدے میں شامل کرنے کی تجویز کو دوبارہ مسترد کر دیا ہے۔

December 10, 2009

Thu

All Day

China's assistance remarkable for Balochistan's development: Zardari -- APP

China's assistance remarkable for Balochistan's development: Zardari

ISLAMABAD, Dec 10 (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday said China's invaluable assistance and support for Gwadar Port project had contributed towards the socio-economic development of Balochistan and would stand as a living testimony of Pak-China friendship for generations to come. Talking to Sun Ziyu, President China Harbour Engineering Company at Aiwan-e-Sadr, the Prime Minister said, "We envisage developing Gwadar not only as a trans-shipment port but also an energy port which can serve the economic interests of both Pakistan and China."

He said the success of Gwadar Port can serve as a catalyst for Chinese exports from its western regions to the rest of the world, adding "we would like Chinese enterprises to undertake developmental projects and increased Chinese investment in the area."

President Zardari said Pak-China friendly relations and mutual cooperation had become a shining example of friendly co-existence between two neighboring states. Minister of States for Ports and Shipping Sardar Nabil Ahmed Gabol, Secretary General to the President Salman Faruqui and Spokesperson to the President former Senator Farhatullah Babar were also present during the meeting.

APP

All Day

Balochistan package: PC proposes allocation of Rs 31 billion for 36 projects -- Business Recorder

Balochistan package: PC proposes allocation of Rs 31 billion for 36 projects (ZAFAR BHUTTA)

ISLAMABAD (December 12 2009): The Planning Commission has proposed allocation of Rs 31 billion under the Balochistan package, which is Rs 7.8 billion less than the package allocated for the Prime Minister's constituency, Multan, informed sources told Business Recorder on Friday. The Planning Commission has finalised a list of 36 projects valued at Rs 31 billion under the Balochistan package. This list will be submitted to Central Development Working Party (CDWP) for approval and recommendation to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec). The special meeting of CDWP was scheduled to meet on December 9, but was postponed as the venue of the meeting was changed from the Planning Commission to Balochistan.

"We are waiting for clearance from the Balochistan government to convene a special meeting of CDWP," sources said, adding that the Prime Minister would also participate in the meeting. The Federal government intends to signal the Federation's commitment to the development of Balochistan province and its people.

The Rs 31 billion Balochistan package compares unfavourably with the Rs 38.180 billion allocated for Multan. Under the Multan package, Rs 13.2 billion funds will be released during the 2009-10 fiscal year. The Larkana package is valued at Rs 9.6 billion and the government has already allocated Rs 2.1 billion during the current financial year, said the sources.

Under the Balochistan package, the Planning Commission identified five projects in food and agriculture, one in education, 12 projects in industry and commerce, four projects in physical planning, 14 projects in transport and two projects in the water sector.

In mining sector, the CDWP will consider Reko Diq gold and copper, costing Rs 5.892 billion with foreign exchange component of Rs 2.947 million. According to joint venture agreement of Reko-Diq project, Chilean mining company, Antofagasta, and Canadian company, Barrick Gold, jointly hold 75 percent and the Balochistan government 25 percent shares.

The two foreign companies estimated an investment of five billion dollars over a period of five years with an investment of one billion to three billion dollars in the first phase to produce 72,000 tons of copper per annum. After full commissioning of the project, the annual export of copper is forecast at 400,000 tons.

The Planning Commission focused on development of road infrastructure that is considered essential to boost trade activities in Gwadar Port. The CDWP will consider construction/upgradation of Dirgi-Shabozai (N-70) to Taunsa project, costing Rs 7.478 billion; reconstruction of the 110-kilometre-long National Highways N-30 worth Rs 4454.631 million; and construction of Sibbi-Dhadar section costing Rs 1,008.8 million.

The other projects include: construction of Kanj irrigation scheme in Mawand area of district Kahlua worth Rs 16.437 million; six dispersal structures on Nario river-Phase ii worth Rs 1.172 billion; and construction of Ghazi Khokhor dispersal structures costing Rs 859 million.

In food and agriculture sector, fisheries sector has been given more importance and "strengthening of fisheries infrastructure along Sindh and Balochistan" worth Rs 1,999.64 million will be tabled before the CDWP. Balochistan province is rich in oil, gas and mineral reserves and the CDWP is likely to approve "acquisition of three drilling rigs for Geological Survey of Pakistan" costing Rs 238.561 million.

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وفاقی حکومت نے آغاز حقوق بلوچستان پیکج پارلیمنٹ میں پیش کر دیا ہے جس کے تحت بلوچستان میں دہشت گردی کیخلاف جنگ کے سوا تمام آپریشن اور نئی چھاؤنیوں کی تعمیر پر پابندی، سوئی سے فوج واپس بلانے، لاپتہ افراد کی تلاش کیلئے عدالتی کمیشن، فرنٹیئر کور اور کوسٹ گارڈز وزیراعلیٰ کے ماتحت، نواب اکبر بگٹی کے قتل کی تحقیقات کیلئے کمیشن قائم کرنے، ڈیرہ بگٹی کے بے گھر افراد کی بحالی کیلئے ایک ارب روپے فراہم، سنگین جرائم میں ملوث افراد کے علاوہ تمام سیاسی کارکنوں کو رہا اور جلاوطن رہنماؤں کی واپسی آغاز حقوق کی سفارشات اور تجاویز دی گئی ہیں۔ پارلیمنٹ کے مشترکہ اجلاس میں سینیٹر رضا ربانی نے پیکج پیش کرتے ہوئے اپنے خطاب میں کہا کہ پیکج صوبائی خودمختاری کا متبادل نہیں، وسائل پر 'بلوچستان صوبوں کا حق تسلیم کر لیا، پیکج کے تحت صوبے کی ترقی کیلئے انتظامی، سیاسی اور مالیاتی اقدامات کئے جائیں گے، وسائل پر صوبوں کا حق تسلیم کیا گیا ہے جس کیلئے آئینی اصلاحات کمیٹی کی سفارشات پر آئین میں ترمیم کی جائیگی، گواہ میں زمین کی تقسیم کی تحقیقات ہوگی، میگا پراجیکٹس میں گریڈ ایک سے 16 تک کی بھرتیوں میں مقامی لوگوں کو ترجیح دینے کے ساتھ ساتھ وفاقی حکومت بلوچستان کے نوجوانوں کیلئے فوری طور پر 5 ہزار نئی آسامیوں کا انتظام کریگی، گیس ڈویلپمنٹ سرچارج کی مد میں بلوچستان کو 12 سال میں 120 ارب روپے جبکہ ڈیرہ بگٹی کے بے گھر ہونے والے افراد کی بحالی کیلئے ایک ارب روپے فراہم کئے جائیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پیکج میں سنگین جرائم میں ملوث افراد کے علاوہ تمام سیاسی کارکنوں کو فوری طور پر رہا کیا جائیگا۔ جلاوطن سیاسی رہنماؤں کو وطن واپسی کیلئے سہولیات فراہم کی جائیں گی۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ وفاق کی طرف سے صوبے کو 4 ارب 60 کروڑ روپے سرکاری شعبہ کے ترقیاتی پروگرام کے تحت دینے گئے ہیں اور 2 ارب 80 کروڑ روپے اوچ کی رائٹ کیلئے بقایا جات کی مد میں دینے گئے ہیں، یہ بقایا جات 1995ء سے بقایا تھے جبکہ بلوچستان کے ذمہ اور ٹرافٹ کے ساڑھے 17 ارب روپے معاف کر دینے گئے تاہم ہمیں یہ ادراک ہے کہ یہ صوبائی خود مختاری کے متبادل نہیں ہو سکتا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ صوبے کی تمام سیاسی قیادت سے مذاکرات کا آغاز کیا جائیگا تاکہ ان کو قومی دھارے میں لایا جاسکے۔ انتظامی معاملات کے حوالہ سے رضا ربانی نے بتایا کہ وفاقی حکومت کی طرف سے فوری طور پر وفاقی اداروں کے کردار کا جائزہ لیا جانا چاہیے اور دہشت گردی کیخلاف لڑنے کے علاوہ دیگر تمام آپریشن فوری طور پر روک دینے چاہئیں۔ وفاقی حکومت کو اعلان کرنا چاہئے کہ سوئی کے علاقے سے فوج کو واپس بلانی جائے اور ان کی جگہ ایف سی کے اہلکار تعینات کئے جائیں جو موجودہ حالات میں امن و امان برقرار رکھنے کیلئے کردار ادا کریں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ لاپتہ افراد کے حوالہ سے ایک کمیشن تشکیل دیا جانا چاہئے جس کی سربراہی بلوچستان کی اعلیٰ عدالت کے ایک جج کو دی جائے جبکہ اس میں وفاقی وزیر دفاع، وزیر داخلہ اور بلوچستان کے سیکرٹری داخلہ شامل ہوں۔ اس کمیٹی کا اجلاس ان کیمپوں میں ہونا چاہئے۔ لاپتہ افراد کے نام فوری طور پر سامنے لانے چاہئیں اور جن افراد کو حراست میں رکھا گیا ہے اور جن پر کوئی الزامات نہیں ہیں ان کو رہا کیا جانا چاہئے۔ جن افراد پر الزامات ہوں ان کو سات یوم کے اندر اندر عدالت میں پیش کیا جانا چاہئے، ان افراد کو ان کی مرضی کے وکلا کی خدمات حاصل کرنے کی اجازت دی جانی چاہئے۔ ان کے خاندان کے افراد کو بھی ان سے ملاقات کی اجازت دی جانی چاہئے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وفاقی حکومت نے بلوچستان کے سیاسی کارکنوں غلام محمد، لالا منیر اور منیر احمد کے قتل کے علاوہ صوبہ میں ٹارگٹ کلنگ کی عدالتی تحقیقات کا حکم دیدیا ہے جبکہ نواب اکبر بگٹی شہید کے قتل کے حقائق جاننے کیلئے سپریم کورٹ یا ہائی کورٹ کے ریٹائرڈ جج کی سربراہی میں فیکٹ فائنڈنگ کمیشن قائم کیا جائیگا، فی الوقت صوبہ بلوچستان کے علاقوں سوئی اور کوہلو میں فوجی چھاؤنیاں تعمیر کرنے کا کام روک دیا گیا ہے اور سوئی میں ایف سی کو ڈیوٹی حوالے کرنے کے بعد فوج واپس بلانی جائیگی جبکہ تعمیر شدہ چھاؤنیوں کو بھی ایف سی کے حوالے کیا جائیگا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ صوبائی حکومت کی طرف علاقوں میں تبدیل کرنے کے فیصلہ کا وقتاً فوقتاً جائزہ لیا جائے گا جبکہ شہری "اے" علاقوں کو "بی" سے علاقوں میں ریگولر پولیس تعینات کی جائے گی۔ انہوں نے سول آرڈر فورسز کے کردار کے حوالہ سے کہا کہ قانون نافذ کرنے کے سلسلہ میں ایف سی وزیراعلیٰ کے ماتحت کام کرے گی اور اسے کسٹم ایکٹ کے تحت حاصل اختیارات واپس لئے جائیں گے۔ اس طرح کوسٹ گارڈ سرحدوں اور ساحلی علاقوں میں اسلحہ اور منشیات اسمگلنگ کی نگرانی کا کام کرے گی اور قانون سے ماوراء ان کی قائم کردہ چیک پوسٹوں کو ختم کرایا جائے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سرحدوں کی مؤثر نگرانی کو یقینی بنانے کیلئے وفاقی و صوبائی حکومت اور ایف سی کی طرف سے سرحدوں کی دوبارہ حد بندی کی ضرورت ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گواہ میں اراضی کی الاٹمنٹ کے حوالہ سے اعلیٰ عدلیہ کے ذریعے انکوائری کی جائیگی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وزیراعلیٰ بلحاظ عہدہ گواہ رپورٹ اتھارٹی کے چیئرمین ہوں گے، بورڈ آف ڈائریکٹرز میں صوبے سے 7 ارکان کو شامل کیا جائے گا جبکہ گواہ ڈویلپمنٹ اتھارٹی کے چیئرمین کی نامزدگی صوبائی حکومت کریگی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سوئی کے علاقے کے مسلح افواج کو ایک طریقہ کار کے مطابق علاقے سے 'لئے ایک خصوصی ترقیاتی پیکج پیش کیا جانا چاہیے نکالا جانا چاہیے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وفاقی حکومت صوبے کے لئے ملازمت کی پانچ ہزار آسامیاں فوری طور پر کارپوریشنوں اور دوسرے 'خود مختار' نیم سرکاری 'سرکاری ملازمت بالخصوص فارن سروس' پیدا کرے گی اداروں میں ملازمت کے لئے صوبائی کوٹے پر قواعد اور قانون کے مطابق عمل کیا جائے گا اور اس حوالے سے کسی بھی قسم کی تفریق کا ازالہ کیا جائے گا۔ پیکج کے حوالے سے سفارشات میں کہا گیا ہے کہ وفاقی صوبائی حکومت اور دیگر ایسے ادارے اور محکمہ جو ان سفارشات پر عملدرآمد کے ذمہ دار ہوں گے 'حکومت وہ پارلیمانی کمیٹی برائے قومی سلامتی کو ماہانہ بنیادوں پر عملدرآمد کی صورتحال کے بارے میں بریفنگ دیں گے۔ وفاقی اور صوبائی حکومتیں ہر تین ماہ بعد پارلیمنٹ کے دونوں ایوانوں میں اپنی رپورٹ پیش کریں آئینی امور سے متعلق '11 صفحات پر مشتمل ہے جس میں 39 شقیں ہیں "آغاز حقوق بلوچستان پیکج" گے۔ سیاسی معاملات سے متعلق پانچ اور انتظامی معاملات سے متعلق تیرہ جبکہ اقتصادی امور پر شقوں کی 'تین تعداد 14 ہے۔

APP -- گوادر میں سندھ سرحد اور پنجاب ہاؤسز کی منظوری اراضی الاٹ

وزیر اعظم یوسف گیلانی کے دورہ گوادر کے موقع پر تینوں صوبوں کے وزراء اعلیٰ منصوبوں کا سنگ بنیاد سز کے قیام کے منصوبوں پر جلد از جلد عمل درآمد ہونے کا امکان پیدا ہو گیا، اراضی کی الاٹمنٹ کے بعد سز کے قیام کی منظوری حکومت بلوچستان نے وُگادر (بیورو رپورٹ) گوادر میں سندھ، سرحد اور پنجاب با اراضی الاٹ کردی سنگ بنیاد صوبوں کے وزراء اعلیٰ رکھیں گے۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق گوادر میں سندھ سرحد سز کے قیام کے منصوبوں پر جلد عمل درآمد کا امکان ہے، واور پنجاب با

All Day

APP -- گوادر انٹر نیشنل انیر پورٹ کی تعمیر کا ابتدائی کام مکمل تکمیل کے مراحل میں

گوادر انٹر نیشنل انیر پورٹ کی تعمیر کا ابتدائی کام مکمل تکمیل کے مراحل میں
گوادر کے بین الاقوامی انیر پورٹ کی تعمیر کا ابتدائی کام تکمیل کے مراحل میں ہے، جبکہ انیر پورٹ کے
اطراف باڑ لگانے کا کام تقریباً مکمل ہو گیا ہے۔ سول ایوی ایشن اتھارٹی کے ذرائع کے مطابق گوادر انیر پورٹ
کے لئے مختص جگہ کے اطراف باڑ لگانے اور انیر پورٹ کے مقام کو ہموار کرنے کا ٹھیکہ فرنٹیر ورکس
آرگنائزیشن (ایف ڈبلے واد) کو دے دیا گیا ہے جس نے باڑ لگانے کا کام تقریباً مکمل کر لیا ہے جبکہ زمین کو
ہموار کرنے کا کام تیزی سے جاری ہے، زمین کو ہموار کرنے کے لئے بھاری مشینری کام کے مقام پر پہنچا
دی گئی ہے، سی اے اے ذرائع کے مطابق گوادر انیر پورٹ کی تعمیر کے لئے چار ہزار 3 سو ایکڑ زمین حاصل
کی گئی ہے۔ انیر پورٹ کے لئے لی گئی تمام زمین نجی ملکیت کی تھی جس کے لئے مالکان کو ایک ارب پچاس
کروڑ چالےس لاکھ روپے ادا نیگی کر دی گئی ہے۔ پہلے مرحلے میں گوادر انٹر نیشنل انیر پورٹ کا رن وے اے
ٹی ار اور ہوننگ 737 طیاروں کی آمدورفت کے لئے تیار کیا جا رہا ہے۔

All Day

Daily Intekhab -- گوادر بندر گاہ پاک چین دوستی کا زندہ ثبوت ہے

گوادر بندر گاہ پاک چین دوستی کا زندہ ثبوت ہے
اسلام آباد صدر آصف علی زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ گوادر بندر گاہ آنے والی نسلوں کے لئے پاک چین دوستی کا
زندہ ثبوت ہوگی۔ ایوان صدر میں چائے ہاربر انجینئرنگ کمپنی کے وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے صدر نے کہا
حکومت نے گوادر کو ٹرانس شپمنٹ انرجی پورٹ کے طور پر ترقی دی ہے جو پاکستان اور چین دونوں کے
اقتصادی مفادات پورے کر سکے گی۔ چینی سرمایہ کار پاکستان میں اپنی سرمایہ کاری و ترقیاتی منصوبوں میں
اضافہ کریں۔

All Day

اس سلسلے میں وزیراعظم گیلانی 29 دسمبر کو گوادر میں کابینہ کا اجلاس منعقد کر رہے ہیں، اسی روز این ایف سی ایوارڈ پر دستخط بھی کیے جائیں گے

دبئی، ارشد انجم سے حکومت پاکستان نے سال 2010ء کو فوکس گوادر کے طور پر منانے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ باخبر ذرائع کے مطابق حکومت پاکستان نے آغاز حقوق بلوچستان پر عملدرآمد کرنے اور بلوچستان کے ساحلی علاقے گوادر کو ترقی دینے کیلئے ماسٹر پلان تیار کیا ہے اور سال 2010ء کو فوکس گوادر کے طور پر صفحہ منانے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ اس سلسلے میں وزیراعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی اپنی کابینہ کے ارکان اور چاروں وزیراعلیٰ کے ہمراہ 29 دسمبر کو گوادر میں کابینہ کا اجلاس بھی منعقد کر رہے ہیں اور اس روز گوادر میں این ایف سی ایوارڈ پر دستخط بھی ہونگے جبکہ اسلام آباد کی طرز پر چاروں صوبوں اور آزاد کشمیر گلگت بلتستان کے ناموں سے منسوب پنجاب ہائوس سندھ ہائوس بلوچستان ہائوس پختون خواہ ہائوس کشمیر ہائوس اور گلگت بلتستان ہائوس کا سنگ بنیاد رکھیں گے۔ پاکستان نے اپنی قریبی دوست عرب ممالک کو بھی گوادر کو بین الاقوامی جدید طرز پر تعمیر کرنے کے حوالے سے اعتماد میں لیا ہے جبکہ انتہائی اہم دوست چین کو بھی اس کی ترقی میں شامل کرنے کیلئے مشترکہ حکمت عملی طے کی جارہی ہے۔ گوادر کی جدید طرز پر تعمیر سے پاکستان کی ترقی میں مدد ملے گی اور سنٹرل ایشیائی ریاستوں میں تجارت کو فروغ حاصل ہوگا۔

All Day

APP -- گوادر (نامہ نگار) وزیراعظم کے دورے کی تیاریوں کے سلسلے میں اجلاس ہوا

گوادر (نامہ نگار) وزیراعظم کے دورے کی تیاریوں کے سلسلے میں اجلاس ہوا جس میں انتظامی امور کا جائزہ لیا گیا، تفصیلات کے مطابق وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی کی 29 دسمبر کو دورے گوادر کے سلسلے میں گوادر میں صوبائی وزیر فشریز میر حمل کلمتی، ڈی آئی جی، ڈی پی او، ڈی سی او، کمشنر مکران ڈویژن کے ساتھ اجلاس منعقد ہوا، اجلاس میں وزیراعظم کے دورے کی انتظامات و سیکورٹی معلومات پر غور کیا گیا

All Day

Cabinet approves Gwadar Port Authority bill -- APP

Cabinet approves Gwadar Port Authority bill
Thursday, 31 Dec, 2009

PAKISTAN

PM announces Rs1bn fund for Karachi blast victims

GWADAR: The federal cabinet at a meeting held here on Wednesday approved the Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) bill and discussed issues concerning Balochistan, particularly the implementation of the Aghaz-i-Huqooq-i-Balochistan package. According to the GPA bill, the authority's board will comprise 15 members, including seven from Balochistan, with chief minister of the province as its chairman. The special cabinet meeting held on board a Pakistan Navy ship anchored at the Gwadar port was attended by federal ministers and the four chief ministers. It was presided over by Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani. The prime minister said the democratic government had come up with the Aghaz-i-Huqooq Balochistan package to end Baloch people's sense of deprivation. He said the meeting's agenda and venue had been decided with the objective of highlighting and addressing the issues of Balochistan. He thanked Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani and Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping Babar Khan Ghori for making elaborate arrangements for the meeting. The prime minister said that development of Balochistan was a priority of the government which was committed to addressing the demands of the Baloch people. Talking to a number of delegations, the prime minister said the government was seriously working to alleviate the suffering of the people of the province who had been neglected in the past.

All Day

Centre, provinces sign 7th NFC Award in Gwadar -- QUETTA - Daily Times

Thursday, December 31, 2009

Centre, provinces sign 7th NFC Award in Gwadar

QUETTA: For the first time in 19 years, the federal government and all four federating units of Pakistan signed a consensus National Finance Commission (NFC) Award at a landmark ceremony in Gwadar on Wednesday. The ceremony for the signing of the 7th NFC Award was attended by Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani, Finance Minister Shaukat Tareen, Balochistan Chief Minister Aslam Raisani, Sindh Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah, Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif and NWFP Chief Minister Ameer Haider Khan Hoti. staff report.
(Daily Times)

All Day

CM Punjab Said signing of the 7th NFC award is slap on the face of enemies of the country -- GWADAR - SANA TV

Talking to media in Gwadar, Shahbaz said the provinces are united adding that if we will be united no world power could pressurize us.

Strong provinces key to strengthen Pakistan: Shahbaz

GWADAR, (SANA): Chief Minister of Punjab Mian Shahbaz Sharif has said that strong provinces will strengthen Pakistan.

He said Punjab played the role of big brother while negotiating National Finance Commission Award.

He said the signing of the 7th NFC award is slap on the face of enemies of the country, adding that all people of the country has equal rights.

The Chief Ministers of the four provinces of Pakistan have pledged under the shadow of Minar-e-Pakistan to work for the prosperity of the country, Punjab chief minister said.

All Day

Historic NFC Award inked -- APP

Historic NFC Award inked

By: Bari Baloch | Published: December 31, 2009

QUETTA – The historic 7th National Finance Commission Award was signed on Wednesday by the representatives of Federal Government and four provinces at a

simple but dignified ceremony held in port city of Gwadar which is deemed a great step to bolster the Federation. The historic ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Sindh Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah, NWFP Chief Minister Ameer Haider Khan Hoti and Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani, members of Federal and Balochistan Cabinets. Under the NFC Award, provinces will get 56 per cent share from the federal revenues and 44 per cent share has been allocated for the Centre.

Under the new formula, the Federation and the provinces of Punjab, Sindh and NWFP realised the difficulties of Balochistan and agreed to provide the province 83 billion rupees (9.09 per cent) of the provincial pool. Addressing the gathering after the historic signing of the NFC Award, Prime Minister Gilani congratulated the nation, federal minister for finance and chief ministers of the four provinces for reaching a consensus on the Award. "The Federal Government is committed to empower all four federating units and they will also be given provincial autonomy which will further strengthen the country," he added. He assured the 17th Amendment and 58-2B would be abolished as a constitutional committee was working in this regard. He said they would remove restrictions on becoming prime minister for the third time. He said 1973 Constitution was an achievement of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto which strengthened the Federation and added that incumbent government was firmly believed in politics of reconciliation. "Consensus after 19 years over NFC Award is a proof of the success of our reconciliatory policy," the Premier maintained. He pointed out the country would develop only if all institutions work within their limits and the government was committed to eradicate corruption from the country. Regretting the toppling of democratic governments, Gilani said that Ayub Khan had disqualified all the politicians who had played a significant role in creation of Pakistan. He said former President General (r) Musharraf removed the government of Nawaz Sharif on charges of kidnapping. He said Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti was a big supporter of the Federation but he was brutally murdered and stressed that those who were responsible for his murder must be tried in a court of law.

All Day

NFC Award will usher in new era of prosperity in Balochistan: Raisani -- ISLAMABAD - APP

NFC Award will usher in new era of prosperity in Balochistan: Raisani
ISLAMABAD, Dec 31 (APP): Renowned Baloch leader Senator Mir Lashkari Raisani has termed unanimous approval of NFC Award a victory of democracy, adding that all political workers of the country consider the day of signing of the award a historic event. Talking to Radio Pakistan, he said that the NFC Award was the result of democratic government established after a long struggle of the democratic forces. He hoped that if the democratic process continues to function uninterrupted, Balochistan will usher in a new era of development and prosperity. He said that all sane political workers as well as people of Balochistan have a great respect for what happened during the democratic set-up and they view it a new era for Balochistan.

All Day

'Signing NFC is a historical event' -- LAHORE - The News **'Signing NFC is a historical event'**

Updated on: 31 Dec 09 06:51 PM

On News Beat with Meher Bokhari

LAHORE: Syed Sumsam Ali Shah Bokhari has said that the agreement of all the provinces on the National Finance Commission Award and its signing ceremony in Gwadar is a historical event in the history of the country.

He said that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has always fought against the

dictators. "We have not supported any step of former president, Pervez Musharraf." He said that his party follows the policy of reconciliation and this policy should be same for all the Pakistanis.

"We are committed to the cause that the constitution of 1973 would be revived in its original shape. We are against all those people who distorted the constitution," he said and added that the constitutional committee is working on the amendments in the constitution. The PPP refers to Nawab Akbar Bugti as Shaheed and his name is also mentioned in the text of the Balochistan package. The government is working to establish road and rail links which could link Gwadar with other parts of the country. The party thinks that Pakistan could move forward only by following the policy of reconciliation, he added.

Hasil Bizengo said that NFC Award is a good step as the formula of NFC has been changed for the first time. That change in the NFC formula would benefit in addressing the reservations of the people of Balochistan. It is a good step in the right direction. But there is still a way ahead for more steps. The government needs to address the legal and constitutional matters and to make constitutional changes to address the concerns of the provinces. The government should also ensure the return of all the missing persons, he added. SAMAA

All Day

APP -- گوادر میں اوپی ایف اسکول کے قیام کا اعلان

گوادر (بیورو رپورٹ) سمندر پار پاکستانیوں کی مرکزی وزارت نے گوادر میں اوپی ایف اسکول قائم کرنے کا اعلان کیا ہے اس بات کا اعلان سمندریار پاکستانیوں کے وفاقی وزیر فاروق ستار نے این ایف سی ایوارڈ گوادر میں دستخطی تقریب کے دوران وزیر اعظم پاکستان کی تقریر کے دوران اٹھا کر کیا۔

All Day

گوادر میں ساتویں این ایف سی ایوارڈ پر دستخط، ایک فرد کو نہیں، اداروں کو مضبوط One Pakistan -- کرینگے، وزیر اعظم گیلانی

گوادر: وفاق پاکستان کی چاروں اکائیوں نے تاریخ ساز ساتویں نیشنل فنانس کمیشن ایوارڈ پر دستخط کر دیئے ہیں۔ بدھ کو بلوچستان کے ساحلی شہر اور ملک کی اہم بندرگاہ گوادر میں ہونے والی تقریب میں وزیر اعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی، چاروں وزرائے اعلیٰ اور وفاقی کابینہ کے ارکان موجود تھے۔ ایوارڈ پر صوبوں کے وزراء خزانہ، وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ اور وفاقی وزیر خزانہ شوکت ترین نے دستخط کیے۔ نئے ایوارڈ کا اطلاق آئندہ مالی سال سے ہو گا۔ اس موقع پر خطاب کرتے ہوئے وزیر اعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی نے کہا کہ ایک فرد کو نہیں اداروں کو مضبوط کریں گے، این ایف سی ایوارڈ کی کامیابی جمہوریت کا ثمر ہے جو آمریت نہیں کر سکتی، آئینی کمیٹی کی سفارشات کے بعد قوم دوسری خوشخبری سنے گی، 17 ویں ترمیم اور 58 ٹو بی کا خاتمہ کر کے تیسری مرتبہ وزیر اعظم بننے پر پابندی ختم کر دیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بلوچوں کے اصرار پر آغاز حقوق بلوچستان پیکیج میں نواب اکبر بگٹی کے قتل کو اس میں شامل کیا گیا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ اگر سابق صدر مشرف بلوچ رہنما نواب اکبر بگٹی کے قتل کے مجرم ہیں تو ان کیخلاف مقدمہ چلایا جانا چاہئے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بلوچستان ایک پسماندہ صوبہ ہے اور اسے نظر انداز کیا گیا ہے جبکہ نئے این ایف سی ایوارڈ سے پسماندگی دور ہو جائے گی اور اس سلسلے میں گوادر سنگ میل ثابت ہو گا۔ وزیر اعظم نے اس موقع پر بلوچستان سے تعلق رکھنے والے 35 سال کے تمام گریجویٹس کو نوکریاں دینے کے ساتھ ساتھ گوادر میں گرلز کالج اور ہاسٹل کے قیام کا اعلان بھی کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بلوچستان کے 20 ہزار مقامی افراد کو روزگار دیا جائیگا جس سے صوبے میں غربت ختم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی اور مقامی لوگ باختیار ہونگے۔ وزیر اعظم نے اس موقع پر بجلی، پانی، گیس اور کئی دیگر منصوبوں کو تیزی سے مکمل کرنے اور ایران سے 110 میگاواٹ بجلی حاصل کرنے کا عمل تیزی سے مکمل کرنے کی ہدایات بھی کیں۔ دریں اثناء ایوارڈ کے تحت آبادی کی بنیاد پر 82 فیصد، غربت پر 10.3 فیصد، محصولات کی وصولی 5 فیصد اور رقبے پر 2.7 فیصد حصہ دیا جائے گا۔ نئے این ایف سی ایوارڈ کے تحت وفاق نے قومی وسائل میں صوبائی حکومتوں کے زیادہ حصے کے مطالبہ کو تسلیم کیا ہے۔ این ایف سی کے پہلے سال میں قابل تقسیم آمدنی میں سے صوبائی حصہ 47.5 فیصد سے بڑھا کر 56 فیصد اور باقی برسوں میں 57.5 فیصد ہو گا۔ نئے فارمولے کے تحت پنجاب کو قابل تقسیم آمدنی میں سے 51.74، سندھ کو 24.55، سرحد کو 14.62 اور بلوچستان کو 9.09 حصہ ملے گا۔ ایوارڈ پر دستخطوں کے بعد وزیر اعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی نے چاروں وزراء اعلیٰ کو جبکہ وزراء اعلیٰ نے وزیر اعظم کو مبارکباد دی۔ این این آئی کے مطابق تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے وفاقی وزیر خزانہ شوکت ترین نے کہا کہ این ایف سی ایوارڈ کے تحت ہر صوبہ فائدے میں رہا ہے، سب سے بڑا مسئلہ وفاق اور صوبوں کے درمیان عدم اعتماد تھا لیکن حکومت نے کئی اہم اقدامات کیے جس سے صوبوں اور وفاق میں اعتماد پیدا ہوا۔

All Day

-- گوادر: این ایف سی ایوارڈ کی دستاویز پر دستخط کر دیئے گئے

INTERNATIONAL THE STATESMEN

انیس سال کے بعد متفقہ قومی مالیاتی کمیشن ایوارڈ پر دست خط کر دیئے گئے ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم اور... گوادر چاروں وزرائے اعلیٰ نے اسے تاریخی موقع اور جمہوریت کا ثمر قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ صوبوں نے

پاکستان کی یک جہتی و استحکام کے لئے اتحاد و اتفاق کا بے مثال مظاہرہ کیا ہے۔ این ایف سی ایوارڈ پر دست خط کی تقریب گوارہ میں ہوئی۔۔ وزیر اعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی اور چاروں وزرائے اعلیٰ نے تقریب میں شرکت کی۔ وفاقی اور صوبائی وزرائے خزانہ نے این ایف سی ایوارڈ کی دستاویز پر دستخط کئے جس کے بعد وزیر اعظم، وزرائے اعلیٰ اور تقریب میں شریک دیگر افراد نے ایک دوسرے کو مبارک باد دی۔ وزیر اعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی نے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ این ایف سی ایوارڈ تک کا سفر جمہوریت کا ثمر اور تمام صوبوں کی جیت ہے۔ وفاقی حکومت چاہتی تھی کہ صوبائی حکومتیں با اختیار ہوں۔ صوبے مضبوط ہوں گے تو پاکستان مضبوط ہوگا۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ بلوچستان کو حقوق دینے کے لیے حقائق دیکھنا ہوں گے۔ بلوچستان کے مسائل آئینی، انتظامی اور معاشی ہیں گوارہ کا بڑا مسئلہ ہے روزگاری ہے۔ تمام گریجویٹس کو نوکریاں دی جائیں گی۔ اور بلوچستان کے لوگوں کے لئے سرکاری نوکری کے لئے عمر کی زیادہ سے زیادہ حد 35 سال مقرر کردی گئی ہے۔ وزیر اعظم کا کہنا تھا کہ آئینی کمیٹی کی سفارشات بھی جلد ایوان میں لائیں گے، تیسری بار وزیر اعظم بننے کی اجازت دیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دہشت گردی ملک کے لئے ناسور ہے اور تمام سیاسی قوتیں دہشت گردی کے خلاف یکجا ہوگئی ہیں۔ وفاقی وزیر خزانہ شوکت ترین نے اپنے خطاب میں کہا کہ این ایف سی ایوارڈ کے تحت ہر صوبہ فائدے میں رہا ہے سب سے بڑا مسئلہ وفاق اور صوبوں کے درمیان عدم اعتماد تھا لیکن حکومت نے کئی اہم اقدامات کیے جس سے صوبوں اور وفاق میں اعتماد پیدا ہوا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب شہباز شریف نے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ این ایف سی ایوارڈ کی بڑی کامیابی یہ ہے کہ چھوٹے صوبوں کی شکایات پر توجہ دی گئی بلوچستان سے جو زیادتیاں کی گئیں مل کر ان کا ازالہ کریں گے۔ نواب اکبر بگٹی کے قتل کے حساب تک بلوچستان سے انصاف نہیں ہوگا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب کا کہنا تھا کہ بھارت بلوچستان میں دخل اندازی کر رہا ہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ سرحد امیر حیدر ہوتی نے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم کی قیادت میں نئے سفر کا آغاز ہو رہا ہے۔ ہر صوبے کے پاس اب اتنے وسائل ہوں گے کہ وفاق کو زحمت دینے کی ضرورت نہیں پڑے گی۔ وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان نواب محمد اسلم رئیسانی نے اپنے خطاب میں کہا کہ بلوچستان کی ترقی کے لئے یہ ایوارڈ اچھا آغاز ہے۔ انہوں نے صوبوں کو مکمل خودمختاری دینے کی ضرورت پر بھی زور دیا۔

All Day

APP -- وفاقی کابینہ نے گوارہ پورٹ اتھارٹی کے قیام کے لیے بل منظوری دے دی

وفاقی کابینہ نے گوارہ پورٹ اتھارٹی کے قیام کے لیے بل منظوری دے دی گوارہ بحری جہاز سے (آن لائن) وفاقی کابینہ نے گوارہ پورٹ اتھارٹی کے قیام کی منظوری کے لیے بل کی مشترکہ طور پر منظوری دے دی ہے جبکہ سائنہ کراچی میں ہونے والے مالی نقصان کے ازالے کے لیے ایک ارب روپے فوری طور پر جاری کرنے کا اعلان کیا ہے کابینہ آغا حقوق بلوچستان پیکیج پر عملدرآمد پر اطمینان ظاہر کیا اور بلوچستان سے نکلنے والی گیس اور تیل کا دس سے بیس فیصد منافع متعلقہ اضلاع پر خرچ کرنے کی بھی منظوری دی کابینہ کا خصوصی اجلاس گوارہ بندرگاہ پر لنگر انداز بحری جہاز پی این ایس بابر پر وزیر اعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی کی صدارت میں ہوا جس میں چاروں صوبوں کے وزرائے اعلیٰ نے بھی خصوصی شرکت کی اجلاس میں سائنہ کراچی کے شہدائے لیے بھی دعا کی گئی۔ اجلاس کے بعد میڈیا کو بریفنگ دیتے ہوئے وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات قمر زمان کائرہ نے بتایا کہ وفاقی کابینہ نے دونکاتی ایجنڈے پر غور کیا ہے اور گوارہ پورٹ اتھارٹی کا بل منظور کر لیا گیا ہے اس کا پندرہ رکنی بورڈ ہوگا اور اس کا چیئر مین وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان سے بھی ہوگا اور ان کا تقرر بلوچستان حکومت کے کہنے پر کیا جائے گا۔ جبکہ آٹھ اراکین نجی شعبہ کے لیے جائینگے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اجلاس کو آغاز حقوق بلوچستان پیکیج پر عملدرآمد کے حوالے سے خصوصی بریفنگ دی گئی اور اس بات پر اطمینان ظاہر کیا گیا۔ پیکیج پر تیزی عمل جاری ہے بلوچستان کے گیس رائیلیٹی اور دیگر ن وکارکنوں کے خلاف مقدمات ختم و معاملات این ایف سی ایوارڈ میں حل کر دینے ہیں جبکہ 170 بلوچ رہنما کئے جا چکے ہیں۔ 42 لا پتہ افراد کی فہرست اب تک مکمل اعداد و شمار کے ساتھ مرتب کی جا چکی ہے۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ بلوچستان کے جس ضلع یا علاقے سے گیس و تیل دریافت ہو گا اس کے منافع کا 10 سے 20 فیصد صداسی علاقے کی ترقی پر خرچ ہو گا اور اسے ترجیح بنیادوں پر گیس دی جائے گی۔ سینڈک منصوبے کے تیس فیصد سے زائد حکومت بلوچستان کو ٹرانسفر کئے جا رہے ہیں اور دو سال میں چینی کمپنی کے ساتھ جلد معاہدہ ختم ہونے کے بعد یہ پراجیکٹ مکمل طور پر بلوچستان حکومت کے حوالے کر دیا جائے گا۔ ٹیڑھ بگٹی کے متاثرین کی بحالی کے لیے ایک ارب روپے جلد جاری کرنے کی بھی وزیر اعظم نے منظوری دی ہے اور اس حوالے سے سمری وریر اعظم کو بھجوا دی گئی ہے۔ بلوچستان میں جو سیلاب آیا تھا اس کے لیے مزید ایک ارب روپے جاری کئے جا رہے ہیں کراچی میں ہونے والے سائنہ میں جاں بحق اور زخمی افراد کو حکومتی پالیسی کے مطابق معاوضہ ادا کیا جائے گا جبکہ جو فنڈ مارکیٹس اور دوکانیں جل جانے والے متاثرین کی مدد کے لئے قائم کیا گیا ہے اس میں وزیر اعظم نے ایک ارب روپے فوری جاری کرنے کی منظوری دے دی ہے۔ ایک سوال پر انہوں نے بتایا کہ گوارہ کی آمدنی کے حوالے سے فیصلہ کرنے کے لئے کمیٹی قائم کردی گئی ہے جس میں وزیر اعظم جہاز رانی و بندرگاہیں اور وزیر قانون شامل ہوں گے اس کے علاوہ گوارہ ایکسپورٹ پریسیسنگ زون سے متعلق جو مختلف حلقوں کے تحفظات ہیں وہ بھی دور کئے جا رہے ہیں۔ ایم کیو ایم کے وفاتی وزراء بابر غوری اور فاروق ستار نے بتایا کہ سائنہ کراچی میں تاجروں کے نقصان کے لئے ابتدائی طور پر ایک ارب روپے جاری کیے جا رہے ہیں جبکہ تباہ ہونے والی مارکیٹوں کے علاقے کو آفت زدہ قرار دینے اور ان کے ٹیکس معاف کرنے کا مطالبہ بھی وزیر اعظم نے تسلیم کر لیا ہے اور اس کا جلد اعلان ہو جائے گا۔

The title "Gwadar's largest commercial scheme" Al-Noor cargo city holds this distinct. Al-Noor cargo city is also known as Gwadar's first strategic commercial scheme. Al-Noor cargo city is situated in the mid of Gwadar airport and Gwadar sea port. It has one-kilometer wide front on the 205ft wide main Baluchistan Broadway and 150ft wide Existing coastal highway.

Al-Noor Cargo City gives an eye-catching stance to both local and international investors due to its strategic location. In addition, just 1500 yards distance to Deep Sea East Bay gives another edge to Al-Noor Cargo City.



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GWADAR NEWSBOOK 2010

All Day

Prime Minister House? -- ISLAMABAD - Business Recorder

What about a Prime Minister House at Gwadar?

ZAFAR BHUTTA

ISLAMABAD (January 06 2010): The cash starved country is going to have another Prime Minister House at Gwadar Port as Balochistan government has allocated five acres of land to carry out the project, Business Recorder has learnt. Sources said that it was revealed to the federal cabinet that met on December 30, 2009 at Gwadar Port. "Chief Minister Balochistan has allocated five acres of land for Prime Minister House at Gwadar," the cabinet was told.

Sources said that cabinet was apprised that many steps had been taken for economic uplift of Balochistan province. It was noted that proposal for provision of gas to the gas producing districts had been agreed and 10 percent of the net profits would be spent on development projects in the producing areas. The projects would also be opened to third party audit to ensure transparency.

"Proposals for imparting technical training to local youth for employment in Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) and special economic zone were agreed and a PC-I was submitted to NAVTEC, the cabinet was apprised. It was also revealed that proposal for apportionment of Gwadar revenue for development of Balochistan was being processed by Ports and Shipping Division.

"Proposals for the construction of two jetties for fishermen and Fisheries Training Centre have been processed for which funds need to be released expeditiously," the cabinet noted. It was also briefed that proposal for Sui special development package had been submitted to the Planning Commission.

The Proposal for overseas employment against Balochistan quota had been taken up with Establishment and Labour & Manpower Divisions. The Federal Government has agreed that from its 50 percent shares in Saindak Project, 30 percent would be given to Balochistan and the project on completion would be owned by the province. "Proposals regarding special incentives for local tribes of Kohlu district to facilitate exploration in the area have been submitted and are under process with Ministries, of Interior and Petroleum and Natural Resources," the cabinet was informed.

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January 12, 2010

Tue

All Day

CAA to complete Gwadar airport -- PM House press release - APP

PM directs CAA to complete Gwadar airport in 3 years

ISLAMABAD, Jan 12 (APP): Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday directed the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to complete the new Gwadar International Airport within the stipulated period of three years.

The Prime Minister issued the directives during a meeting with the delegation of Balochistan cabinet led by Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raeesani, says a PM House press release issued here.

APP

January 13, 2010

Wed

All Day

Iran / Pakistan Natural Gas Deal -- Dawn newspaper

Pakistani Federal Minister for Petroleum Naveed Qamar has declared that Iran and Pakistan have finalized an agreement to build a natural gas pipeline. Qamar said the federal government is taking serious measures to combat the current energy crisis in the country. He noted that the two countries will sign an accord on the pipeline next week, Dawn newspaper reported on Wednesday.

All Day

**ECNEC likely to approve construction of new Gwadar Int'l Airport --
ISLAMABAD - Daily times**

ISLAMABAD: The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) in its meeting on January 21 is likely to approve construction of new Gwadar International Airport (GIA) and allied facilities with initial cost of Rs 7.5 billion including Rs 1.312 billion as Foreign Exchange Component (FEC).

The scheme envisages construction of state of the art GIA, along with allied facilities over a piece of land already acquired measuring 4300 acres. The airport would be developed as a green-field airport and all major components of an airport would be developed as part of this project. The sources claimed that the NGIA would be the business gateway to Pakistan through the city of Gwadar. The government has already allocated Rs 750 million in the PSDP 2009-10 for its construction. Official sources claimed that the government attached high priority to the development of Gwadar Airport. They said that the new airport would be six times larger than the existing airport in Gwadar, which would be completed in three years after its initiation.

Master plan for the project, for which a PC-1 of Rs 7.5 billion has already been approved with an allocation of Rs 750 million in the current Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), has been finalized and the survey completed. The passenger terminal for Gwadar International Airport is perceived to facilitate 350,000 per year passenger traffic. The Prime Minister at Gwadar was informed that Oman, which had already contributed \$ 17.5 million for the project, is ready to provide another \$ 100 million after beginning construction of the airport. The revised scheme envisages acquisition of around 4,300 acres of land for construction of GIA at Gurandani, 26 km east of Gwadar City.

The construction of New Gwadar International Airport forms an integral part of the overall objective of the transport sector in providing easy and efficient access to the southern region of Balochistan. The new airport would augment the airport facilities in Pakistan and as an advantage of its construction; a network of roads and other essential infrastructure would be developed.

Gwadar, which is strategically located has an enormous trade potential, which could not only help alleviate poverty and boost the socio-economic uplift of Balochistan but can contribute in the national economy through transit trade.

Daily times

January 22, 2010

Fri

All Day

Ecneec approves 28 development projects -- Daily Dawn

Ecneec approves 28 development projects

The Ecneec meeting, presided over by Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin, approved projects for construction of various roads, highways and bridges, a new Supreme Court building in Islamabad and construction of New Gwadar International Airport. - File photo

It approved construction of New Gwadar International Airport and allied facilities costing Rs7.67 billion, including Omani grant of \$17.50 million.
daily dawn

All Day

Govt to install 1,000 MW TV booster in Gawadar -- ISLAMABAD - APP

Govt to install 1,000 MW TV booster in Gawadar: Senate told

ISLAMABAD, Jan 22 (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Qamar Zaman Kaira Friday said the government has decided to install 1,000 Mega Watt TV booster in Gawadar for coverage in Muslim countries. Responding during the question hour session, he said this booster would help improve the Television service there, adding that it has also been considered to ask PTV, PBC and PTCL to use same installment for the network coverage.

January 25, 2010

Mon

All Day

Pakistan and Turkey agreed Monday to undertake a US \$ 20 billion project to upgrade a railway link -- ISTANBUL (Turkey) - Pakistan Times

ISTANBUL (Turkey): Pakistan and Turkey agreed Monday to undertake a US \$ 20 billion project to upgrade a railway link from Islamabad to Istanbul, basically to speedily transport cargo from Pakistan to Turkey and ultimately to Europe. This was decided in a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and his Turkish counterpart Abdullah Gul. The five-year rail project envisages to curtail travel time between Islamabad and Istanbul, via Tehran, from the current 11 days. A comprehensive presentation was given to the Pakistani and Turkish Presidents on the 6,566 kilometres Rail project from Islamabad to Istanbul, via Tehran, with 1,990 kilometres track situated in Pakistan, 2,570 kilometres in Iran and 2,006 kilometres in Turkey. This rail link will strengthen Pakistan's economic as well as people to people ties with not only brotherly Muslim countries but also onwards to Europe. Turkey Agree: On \$ 20Bln Islamabad-Istanbul Rail Link Upgrade Project By Tabinda al-Ghazala Pakistan Times Foreign Correspondent

February 7, 2010

Sun

All Day

Iran, Pakistan to ink gas deal in Turkey -- <http://www.presstv.ir>

Iran, Pakistan to ink gas deal in Turkey

Sun, 07 Feb 2010 11:25:46 GMT

The Pakistani Federal Minister for Petroleum has declared that Pakistan and Iran will sign a deal in Turkey before February 15 to construct a gas pipeline between the two countries.

Naveed Qamar said that the construction of the pipeline will take between four and five years.

He noted that the natural gas shortage is damaging Pakistan's economy and Islamabad is determined to start the import of natural gas from Iran as soon as possible, Daily Times reported.

MGH/MB

<http://www.presstv.ir>

February 8, 2010

Mon

All Day

Gilani lauds Chinese cooperation for developing Gwadar Port --

KARACHI - APP

Gilani lauds Chinese cooperation for developing Gwadar Port

KARACHI, Feb 8 (APP): Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani has lauded Chinese cooperation in the development of Gwadar Port. He was speaking as chief guest at the induction ceremony of PNS Shamsheer at the Naval Dockyard here on Monday. The keel of the vessel was laid in July 2008 in Hudong Shipyard of China. The Prime minister also admired the Chinese cooperation in the development of Gwadar Deep Sea Port which has significantly contributed towards strengthening the maritime infrastructure in Pakistan.

Prime Minister Gilani said the port has opened new avenues of growth and prosperity in Balochistan. The port would serve as a vital link in developing over-land trade route from Makran coast to the western region of China and the Central Asian republics, he added.

The Prime Minister said he was aware that the Pakistan Navy was also focusing on the development of coastal areas through its projects like development of Jinnah Naval Base and other support establishments.

He said the Navy's lead role in contributing towards maritime awareness among the people of Pakistan was another positive undertaking that would accrue long term benefits for the nation.

Gilani reiterated the government's commitments towards development of the maritime sector and emphasised upon the Navy not only to defend the sea frontiers but also ensure safe conduct of maritime activities during peace time.

APP

All Day

Daily Express -- گوادر پورٹ اتھارٹی طویل ایکسپرس وے تعمیر کرے گی

گوادر پورٹ اتھارٹی طویل ایکسپرس وے تعمیر کرے گی زمین مختص، منصوبے کا پی سی ون پلاننگ کمیشن کو منظوری کیلئے ارسال کر دیا گیا منصوبے پر 6.274 ارب روپے لاگت آئیگی، مقامی آبادی کو متبادل جگہ دی جائیگی، ڈی جی کراچی (بزنس رپورٹر) گوادر پورٹ اتھارٹی نے مقامی آبادی کی مشکلات کے پیش نظر بندرگاہ سے تجارتی سامان کو ترسیل کے لیے 19 کلومیٹر طویل ایکسپریس وے تعمیر کرنے کا منصوبہ تیار کر لیا ہے۔ منصوبے کا پی سی ون پلاننگ کمیشن کو منظوری کیلئے ارسال کر دیا گیا ہے۔ اور ایکسپریس وے کی تعمیر کیلئے زمین مختص کی جا چکی ہے۔ گوادر پورٹ اتھارٹی کے ڈائریکٹر جنرل عبدالرزاق درانی کے مطابق 19 کلومیٹر طویل ایکسپریس وے بندرگاہ سے مکران کوسٹل ہائی وے کو لنک کریگی جس سے کراچی جانے والے کارگو کو گوادر کی آبادی میں داخل ہونے بغیر کراچی روانہ کیا جا سکے گا۔ منصوبے پر 6.274 ارب روپے لاگت آئیگی، منصوبے کیلئے مقامی آبادی کو متبادل جگہ فراہم کی جائے گی۔ اس وقت گوادر پورٹ سے نکلنے والے ٹرالرز گوادر کی مقامی آبادی اور بازاروں سے گزر کر مکران کوسٹل ہائی وے پہنچتے ہیں جس سے مقامی آبادی کو ٹریفک کے شور اور دیگر مسائل کا سامنا ہے۔ اس حوالے سے گوادر کے مرکزی بازار کے دکانداروں نے ایکسپریس کو بتایا کہ گوادر پورٹ تعمیر ہونے کے بعد کاروبار میں نمایاں اضافہ ہو ا ہے، تاہم رہائشی علاقوں اور بازار کی تنگ گلیوں سے گزرنے والا بیوی ٹریفک جان و مال کے علاوہ انفراسٹرکچر کے لیے بھی خطرہ بن رہا ہے۔

February 15, 2010

Mon

All Day

IFAD to extend \$25m for fisheries in Balochistan -- Daily Times

IFAD to extend \$25m for fisheries in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to provide financial assistance of \$25 million for development of fisheries, livestock and agriculture sectors in coastal districts of Gwadar and Lasbela in Balochistan.

According to official sources the commitment was formally made public by the IFAD team during a meeting with senior officials of the Balochistan Government in Islamabad. Under the programme the IFAD would provide financial assistance to help develop the rural infrastructure mostly in fisheries sector vis-à-vis agriculture and livestock sectors. staff report

[/www.dailytimes.com.pk](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk)

All Day

Zahedan, Quetta sign trade MOU -- THE MEHR NEWS AGENCY
Zahedan, Quetta sign trade MOU

ZAHEDAN, Feb. 19 (MNA) – The first joint border trade committee between Iran and Pakistan signed an MOU by the provincial directors of the commerce organizations of Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan and Pakistan's Quetta customs offices. The Mehr News Agency quoted the director of the commerce organization of Sistan-Baluchestan Province as saying that in the two-day conference between the two sides the public and private sectors discussed various subjects including railway transportation, transit of goods, trade and customs.

Iraj Hasanpour said that according to the MOU both countries will send trade and investment delegations to one another and hold permanent joint specialized exhibitions.

Other agreements included building large warehouses for goods in the customs offices of the two countries and increasing railway transportation, he said.

The Iranian official said quarantine quarters for the Pakistani side across from the Iranian side will be built and a waterway will be established between Chahbahar Port in Iran and Gwadar Port in Pakistan.

The Pakistanis also agreed to facilitate the transit of Iranian goods through Pakistan to India, he noted

All Day

Daily Intekhab -- گوادر بندر گاہ پر 14 لاکھ ٹن کھاد پہنچ چکی ہے۔ میر ہزار خان بجرانی

گوادر بندر گاہ پر 14 لاکھ ٹن کھاد پہنچ چکی ہے۔ میر ہزار خان بجرانی اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) وفاقی وزیر صنعت و پیداوار میر ہزار خان بجرانی نے کہا ہے کہ 31 دسمبر 2009 تک گوادر بندر گاہ پر 14 لاکھ ٹن کھاد پہنچ چکی ہے۔ جس کی فوری نقل و حمل کی ضرورت ہے۔ حکومت بلوچستان کی ٹرانسپورٹ کو ترجیح دے رہی ہے اور فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے کہ آئندہ نقل و حمل کے لیے 25 فیصد حصہ بلوچستان کی ٹرانسپورٹ کو دیا جائیگا۔ منگل کے روز سینیٹ کے اجلاس میں مختلف اراکین کی جانب سے اٹھائے گئے سوالوں کے جواب میں وفاقی وزیر صنعت و پیداوار میر ہزار خان بجرانی نے کہا کہ جنوری 2008 سے 31 دسمبر 2009 تک گوادر کی بندر گاہ پر 14 لاکھ میٹرک ٹن سے زائد یوریا کھاد پہنچ چکی ہے۔

All Day

Zardari launches Quetta projects -- APP

Zardari launches Quetta projects, 25 Feb 2010

The president also inaugurated 50 kilometre-long Kanozai-Muslim Bagh Section N50, which has been completed at a cost of Rs1169.407 million. He also inaugurated the 50 kilometre-long Muslim Bagh-Qila Saifullah Road Project N50, completed with an amount of Rs1667.191 million. He also inaugurated 132KV Gwadar industrial grid station, which is located at a distance of about 40 kilometres from Gwadar towards Pasni on the Coastal Highway.

All Day

چینرمین سینٹ کی گواڈر بندرگاہ کے ترقیاتی منصوبوں، اس کے فنکشنل ہونے کے حوالے سے تفصیلی رپورٹ ایوان میں پیش کرنے کی ہدایت

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اسلام آباد - 25 فروری (اے پی پی) چینرمین سینٹ فاروق ایچ نائیک نے بندرگاہوں اور جہاز رانی کی قائمہ کمیٹی کی چنرپرسن کو ہدایت کی کہ وہ گواڈر کی بندرگاہ کے ترقیاتی منصوبوں اور اس کے فنکشنل ہونے کے حوالے سے تفصیلی رپورٹ بندرگاہ کے دورے کے بعد ایوان میں پیش کریں۔ جمعرات کو ایوان بالا میں کمیٹی کی چنرپرسن گلشن سعید نے کہا کہ گواڈر کی بندرگاہ کے ترقیاتی منصوبے جلد مکمل کئے جائیں، یہ بندرگاہ اسی وقت پوری طرح فنکشنل ہو سکتی ہے جب اس کی رابطہ سڑکیں تعمیر کی جائیں۔

All Day

Daily Intekhab -- حمل کلمتی کی صدر سے ملاقات گواد کے مسائل پر گفتگو

حمل کلمتی کی صدر سے ملاقات گواد کے مسائل پر گفتگو
صوبائی وزیر ماہی گیری کی کوئٹہ میں صدر مملکت سے ملاقات، مرکزی حکومت کی جانب سے اقدامات کو ناگزیر قرار دے دیا
گواد کی ترقی کے عزم پر قائم ہیں بنادی سہلیات کی فراہمی یقینی بنائیں گے، صدر کی یقین دہانی

All Day

Daily -- گواد پر پورٹ مکمل طور پر فعال ہے بند ہونے کا تاثر دردست نہیں، نیبل گبول**Intekhab**

گواد پر پورٹ مکمل طور پر فعال ہے بند ہونے کا تاثر دردست نہیں، نیبل گبول
فیصد تعمیراتی کام مکمل ہو چکا ہے، ڈیپ سی واٹر چینل کو گہرا کرنے کیلئے دو کروڑ روپے خرچ کئے 99
جا چکے ہیں۔

All Day

وفاقی حکومت معیشت کے استحکام کیلئے 2 سے 3 سال کے دوران جامع پالیسیوں پر**APP -- عملدرآمد یقینی بنائے گی۔**

وفاقی حکومت معیشت کے استحکام کیلئے 2 سے 3 سال کے دوران جامع پالیسیوں پر عملدرآمد یقینی بنائے گی۔
کوریڈور کے ساتھ ریفارٹریز بھی بنائی جائیں گی۔
ترقی کے یکساں مواقع اور بینکنگ پالیسی کی تیاری، بینکوں کو منافع کے حساب سے سرمایہ کاری اور
قرضوں کی فراہمی کا پابند کیا جائیگا، ذرائع وزارت خزانہ
اسلام آباد (ارشاد انصاری - خصوصی رپورٹر) وفاقی حکومت نے چین اور وسط ایشیائی ممالک تک براہ راست
رسائی کیلئے گواد کو ریڈور تعمیر کرنے کا اصولی فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ اس ضمن میں وزارت خزانہ کے ذرائع نے
بتایا کہ صوبہ بلوچستان میں معدنیات، تانبہ (کاپر) سمیت دیگر ذخائر کی تلاش کے لیے بھی جامع منصوبہ تیار کیا
جا رہا ہے۔ ذرائع نے بتایا کہ گواد کو ریڈور کی ڈویلپمنٹ کے ساتھ ساتھ ریفارٹریز بھی قائم کی جائیں گی۔
ذرائع نے بتایا کہ تمام علاقوں میں ترقی کے یکساں مواقع کیلئے بھی جامع پالیسی تیار کی جا رہی ہے جبکہ
بینکوں کے لیے بھی ایک پالیسی تیار کی جا رہی ہے جس میں بینکوں کے لیے قواعد و ضوابط تیار کیے جائیں
گے جس کے تحت بینک جس علاقے سے زیادہ منافع کما رہے ہونگے اس علاقے میں ہی زیادہ اخراجات کریں
گے اور اس علاقے میں ہی زیادہ قرضے جاری کریں گے تاکہ ان علاقوں میں ترقی ہو سکے، ذرائع نے بتایا کہ
حومت کے علم میں یہ بات آئی ہے کہ بنگ جس علاقے سے زیادہ منافع کماتے ہیں وہاں کم خرچ کرنے ہیں جس
کی وجہ سے غیر مساوی ترقی ہو رہی ہے تاہم اب حکومت نے آئندہ 2 سے 3 سال کے دوران ملکی معیشت کو
مستحکم بنانے کیلئے ٹھوس اور جامع پالیسیوں پر عملدرآمد کو یقینی بنانے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔

All Day

Daily Intekhab -- ریٹسانی کی غیر ملکی کمپنی کو پسنی میں سرمایہ کاری کی پیش کش

ریٹسانی کی غیر ملکی کمپنی کو پسنی میں سرمایہ کاری کی پیش کش
ترکش کینٹین کمپنی ٹیل و گیس کی تلاش کیلئے معلومات حاصل کرے
غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کا تحفظ حکومت کی ذمہ داری ہے، وفد سے ملاقات۔

All Day

Daily -- گواڈر پورٹ کو سود مند بنانے کیلئے جدو جہد کرینگے، نواب ریٹسانی

Intekhab

گواڈر پورٹ کو سود مند بنانے کیلئے جدو جہد کرینگے، نواب ریٹسانی
پورٹ کے فعال ہونے و ٹیکس فری زون قرار دینے سے علاقے میں روزگار کے مواقع پیدا ہونگے، وفد سے
بات چیت
صوبائی حکومت لوگوں کو مواصلات کی سہولتوں کی فراہمی کو اولیں ترجیح دے رہی ہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ سے
اسرار زہری کی ملاقات۔

All Day

APP -- سارک ممالک نو یورپ رسائی کے لینے ربداری مانگی ہے، وزیر ریلوے

سارک ممالک نو یورپ رسائی کے لینے ربداری مانگی ہے، وزیر ریلوے گیلانی کی طرح سابق وزرائے اعظم بھی دور اندیش ہوتے تو ملک میں مارشل لائن لگنے سرحد کے نام کی تبدیلی پر ن لیگ سے کچھ دو اور کچھ لو کی بنیاد پر بات ہو گی۔ خطاب ، گفتگو لاہور (خبر نگار خصوصی، خبر ایجنسیاں) وفاقی وزیر ریلوے غلام احمد بلور نے کہا ہے کہ سرحد کے نام کی تبدیلی پر ن لیگ سے کچھ دو اور کچھ لو کی بنیاد پر بات ہو گی۔ پختونخواہ کا نام پاکستان کے نقشے پر لکھوانا چاہتا ہوں اور یہ غداری نہیں، وزیر اعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی جس طرح اتحادی جماعتوں اور اپوزیشن کو ساتھ لے کر چل رہے ہیں اگر سابق وزرائے اعظم نے بھی اسی دور اندیشی کا ثبوت دیا ہوتا تو ملک میں کبھی بھی مارشل لائن نافذ نہ ہوتے۔ بھارت سمیت تمام سارک ممالک نے یورپ تک رسائی کیلئے پاکستان سے ربداری مانگی ہے جبکہ افغان ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ معاہدے کے حوالے سے پاک افغان مذاکرات جاری ہیں۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے گزشتہ روز لاہور میں سیمینار سے خطاب اور اخبار نویسوں سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ وزیر ریلوے نے کہا کہ چین سے نئے لوگو موٹو اور 500 کوچز خریدنے کے معاہدے کو حتمی شکل دیدی گئی ہے۔ ریلوے کو 200 ارب روپے کی ضرورت ہے۔ بھارت میں فریٹ سروس منافع بخش ہونے واپسے پا کی وجہ یہ ہے کہ وہاں کوئی این ایل سے نہیں کر رہا، چین سے اسلام آباد تک ریلوے ٹریک بچھانے کی پیشکش کی ہے اور سلسلہ میں پی سی ون کی رپورٹ بھی تیار کی جا چکی ہے۔ بھارت میں 20 جماعتوں کا اتحاد ملکر حکومت چلا سکتا ہے تو پاکستان کی موجودہ مخلوط حکومت بھی اپنے 5 سال پورے کرے گی۔ این این ائی کے مطابق انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی خارجہ پالیسی اپنی ہے اور نہ ہی ہم شاید فیصلوں میں خود مختیار ہیں۔

All Day

-- ترقیاتی منصوبوں کی تکمیل کے لیے مربوط کوششیں کی جائیں، وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان**Daily Intekhab**

ترقیاتی منصوبوں کی تکمیل کے لیے مربوط کوششیں کی جائیں، وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان کوئٹہ ... وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان نواب اسلم خان رینسانی نے اس بات کی ضرورت پر زور دیا ہے کہ صوبے میں جاری ترقیاتی منصوبوں کی جلد تکمیل کیلئے مربوط کوششیں کی جائیں تاکہ ان سرگرمیوں کے فوائد بغیر کسی تاخیر کے ملک اور صوبے کے عوام کو پہنچیں۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے وفاقی وزیر صنعت میں س میں ملاقات کے دوران بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے کہا کہ وزیر خان بجرانی سے بلوچستان ہا مختلف شعبوں میں حال اور مستقبل کی ملکی ضرورتوں کو پورا کرنے کے حوالے سے صوبے میں کافی امکانات موجود ہیں، انہوں نے کہا کہ مناسب منصوبہ بندی اور مربوط کوششوں سے صوبے میں موجود شمندری خوراک اور وسیع معدنی وسائل سے بھرپور فائدہ اٹھایا جا سکتا ہے اور صوبے میں اس حوالے سے صنعتوں کا قیام عمل میں لایا جا سکتا ہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے کہا کہ ہمسایہ خلیجی ممالک نے صوبے میں خصوصاً گواڈر اور ساحلی علاقوں میں سرمایہ کاری میں گہری دلچسپی ظاہر کی ہے۔ اور بلوچستان کی حکومت ان دلچسپی رکھنے والے سرمایہ کاروں کو خوش آمدید کہے گی۔ نواب رینسانی نے کہا کہ گواڈر پورٹ کے جغرافیائی محل وقوع کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے وفاقی حکومت کو چاہیے کہ وفاقی حکومت نے گواڈر کو نئی صنعتی پالیسی کا حصہ بنایا ہے، جس کے تحت اسے گواڈر خضدار نیشنل ہائی وے کے ذریعے ملک کے دیگر حصوں کے ساتھ ملایا جائے گا۔ اور اس منصوبے کی تکمیل سے بین الصوبائی اور علاقائی تجارتی سرگرمیوں کو بڑھاوا ملے گا۔

All Day

Automated port ops can change destiny of country: PCA -- ISLAMABAD - APP

Automated port ops can change destiny of country: PCA

ISLAMABAD (March 03 2010): President Pakistan Computers Association (PCA) Munawar Iqbal on Tuesday said deep sea port in Gwadar has the potential to become the main trade hub for this area. This brilliantly planned project having radically distinctive economic and strategic importance can change the destiny of Pakistan, says a news release issued here on Tuesday. Speaking at a meeting of PCA, Munawar Iqbal said that Gwadar is located only 180 nautical miles from the Strait of Hormuz through which 40 per cent of world's oil passes. "The port thus emerge as the key shipping hub in the area providing mass trade to Central Asian Republics as well as across Pakistan and China," he said. He further said that large ports with huge cargo handling capacities can attract business community if efficient, modern and transparent customs services were also made available. "The efficiency, transparency and speed that has become available to Customs today through the Automated Customs system of PaCCS, was the only logically solution for Gwadar," said Munawar Iqbal. Munawar Iqbal said that the multi-billion- rupee projects of Gwadar port and Rs 7.5 billion Gwadar Airport should be connected to the rest of the country through world class network and roads. "These facilities should be fully automated so that importers as well as exporters can carry out business activities successfully and with peace of mind. He said that capacity of 4,300-acre Gwadar airport should be increased to handle 1.5 million passengers and 70,000 tons of cargo a year. Business community hope that political leadership will use their acumen to pacify negative feelings among some locals to get maximum advantage of the project, said Iqbal.

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All Day

Five-year plan (2010-15): Rs 257.85 billion spending envisaged for ports up-gradation -- ISLAMABAD - Business Recorder

Five-year plan (2010-15): Rs 257.85 billion spending envisaged for ports up-gradation

TAHIR AMIN

ISLAMABAD (March 03 2010): The next five-year plan envisages spending of about Rs 257.85 billion for upgradation of main ports including Karachi Port, Port Qasim and Gwadar Port, Business Recorder has reliably learnt. Informed sources said that according to the next five year plan, (2010-15) prepared by the Planning Commission in collaboration with concerned ministries and departments encompasses up gradation of three ports to be placed before the Cabinet for consideration.

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All Day

Oman to provide \$45m for Gwadar airport -- ISLAMABAD - APP

Oman to provide \$45m for Gwadar airport

By Sajid Chaudhry

ISLAMABAD: Pak-Oman Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) has decided that Oman would provide \$45 million grant for construction of Gwadar International Airport and other development projects.

This has been agreed in the 6th session of Pak-Oman JMC which concluded here on Tuesday. It has also been decided that Oman Oil Company will make investment of \$19.4 million in Pakistan's energy sector.

The Pakistani delegation was headed by Hina Rabbani Khar, minister of state for finance and economic affairs, whereas Oman's delegation was led by Mohammed Bin Nasser Al Khasibi, secretary general for Ministry for National Economy, Oman.

Addressing a joint media briefing, Khar said both sides had agreed to enhance collaboration between the trade bodies of Pakistan and Oman for promoting trade and investment. She said a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishment of Joint Business Council between Pakistan and Oman would be signed shortly.

“Working Groups of experts from both countries in the fields of commerce, agriculture, livestock and fisheries have been established to further enhance cooperation in these sectors,” she said adding that Oman will hire its additional requirement of manpower from Pakistan, on priority basis. State Minister said that Ministry of Labour and Manpower and the Omani Authority would sign an MoU soon to materialize the proposal.

She further added that Oman had sought assistance from Pakistan Railways for construction of Railways in Oman. “Pakistan will provide assistance in planning, designing, consultancy services, construction and operation of railways, etc,” she maintained.

Pakistani side requested support from Oman side for early finalization of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC). The Omani side pledged to support Pakistan to ink FTA with GCC.

All Day

Pak, Oman trade hike thru Gwadar (3 March 2010) -- Islamabad - APP

Pak, Oman trade hike thru Gwadar (3 March 2010)

Sharafat Kazmi

Islamabad—Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani Tuesday urged the need for developing sea-transportation between Pakistan and Oman to enhance trade through the Gwadar port. Talking to a three-member delegation from Oman led by Mohammed Nasser Al-Khasibi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Economy, Gilani said there were tremendous opportunities of enhancing trade between Pakistan and Oman through maritime transportation and it would also promote tourism and cultural links.

The Prime Minister congratulated Sultan Qaboos and people of Oman on his 40th anniversary. He also accepted the invitation to visit Oman for which dates would be finalized through diplomatic consultations.

He conveyed his special regards to Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Al-Said and acknowledged with thanks the gift of six ambulances for the IDPs besides humanitarian assistance of US \$ 10 million.

The success of Pakistan-Oman Joint Investment Company, he added, has encouraged Omani business community for additional investment in Pakistan.

The Omani Secretary General of Ministry of Economy apprised the Prime Minister of special assistance of US \$ 10 million for the IDPs, as well as six ambulances. He also reiterated the invitation of the Sultan Qaboos bin Said al Said to the Prime Minister to visit Oman.

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister of State for Finance and Economic Affairs and the Omani Ambassador in Pakistan, Mohammed Said Al-Lawati were also present on the occasion.

March 4, 2010

Thu

All Day

The government accords high priority to the socio-economic development of Balochistan -- ISLAMABAD - APP

ISLAMABAD: The government accords high priority to the socio-economic development of Balochistan to take it to a new era of peace, progress and prosperity, Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said on Tuesday.

He was talking to Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani at the Prime Minister House. He said the fast track development would bring the resource rich province at par with other developed regions of the country.

Gilani has urged the need for developing sea transportation between Pakistan and Oman to enhance trade through the Gwadar port.

Talking to a three-member delegation from Oman led by Secretary General of the Ministry of Economy Mohammed Nasser Al-Khasibi, Gilani said there were tremendous opportunities of enhancing trade between Pakistan and Oman through maritime transportation and it would also promote tourism and cultural links.

All Day

Gwadar is ready for its close-up -- Fairplay International Shipping Weekly, China

www.wanfangdata.com

Gwadar is ready for its close-up

Pakistan's Gwadar Port is shaping up as one of the glowing stars in the constellation of Singapore's PSA International. Lying 70km east of Pakistan's border with Iran, it is the only free port between Dubai and Colombo. It opened this spring with an annual capacity of 300M tonnes, up from 50M tonnes the year before \$280M in Chinese financial and technical aid helped to expand it.
Fairplay International Shipping Weekly, China

All Day

-- گواڈر میں ٹیکنیکل ٹریننگ سینٹر کا افتتاح کیا جا رہا ہے، آیت اللہ درانی Intekhab

گواڈر میں ٹیکنیکل ٹریننگ سینٹر کا افتتاح کیا جا رہا ہے، آیت اللہ درانی

انڈسٹریل اسٹریٹ میں 20 ملین گیلن گنجائش کے دی سیلینیشن پلانٹ کا 80 فیصد کام مکمل ہو چکا ہے

March 6, 2010

Sat

All Day

India, Pak agree to complete IPI gas pipeline 2012 -- ANI

India, Pak agree to complete IPI gas pipeline 2012

Pakistan and India on Friday agreed in principle on matters relating to Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) pipeline project, including formation of structure committee, transit fee and tariff.

Pakistan will contribute three billion dollars for the project to be completed at a total cost of 7.5 billion dollars.

The IPI gas pipeline coming from Iran will pass through Gwadar and Nawabshah to India.

A total of 2.60 billion cubic feet gas will be supplied per day from this pipeline.

Pakistan and India will get half of the total supply from the project that will be completed by 2012. (ANI)

March 7, 2010

Sun

All Day

Italy to explore investments in Pakistan -- Islamabad-APP

Italy to explore investments in Pakistan

Islamabad—Giuseppe Vegas, Vice Minister for Economy and Finance, Italy led by a six-member Italian delegation called on Saleem H. Mandviwalla, Minister of State/Chairman, Board of Investment here on Saturday and discussed ways and means to explore the business opportunities in Pakistan with the help of Board of Investment and market them to Italian investors. According to a statement issued by the BOI here, Vincenzo Prati, Ambassador of Italy in Islamabad also attended the meeting.

Vice Minister informed that Italian entrepreneurs are also interested in projects of Railways and Construction. He also emphasized to carry out joint research in fisheries sectors of coastal areas of Pakistan. Pakistani private sector emphasized on the export of Shrimps to Italy and Government of Balochistan informed that the water of Gawadar area is clean and environment friendly.

March 8, 2010

Mon

All Day

**WHO ALSO PLANS TO ESTABLISH THE MEDICINE
WAREHOUSE AT GWADAR -- ISLAMABAD - APP**
WHO ALSO PLANS TO ESTABLISH THE MEDICINE WAREHOUSE AT GWADAR

ISLAMABAD, Mar 8 (APP): Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Monday said health and education were the priority areas on which the government was completely focused. "Our National Health Policy", he said, "has been prepared in accordance with the actual needs of the common man ensuring both quality and quantity." The Prime Minister was talking to Dr. Hussein A. Gezairy, Regional Director of WHO, who is currently in Pakistan to see the progress of WHO programmes. The meeting was held here at the Prime Minister House on Monday. WHO also plans to establish the Medicine Warehouse at Gwadar to keep stock of needs not only for Pakistan but the region including Gulf countries.

Similarly the Medicine Warehouse would be able to store medicines and basic health equipment like syringes for supply in any area where there is shortage. Minister for Health Makhdoom Shahbuddin and Secretary Health were also present in the meeting.

Dr. Hussein A. Gezairy apprised the Prime Minister of the WHO initiative to establish the National Health Emergency Preparedness Centre in Pakistan which would also serve the region.

The National Health Emergency Preparedness Centre would provide training, medicines, equipment and mobilization of resources to meet any emergency if it occurs at large scale.

March 10, 2010

Wed

All Day

Gwadar Immigration Office opens -- QUETTA - APP

Gwadar Immigration Office opens

QUETTA - Federal Interior Minister Rehman Malik has said no activity against the integrity of the country would be tolerated. He expressed these views on Saturday in Gwadar after inauguration of Immigration Office there.

Responding to a question, he said Aghaz-e-Haqooq Balochistan Package was the start of steps initiated by the government for the solution of Balochistan's problems and all nationalist leaders would be taken into confidence in this regard.

He reiterated that the federal government would utilize all its resources for the progress and prosperity of Balochistan.

In addition, Malik also announced to build a housing society in Gwadar for the federal government employees. The approval in this regard would be given by the Prime Minister, he added. He also visited Gwadar Port.

All Day

PM Directed to complete the Gwadar-Ratodero Road and Gwadar airport early -- ISLAMABAD - APP

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani urges timely completion of Gwadar-Ratodero Road and Gwadar Airport

ISLAMABAD: The government gives top priority to the economic development of the backward areas, Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani said on Tuesday.

He stressed on the need for acceleration of development projects and directed officials to complete the Gwadar-Ratodero Road and Gwadar airport early, so that the people of Balochistan could be economically empowered. The prime minister said these mega projects would help bring the people of different regions closer to each other and strengthen the federation.

It was observed in the meeting that capacity of the provincial governments for timely utilisation of allocated funds needs to be improved so that inter-provinces harmony could be strengthened. The meeting decided that the provinces needed to use the capital generated by them to accelerate the process of economic prosperity and help them attract local and foreign investment.

Ahmed. app

All Day

CDWP approves 74 projects worth Rs 510.2 bln -- ISLAMABAD - APP

CDWP approves 74 projects worth Rs 510.2 bln

ISLAMABAD, Mar 18 (APP): The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) Thursday approved 74 projects costing Rs 510.2 billion, with a foreign aid component of Rs. 125.1 billion. The CDWP meeting, chaired by Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Sardar Assef Ahmad Ali, approved 36 projects costing Rs.326.0 billion of infrastructure sector, 26 projects costing Rs.158.0 billion of social sector and 12 projects costing Rs. 26.3 billion related to agriculture and industry sector.

With implementation of six power sector projects costing Rs 87 billion, shortage of power in the country would be controlled by efficient distribution and enhancement system of electricity by DESCOS.

Sixteen projects of transport and communication sector with a total cost of Rs 56.6 billion including mainly projects of Gwadar Deep Sea Water Port, Extension of M-4, Rehabilitation of Rasheed Wagon-Nasirabad Roads, Karachi Transport Improvement Projects, Kolpur Bypass and Bridge Across River Swan linking Attock and Chakwal were approved.

Similarly, REKO DIQ Gold and Copper project costing 8.7 billion was also approved. It will produce 38,000 tons of copper, 15,000 ounces of gold per year. Upon completion, income from the project will be about Rs 15.0 billion per year.

The CDWP also conceptually cleared projects of establishment of facilities for coal cleaning, coal gasification and coal combustion project to improve Financial Reporting and Auditing (PIFRA-II) (Phase-II).

Of the 74 projects, 63 projects costing Rs 365 billion will be financed by the federal government through federal PSDP while 11 projects costing Rs 145 billion will be financed by the provinces through respective provincial ADP.

All Day

-- پاک ایران کوسٹل ہائی وے کی تکمیل سے تجارت میں اضافہ ہو گا۔ عبدالغفور کلمتی

Daily Intekhab

پاک ایران کوسٹل ہائی وے کی تکمیل سے تجارت میں اضافہ ہو گا۔ عبدالغفور کلمتی
شاہراہین کسی بھی علاقے کی ترقی میں اہم کردار ادا کرتی ہیں۔ ضلع ناظم گوادر

All Day

Daily Intekhab -- گوادر پورٹ انتہائی اہمیت کی حامل ہے، وزیراعظم

گوادر پورٹ انتہائی اہمیت کی حامل ہے، وزیراعظم
پورٹ فنکشنل کرنے کے عزم پر قائم ہیں ، مکران کو 100 میگا واٹ بجلی دی جائے گی۔
گوادر کیلئے اعلان کئے گئے منصوبے ضرور مکمل کئے جائیں گے۔ وفد سے ملاقات

All Day

Daily Intekhab -- بلوچی میں مرتب کردہ مائیکروسوفٹ کی نمائش آج ہو گی

بلوچی میں مرتب کردہ مائیکروسوفٹ کی نمائش آج ہو گی
گواڈر (بیورو رپورٹ) بلوچی میں مرتب کردہ مائیکروسوفٹ آفس کی آج نمائش کی جائے گی، ایجوکیشنل اکیڈمی
آف ٹیکنالوجی گواڈر کی جانب سے تیار کردہ ٹریننگ مائیکروسوفٹ آفس ان بلوچی کو آج بعد از نماز عصر
گورنمنٹ ہائی اسکول گواڈر کے امتحانی ہال میں ایک تقریب کے دوران نمائش میں پیش کیا جائے گا۔

All Day

Daily Intekhab -- متحدہ عرب امارات کا گواڈر میں سرمایہ کاری کا فیصلہ

متحدہ عرب امارات کا گواڈر میں سرمایہ کاری کا فیصلہ
وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان کی خصوصی دعوت پر حکمران شہزادہ اور سرمایہ کاروں کا وفد آج گواڈر پہنچے گا۔
حکومت بلوچستان سے 156 ایکڑ اراضی حاصل کی جائے گی۔

All Day

Daily -- ابو ظہبی کے ولی عہد کی گوادر آمد سرمایہ کاری کیلئے مجوزہ اراضی کا معائنہ

Intekhab

ابوظہبی کے ولی عہد کی گوادر آمد سرمایہ کاری کیلئے مجوزہ اراضی کا معائنہ
ڈاکٹر سلطان بن شیخ خلیفہ انبیہان کا دورہ گوادر پورٹ، شہر کے ترقیاتی منصوبوں پر بریفنگ دی گئی
متحدہ عرب امارات کے وفد نے گوادر میں سیاحت کے شعبے میں سرمایہ کاری کرنے میں دلچسپی کا اظہار
کیا۔

All Day

پاکستان کے اہم شعبوں میں دیر پا ترقی کا طریقہ کار بنا رہے ہیں ہلیری۔ سول جوہر تعاون پر Daily Jang -- امریکہ سے مذاکرات مطمئن ہیں۔ شاہ محمود

پاکستان کے اہم شعبوں میں دیر پا ترقی کا طریقہ کار بنا رہے ہیں ہلیری۔ سول جوہر تعاون پر امریکہ سے مذاکرات مطمئن ہیں۔ شاہ محمود
پاکستان اور امریکہ میں ڈائیلگ کا دوسرا دور اسلام آباد میں ہو گا، دو طرفہ اسٹریٹجک تعلقات کا نیا مستقبل تشکیل دینے کیلئے ہر طرح کی سرمایہ ضروری ہے، امریکی وزیر خارجہ کا استقبالیے سے خطاب۔
دہشت گردی کے خلاف لڑائی میں شکست کا کوئی آپشن نہیں، جیت کے لیے قوم متحد ہے، شاہ محمود قریبی،
پاک امریکا اسٹریٹجک ڈائیلگ کا مشترکہ اعلامیہ جاری، پالیسی سٹیرنگ گروپ تشکیل

All Day

جنرل کیانی کی گیٹس اور مولن سے ملاقاتیں۔ ڈرون ٹیکنالوجی کی فراہمی سمیت تمام وعدے Daily Jang -- پورے کرینگے امریکہ

جنرل کیانی کی گیٹس اور مولن سے ملاقاتیں۔ ڈرون ٹیکنالوجی کی فراہمی سمیت تمام وعدے پورے کرینگے امریکہ
آرمی چیف اور امریکی حکام کی ملاقات میں دفاعی امور پر تبادلہ خیال، شاہ محمود قریبی کی رچرڈ ہالبروک سے ملاقات، ہم چاہتے ہیں ڈائیلگ بامعنی ہوں، پاکستانی وزیر خارجہ
پاکستان نے پانی اور توانائی کے شعبوں کے علاوہ سویلین جوہری پروگرام میں تعاون طلب کیا ہے، گن شپ ہیلی کاپٹر، جاسوس طیارے اور فوجی ساز و سامان بھی مانگ لیا

March 27, 2010

Sat

All Day

-- گواہر تک ریلوے لائن بچھانے کے ابتدائی منصوبے پر کام جاری ہے۔ وزیر مملکت ریلوے

Intekhab

گواہر تک ریلوے لائن بچھانے کے ابتدائی منصوبے پر کام جاری ہے۔ وزیر مملکت ریلوے

گواہر کو کوئٹہ، تفتان سیککشن پر واقع مستونگ ریلوے اسٹیشن پر مین نیٹ ورک کے ساتھ ملانے کی تجویز ہے۔

March 28, 2010

Sun

All Day

Daily Intekhab -- نیٹو کو لاجسٹک سپلائی کیلئے 3 رکنی ٹیم گواہر پہنچ گئی
نیٹو کو لاجسٹک سپلائی کیلئے 3 رکنی ٹیم گواہر پہنچ گئی
گواہر پورٹ کا دورہ کر کے پی ایس اے حکام سے ملاقات کر کے معلومات حاصل کیں

All Day

امریکہ پاکستان کو دفاعی سامان اور 3 تھرمل پلانٹس دیگا۔ فوجی اخراجات دو اقساط میں ادا

Daily Jang -- کرنے کی یقین دہانی

امریکہ پاکستان کو دفاعی سامان اور 3 تھرمل پلانٹس دیگا۔ فوجی اخراجات دو اقساط میں ادا کرنے کی یقین دہانی توانائی کے شعبے میں ساڑھے 12 کروڑ ڈالر کی امداد فراہم کریں گے۔ پاکستانی مصنوعات کو امریکی منڈیوں تک رسائی اور ایئر لائنز کو امریکا کے 5 شہروں میں آپریشن کی اجازت ہو گی۔ ہیلری کلنٹن مذاکرات میں فوجی ساز و سامان جلد فراہم کیے جانے پر اتفاق ہوا، دونوں ممالک کے مابین دو مو اور شک و شبہات کا دور ختم ہو گیا۔ شاہ محمود، پاک امریکا اسٹریجک ڈائیلاگ کا پہلا دور مکمل

All Day

امریکی سول نیوکلینر ٹیکنالوجی پاکستان کو دئیے جانے کا آپشن موجود ہے۔ امریکی سفیر

Daily Jang --

امریکی سول نیوکلینر ٹیکنالوجی پاکستان کو دئیے جانے کا آپشن موجود ہے۔ امریکی سفیر ماہ میں نیو کلینر ٹیکنالوجی، معیشت، دفاع و سکیورٹی سمیت تمام اہم شعبوں میں تعاون کا بلیو پرنٹ تیار کر لیا گیا

اسلام آباد (رپورٹ: حنیف خالد) پاکستان میں تعینات امریکہ کی سفیر این پیٹر سن نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کو سول نیو کلینر ٹیکنالوجی کی فراہمی کا دروازہ بند نہیں ہے۔ اس کا آپشن موجود ہے کہ امریکہ کی سولین نیو کلینر ٹیکنالوجی پاکستان کو دستیاب ہو وہ بھارت کو امریکہ کی طرف سے نیو کلینر پروسیسنگ پلانٹ کی فراہمی کے معاہدے کے متعلق جنگ کے استفسار کا جواب دے رہے تھے۔ ایمبیسڈر پیٹرسن نے کہا کہ ایک سپیشل ورکنگ گروپ آئندہ تین ماہ کے دوران اس اہم معاملے پر پاکستانی عہدیداروں سے مذاکرات کرے گا۔ ان مذاکرات میں پاکستان کو سولین نیوکلینر ٹیکنالوجی کی فراہمی کے معاملے میں گہرائی میں جا کر غور و خوض ہو گا۔ ان کے بعد امریکہ کی سیکرٹری آف اسٹیٹ ہیلری کلنٹن پاکستان کے اہم دورے پر پاکستان آئیں گی۔ ان کا یہ دورہ بے حد اہم ہو گا کیونکہ اس دورے کے دوران پاکستان اور امریکہ کے گیارہ ورکنگ گروپوں کے اجلاسوں میں ہونے والے فیصلوں کو معاہدوں کی شکل دی جا سکے گی۔ ۳ ماہ میں نیوکلینر ٹیکنالوجی، معیشت، دفاع و سکیورٹی سمیت تمام اہم شعبوں میں تعاون کا بلیو پرنٹ تیار کر لیا گیا۔

All Day

-- پاکستان اور ترکی میں گڈز ٹرین اگست سے چلے گی۔ مفاہمت کی 4 یادداشتوں پر دستخط

Daily Express

پاکستان اور ترکی میں گڈز ٹرین اگست سے چلے گی۔ مفاہمت کی 4 یادداشتوں پر دستخط
دہشتگردی کو ملکر شکست دینگے: صدر زرداری، پاکستان میں امن کیلئے کردار ادا کرینگے ترک صدر
ترکی توانائی کو ضروریات پوری کرنے کیلئے مدد کرے۔ گیلانی۔ عبداللہ گل کو نشان پاکستان سے نوازا گیا

April 2, 2010

Fri

All Day

Sannaullah Zehri Joined Muslim League-N -- APP

A Great Baluch leader Mr. Sannaullah Zehri, head of the national party of Baluchistan has joined Muslim League-N with his delegation in Lahore

All Day

-- Urdu Times نیٹو سپلائی گواہر پورٹ کے ذریعے کرنے پر مذاکرات

کراچی : نیٹو سپلائی گواہر پورٹ کے ذریعے کرنے پر مذاکرات کا عمل شروع ہو گیا۔ تفصیل کے مطابق یہ بات چیت پورٹ آف سنگاپور گواہر سے کی جا رہی ہے اور اس سلسلے میں نیٹو کے وفد نے گواہر پورٹ کا دورہ بھی کیا ہے۔ 2 سال قبل بھی گواہر پورٹ کو نیٹو کارگو افغانستان لے جانے کیلئے استعمال کرنے کی کوشش کی گئی تھی تاہم یہ کوشش ناکام رہی تھی۔ ذرائع کے مطابق اس وقت پورٹ کے کرایے اور دیگر امور پر بات چیت جاری ہے۔

April 9, 2010

Fri

All Day

Antofagasta sees Reko Diq operational in 2015 -- <http://tribune.com.pk/>
Antofagasta sees Reko Diq operational in 2015

Balochistan is apprehensive about foreign companies mining Reko Diq site.
By Reuters
April 09, 2010

Santiago: Antofagasta Minerals is confident it will start producing copper at Pakistan's Reko Diq mine by 2015 despite friction with local authorities. The development of the mine has been opposed said the company's CEO Marcelo Awad said on Wednesday.

Pakistan's government is keen about seeing the project through, despite opposition by the regional government of the Baluchistan province, said Awad.

"There were a lot of rumours and a lot of negative press earlier this year, but that was a misunderstanding of a cabinet resolution of the Baluchistan province ... we've met the chief minister and he's still very supportive to see the project up and running," Awad said. A provincial government official told Reuters in January that the project may be canceled, but Awad later said that view was held by a small minority pressing for independence of Baluchistan.

He said that regardless of the friction with Baluchistan officials Antofagasta hopes to bring the Reko Diq mine on stream in 2015.

Antofagasta and Canada's Barrick Gold Corp each have a 37.5 per cent stake in the project, with the provincial government holding the remaining 25 per cent.

"We're at this moment finalising the feasibility study and the environmental impact assessment. We plan to apply for a mining licence to the Baluchistan government during the middle of this year," he said.

London-listed Antofagasta expects Reko Diq to produce by itself roughly as much as the whole group churns out currently. Antofagasta produced 442,500 tons of copper last year and expected production of 540,000 tons in 2010 due to the expansion of its flagship Los Pelambres mine in Chile.

Based on 2008 production figures, a move to one million tons would make Antofagasta the world's fourthbiggest copper producer.

<http://tribune.com.pk/>

All Day

Dail Jang -- سنگا پورٹ کی جانب سے دستبرداری پر گواہ پورٹ چلا سکتے ہیں، چین

چین نے حکومت پاکستان کو پیغام دیا ہے کہ وہ پورٹ آف سنگار کی جانب سے دست برداری کی... کراچی صورت میں گواہ پورٹ چلانے کو تیار ہے۔ حکومتی ذرائع کے مطابق چین نے یہ پیغام رواں ماہ کے آغاز میں حکومت پاکستان کو بھیجا ہے۔ ذرائع نے بتایا کہ چین نے پاکستان کو گواہ پورٹ چلانے کے علاوہ جدید کوسٹ لائن کی تعمیر سمیت مختلف منصوبوں میں سرمایہ لگانے سے بھی آگاہ کیا ہے۔ ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ چین نے رواں ماہ کے آغاز میں یہ پیغام بھیجا ہے جس میں پورٹ کے علاوہ گواہ میں ریفائٹری اور دیگر منصوبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کا کہا گیا ہے۔ ذرائع کے مطابق حکومت پاکستان نے چینی وفد کو سرمایہ کاری کی تفصیلات اور اسکے حجم کے بارے میں منصوبہ داخل کرانے کی درخواست کی ہے۔ پورٹ اینڈ شپنگ ماہرین کے مطابق چین نے گواہ کو اپنے 35 سالہ منصوبے میں شامل کیا ہوا ہے۔

Nawa-e-Waqat

پاکستان کو 10 ہزار میگا واٹ کا ماڈیول پاور پلانٹ فراہم کرینگے، کیری توانائی کے بحران پر قابو پانے کیلئے پاکستان کی مدد کرینگے۔ صدر علمی بینک رابرٹ بی ذویلیک واشنگٹن (محمد صالح ظافر) پاکستان کو 10 ہزار میگا واٹ بجلی کی پیداوار کا حامل ماڈیول پاور پلانٹ فراہم کیا جائیگا حالانکہ پاکستان میں بجلی کا موجودہ شارٹ فال 5 ہزار میگا واٹ سے زائد ہے۔ اس بات کی ضمانت امریکی سینیٹر جان کیری نے وزیراعظم کی وطن واپسی سے قبل ان سے ملاقات کے دوران دی۔ یہ ایک غیر متوقع ملاقات تھی جس کا انتظام امریکا میں پاکستان کے سفیر حسین حقانی نے کیا تھا اور سینیٹر جان کیری نے اپنے شیڈول میں تبدیلی کی اور ملاقات کیلئے صرف 15 منٹ کے اندر ہوٹل پہنچے۔ امریکی وزیر خارجہ ہلیری جان کیری کی آمد کے بارے میں معلوم ہوا۔ باوثوق ذرائع نے دی نیوز کو بتایا کہ عالمی بینک کے سربراہ رابرٹ بی ذویلیک نے سینیٹر جان کیری کو یقین دلایا ہے کہ وہ توانائی کے بحران پر قابو پانے کے لیے پاکستان نہیں ڈالیں گے۔ وکی مدد کرینگے اور اپریل اور جولائی کے درمیان بجلی کے ٹیرف کو 2 بار بڑھانے کیلئے دبا اس حوالے سے وزیر اعظم پاکستان کا کہنا تھا کہ بجلی کے بلوں میں اضافے کے باعث پاکستانی عوام میں بے چینی اور بڑھ جانے کی کیونکہ وہ پہلے ہی اپنے دن اور رات تاریکی میں گزار رہے ہیں۔ سینیٹر جان کیری کے قف کی حمایت کی اور عالمی بینک کے صدر نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان سے نرم شرائط و وزیراعظم گیلانی کے م کے ساتھ معاہدہ کریں۔ سینیٹر جان کیری نے وزیراعظم گیلانی کو یقین دلایا کہ وہ پاکستان ملٹری کو سہولتیں فراہم کرنیکا معاملہ اٹھائینگے اور اس بارے میں ایڈمرل مائیک مولن سے بات کرینگے کہ وہ پاکستان کے مطالبات کو سمجھیں۔

All Day

Daily Intekhab -- گوادر پورٹ انتہائی اہمیت کی حامل ہے، برطانوی ڈپٹی ہائی کمشنر

گوادر پورٹ انتہائی اہمیت کی حامل ہے، برطانوی ڈپٹی ہائی کمشنر پورٹ کی تعمیر سے سرمایہ کاری اور سیاحت کو فروغ حاصل ہوتا ہے، رابرٹ ڈبلیو گیسن ایران سمیت متعدد ممالک نے استفادہ کرنے میں دلچسپی ظاہر کی ہے۔ بریفنگ

All Day

-- گوادر میں سرمایہ کاروں کی بھر پور حوصلہ افزائی کی جائیگی، محمد علی چنگیزی**Daily Intekhab**

گوادر (بیورو رپورٹ) ادارہ ترقیات جدید گوادر کی ترقی اور تعمیر میں معاونت کرنے والے سرمایہ کاروں کی بھر پور حوصلہ افزائی کرے گا، گوادر کا متقبل تابناک ہے۔ پلانٹ کی تنصیب نے مہر ثبت تصدیق کر دی ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار ادارہ ترقیات گوادر (جی ڈی اے) گوادر کے دی جی محمد علی چنگیزی نے گزشتہ روز گوادر میں اصفال پلانٹ کے افتتاحی تقریب سے خطاب کے موقع پر کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ادارہ ترقیات نے کچھ عرصہ قبل احمد بخش لہڑی کی قیادت میں جس پودے کی بناد ڈالی تھی وہ اب دھیرے دھیرے شاہ دار درخت کی مانند ن میں ترقی کی بھینی بھینی خوشبو معطر کر رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گوادر اپنے جغرافیائی و گوادر کے صحرا محل وقوع کے لحاظ سے تمام شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کے لیے پر کشش خطہ ہے، جی ڈی اے ماسٹر پلان سمیت دیگر منصوبوں پر ہمہ جہتی پروگرام پر عملدرآمد کروانے کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔ جدید گوادر کی ترقی اور تعمیر میں دلچسپی کا اظہار کرنے والے سرمایہ کاروں کی ہر ممکن حوصلہ افزائی کی جائے گی۔ تقریب سے جی ڈی اے کے چیف انجینئر ڈاکٹر سجاد، اصفال پلانٹ کے ڈائریکٹر حاجی بانوت خان، ایف ڈبلیو کے کرنل طاہر مسعود اور معروف کنٹریکٹر پرنس آغا احمد زئی نے خطاب کیا۔ اسٹیج کے فرائض کریم لانگو نے ادا کئے۔ تقریب میں جی ڈی اے کے انجینئر اور دیگر حکام سمیت شہریوں کی بڑی تعداد شریک تھی، قبل ازیں جی ڈی محمد علی چنگیزی نے فیتہ کاٹ کر پلانٹ کا افتتاح کیا۔

All Day

-- Daily Jang امریکا پاکستان کو گائیڈڈ میزائل فریکٹ دیگا، معاہدے پر دستخط

امریکا پاکستان کو گائیڈڈ میزائل فریکٹ دیگا، معاہدے پر دستخط

امریکی بحریہ کی زیر نگرانی فریکٹ کی تزیین و آرائش کی جائیگی، پاکستان 78 ملین ڈالر ادا کریگا۔
واشنگٹن (سمیع ابراہیم) پاکستان اور امریکا نے گائیڈڈ میزائل فریکٹ ایس ایس مکنری کی منتقلی کا ایک معاہدہ کیا ہے،

All Day

One World -- گوادر ڈویلپمنٹ اتھارٹی کی گورننگ باڈی نے بجٹ کی منظوری دیدی

اسلام آباد: گوادر ڈویلپمنٹ اتھارٹی کی گورننگ باڈی نے رواں مالی سال کے لئے 1587.65 ملین روپے کے ترقیاتی بجٹ کی منظوری دے دی ہے جبکہ جاری منصوبوں کی تکمیل کے لئے 1442.389 ملین روپے رکھے گئے ہیں۔

گورننگ باڈی کا نواں اجلاس وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان اسلم رئیسانی کی صدارت میں اسلام آباد میں ہوا۔ چیف سیکرٹری بلوچستان میر احمد بخش لہری گوادر کو گوادر ڈویلپمنٹ اتھارٹی کی گورننگ باڈی تا حیات رکن بنانے کی منظوری دی گئی جبکہ تمام عارضی ملازمین کو مستقل کرنے فیصلہ کیا گیا وزیر اعلیٰ نے ہدایت کی کہ اولڈ گوادر سٹی کی تزئین و آرائش اور نکاسی آب کے منصوبوں کو گوادر کے ماسٹر پلان میں شامل کیا جائے۔

All Day

Daily Ausaf -- گوادر ڈویلپمنٹ اتھارٹی کی گورننگ باڈی نے بجٹ کی منظوری دیدی

گوادر ڈویلپمنٹ اتھارٹی کی گورننگ باڈی نے بجٹ کی منظوری دیدی
اسلام آباد: گوادر ڈویلپمنٹ اتھارٹی کی گورننگ باڈی نے رواں مالی سال کے لئے 1587.65 ملین روپے کے
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April 26, 2010

Mon

All Day

Daily Intekhab -- گواہر پورٹ کی آمدنی کیری لوگر بل سے زیادہ ہوگی، فارق ستار
گواہر پورٹ کی آمدنی کیری لوگر بل سے زیادہ ہوگی، فارق ستار
کالا باغ ڈیم پر بیانات سیاسی فوائد حاصل کرنے کے لئے ہیں، رہنما متحدہ قومی مومنٹ

All Day

Handling of \$100 million Saudi urea at Gwadar: TCP, PSAG and stevedore companies in litigation -- Business Recorder

Handling of \$100 million Saudi urea at Gwadar: TCP, PSAG and stevedore companies in litigation

ISMAIL DILAWAR

KARACHI (2010-04-27) : The smooth handling of thousands of tonnes urea imported from Saudi Arabia on deferred payment of around \$100 million may be clouded at Gwadar Port where the clash in relevant rules is said to have brought the Singaporean operator and local users at loggerhead with each other.

The sources told Business Recorder that two stevedoring companies, M/s Portstar and M/s Waqar and Company, have sued the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) in a local court for what they claim breaching a one-year stevedoring agreement signed between the two on July 17 last year.

They said the stevedores had pleaded that the state importer had violated the pact through awarding an 'out of tender' stevedoring contract to the Port of Singapore Authority Gwadar (PSAG), the concessionaire of Gwadar Port, for the handling of at least 0.25 million tonnes importable cargo at the deep seaport.

They said under the post-tender agreement the TCP had awarded a one-year stevedoring contract to the lowest bidder, M/s Portstar and M/s Waqar and Company, for cargo handling at Gwadar Port at the rate of Rs 798 per ton. "TCP awarded work to the PSA Gwadar out of tender ignoring an agreement with the stevedoring firms that would expire in July this year," the sources said.

They claimed that the Corporation was enticed by an offer of Rs 725 per ton from the PSAG's which, unlike the other private firms, was not liable to pay any taxes under the Concession Agreement. However, Sindh High Court is said to have issued a stay order to the respondents, the TCP and the PSAG, also made a party to the case, directing the former not to assign further vessels to the latter till next hearing which is scheduled on the 13th of next month.

The court, in what the sources said its interim judgement, further directed that next vessel at the port should be allocated to the petitioners at arrival. The sources in TCP told Business Recorder that the court's order was implemented last Saturday and since then the petitioners were discharging the vessel, M/v Tala carrying 26,558 tonnes urea.

"In fact the matter is between the PSAG and the stevedores... we awarded the work to PSA after taking a nod from the PPRA which allowed us to go for direct negotiations with the PSA," the TCP officials said. The dispute arose when the Singaporean port operator pressed on its "sole and exclusive right" to stevedoring work at Gwadar Port under Article 4.1 of the Concession Agreement.

Whereas the two stevedoring companies try to make their point by referring to their one-year contract with the TCP, the officials in PSAG reject the contract as invalid saying the stevedores were not qualified for the contract that requires a bidder to have a license from the competent authority, namely Gwadar Port Authority.

"In its tenders TCP's eligibility criterion requires a bidder to possess license of work at the concerned port," they said. On the other hand, the sources said, the stevedoring firms question the PSAG over lack of equipment, like bagging plants, grips etc, and the resultant slow rate of discharge which the TCP officials, however, said on a satisfactory average of over 3,000 tons per day.

The PSAG officials also rejected the claim as baseless saying the gear had never been a problem for an internationally-reputed port operator like the PSA. All said and done, the dispute would keep haunting efficiency of the cargo-starved Balochistan-based deep seaport until and unless the relevant rules are clearly defined and are respected by all concerned in a letter and spirit.

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April 28, 2010

Wed

All Day

China has taken the lead in developing Pakistan's Gwadar port city as an emerging energy hub -- APP

China has taken the lead in developing Pakistan's Gwadar port city as an emerging energy hub with oil refining capacity, tanker capacity, and transit point for the recently announced Iran-Pakistan natural gas pipeline. It is expected that China seeks to take full advantage of the Gwadar facilities by establishing a network of pipelines to Xinjiang in order to reduce its dependence on the long and insecure sea route that it must currently rely upon for some 80% of its energy imports.

All Day

China to build two 650-MW Nuclear Reactors in Pakistan - Chashma-3 and -4. -- nuclear reactors pakistan china chashma

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

China to build two 650-MW Nuclear Reactors in Pakistan - Chashma-3 and -4. After the completion of 300 MW Chashma-I and Chashma-II Nuclear reactors China today signalled building of two more Nuclear Reactors. Pakistan Deal Signals China's Growing Nuclear Assertiveness

A mum US watches the pending Sino–Pakistan reactor deal turn into reality and reflects the growing confidence and assertiveness of China's nuclear energy program. Contrary to guidelines adopted in 1992 by nuclear equipment supplier states in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), China is poised to export two 650 MW Nuclear power reactors to Pakistan. This transaction is about to happen at a time when China's increasingly ambitious nuclear energy program is becoming more autonomous.

Guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), representing 46 NPT states, call on parties to the NPT not to supply nuclear equipment to non–nuclear-weapon states without comprehensive IAEA safeguards, including Pakistan. China joined the NSG in 2004.

The United States and other NSG states may object to the pending transaction but they cannot prevent China from exporting the reactors. Senior officials in NSG states friendly to the United States said this month they expect that President Barack Obama will not openly criticize the Chinese export because Washington, in the context of a bilateral security dialogue with Islamabad, may be sensitive to Pakistan's desire for civilian nuclear cooperation in the wake of the sweeping U.S.–India nuclear deal which entered into force in 2008 after considerable arm-twisting of NSG states by the United States, France, and Russia. The United States may also tolerate China's new nuclear deal with Pakistan because Obama wants China's support for United Nations Security Council sanctions against Iran this spring.

China's Civilian Nuclear Industry On The March:

The pending Sino–Pakistan reactor deal reflects the growing confidence and assertiveness of China's nuclear energy program as it establishes a track record of reliability in reactor construction and operation. Chinese nuclear entities are wary of interference from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in their programs and are keen to establish their freedom of action vis-à-vis cooperating foreign governments and firms. China within a few years also wants to become a global nuclear equipment exporter.

If China succeeds, ten years from now it will likely become the world's second-biggest nuclear power generator after the United States. After years of bilateral disputes over nonproliferation issues, in 1998 the U.S. Congress allowed a 1985 Sino–U.S. nuclear cooperation agreement to enter into force. After that, U.S. nuclear cooperation with China dramatically increased, culminating in China's 2006 selection of a consortium of companies led by Westinghouse to build four AP1000 power reactors in China. Westinghouse bested bidders from France and Russia in a competition set up by China to determine which of the three would provide the technology blueprint for the future standardized development of China's nuclear power industry.

China chose Westinghouse after it agreed to transfer to China ownership of the technology for the new and untried 1,000-MW reactor. China then awarded contracts to Westinghouse and its partners to build four AP1000s in China. The first two are scheduled to be finished in 2013. Westinghouse scored another coup when in 2008 China selected AP1000 for China's first raft of inland power reactors.

Westinghouse's apparent emergence as primus inter pares among foreign reactor vendors in China in 2006 was linked to the fortunes of the State Nuclear Power Technology Co. (Snptc). It was set up by China's State Council of Ministers to take

charge of technology selection and transfer for China's future nuclear power program, after two decades during which China organized a handful of "boutique" reactor projects in cooperation with Canada, France, Japan, and Russia.

China also does not share NRC's view that a terrorist attack on reactors, using a hijacked passenger aircraft as a weapon, is a realistic enough scenario to warrant modifying the design. Right now, China operates only eleven reactors representing about 9 gigawatts (GW) of installed generating capacity, but these have established a record of reliability, and have convinced China's leaders that nuclear power is safe, efficient, and profitable. Fed by galloping energy demand and concerns for global warming among Chinese leaders, China's appetite for nuclear power is now increasing. In 2005 China expected to have 40 GW on line by 2020. Chinese officials and executives now routinely assert that by 2020 China will have a total installed capacity over 70 GW. If China succeeds, ten years from now it will likely become the world's second-biggest nuclear power generator after the United States.

Shortly after China selected Westinghouse to shape its nuclear future, rival Areva made a separate deal with China to build two of its new EPR reactors in Guangdong Province in China's southeast, where French nuclear firms have been engaged since the late 1980s. Unlike Westinghouse, Areva also offered China a suite of fuel cycle technology options, and French officials hoped that a mammoth fuel cycle deal would coax China to continue building the EPR.

In line with plans by China to build more reactors, China promulgated that it would follow the path of France, Russia, and Japan and embark on commercial-scale plutonium separation from China's spent fuel, and recycle of the plutonium as reactor fuel. Areva offered China to help set up a reprocessing industry in China, modeled on its own experience in France. More recently, Russia has made a counteroffer to do the same, vowing to integrate Chinese labs into advanced fuel cycle R&D work now ongoing in Russian centers.

China's nuclear power program has become more aggressive, politically organized, and independent of its foreign partners in the wake of recent changes in China's decision-making structure. China will certainly build more reactors than it anticipated when beginning in 2003 it organized the competition leading to selection of Westinghouse. But many or most of these set up this decade will likely not be AP1000s or EPRs but instead be based on the original French design built in Guangdong and now dubbed China Pressurized Water Reactor or CPR-1000. To meet China's higher targets for more nuclear capacity, China is now replicating these CPRs.

Rumors in Beijing circulated last month that China will therefore go back on its plan to permit Westinghouse to build all of the first group of inland power reactors in the country. Chinese officials won't confirm that, but utility executives—including at China Power Investment Corp. (CPI), a major AP1000 investor—said that China through 2020 will shift resources away from more AP1000s and instead toward cookie-cutter construction of the CPR at many Chinese locations, including at inland sites.

In the meantime, the ambitious construction schedule for the U.S.-designed reactors in China has come under heavy pressure.

In part out of Chinese concern to keep construction on track, China's nuclear regulator, the National Nuclear Safety Administration (NNSA), will not agree to a proposal, favored by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Westinghouse, to modify the design of the containment structure of the AP1000 to provide improved protection against an air crash. In the United States, NRC, after a design review prompted by post-9/11 concerns about terrorist threats, asked Westinghouse to change the design of a shield building which is part of the containment and to use stronger materials. Westinghouse then urged China to also follow that advice.

China will not do that, Beijing officials said last month after consultations with

Westinghouse and U.S. regulators. "China will build Revision 15," the AP1000 design version originally approved for construction in both the United States and in China, one official said. "It will not approve Revision 17," which incorporates the c

All Day

China's Pakistan Corridor -- China Pakistan investment moid ansari review and analysis copper balochistan

Friday, April 30, 2010

China's Pakistan Corridor

Even though Pakistan is fighting its war on terror China is investing in Pakistan's economy like there is no tomorrow. China's main interest in the treacherous territory of Balochistan are the copper mines and the Gwadar Port on the Arabian Sea.

In the Pakistani province of Balochistan, South Asia and central Asia bleed into the Middle East. Bordered by Afghanistan, Iran and the Persian Gulf, and well endowed with oil, gas, copper, gold and coal reserves, Balochistan is a rich prize that should have foreign investors battering at the gates. But for a half-century it has been the exclusive playground of the Pakistani government and its state-owned Chinese partners. China would prefer it to stay that way.

China is Pakistan's oldest military and political ally, but in the last two decades it is the economic component of the alliance that has taken center stage. Pakistan, and in particular Balochistan, is China's physical link to its sizable investments in Iranian gas, Afghan hydropower and Gulf oil. Explains Andrew Small, a fellow at the German Marshall Fund, the Sino-Pak relationship "matters more now, because of India's economic growth. Pakistan being a trade and energy corridor means that possible pipelines and projects [in Pakistan] have a strategic significance beyond the specific investments." Chinese control of Pakistan's commodities corridor can "bind India down in South Asia, restricting its capacity to operate elsewhere."

Chinese companies have poured at least \$15 billion into Baloch projects: an oil refinery, copper and zinc mines and a deepwater port at Gwadar, in the Gulf of Oman. "They wanted Gwadar to be another Dubai," says Khurram Abbas, the port's managing director, "to capture the transit trade with countries that are landlocked, like Afghanistan, and to encourage transshipment trade from the Persian Gulf to East Africa."

China's Tianjin Zhongbei Harbor Engineering has invested \$200 million to build the first three berths and plans to invest a total of \$1.6 billion to expand the port in the future. But business at Gwadar has been slow. Though the three berths have the capacity to handle \$2 billion worth of cargo a year, the port saw only \$700 million in 2009. "The challenge," says Abbas, "is that Gwadar is not yet linked to the rest of the country. The government was supposed to provide road connectivity. Without roads there can be no commercial activity [in Balochistan]. And we need commercial activity, investors to set up factories around Gwadar, to get cargo for the port."

China is taking matters into its own hands, starting to build a highway from Gwadar to the capital of Balochistan, Quetta, on the Afghan border, where it will connect to Pakistan's national highway network, and from there to the Karakoram Highway that leads into China. China's Harbor Engineering Corps is also working on a new airport at Gwadar, due to open in 2013.

Infrastructure is not the only challenge that Chinese investors in Balochistan face. The province is a key battleground in the wars currently threatening Pakistan. Quetta is rumored to be hiding wanted leaders from the Afghan Taliban. Small towns in the Baloch heartland, meanwhile, are a launchpad for a decades-old separatist movement that capitalizes on populist resentment of federal agencies and foreign investment Chinese firms can usually weather these threats. Explains the German Marshall Fund's Small, "They are less concerned about security than the U.S. because they have faith in the Pakistani military's ability to look out for their interests, a level of faith that Chinese workers will get privileged levels of protection even amidst destabilizing [political] circumstances." Unsaid: China is willing to play in the bribery culture traditional to the area.

Moreover, China recruits local figures as managers. Muhammad Sanjrani, the managing director of China's Saindak copper mine in Chagai, Balochistan, is also the head of the local tribe, with historic control of the Chagai region, and has

worked to sell the project to the populace.

Beijing is willing to play hardball to protect its position in Balochistan. That's a lesson learned the hard way for Tethyan Copper, a joint venture between Canada's Barrick Gold (ABX - news - people) and Chile's Antofagasta. In 2006 Tethyan signed a deal to survey, and then develop, the Reko Diq reserve in Balochistan, estimated to hold \$70 billion in copper and gold.

Though the provincial government holds a 25% stake in the venture, the deal was signed between the federal government and Tethyan's foreign execs, and no prominent tribal authorities are involved. As a result, the mine has been unusually unpopular, exacerbating threats to other foreign investments in the province, including China's highway project.

In January the Baloch government, struggling politically and looking to appease separatist hardliners, announced it would cancel Tethyan's license and force investors to absorb a \$3 billion loss. Almost immediately the U.S. intervened, putting pressure on the Pakistani central government to dissuade Quetta from doing this. U.S. diplomats believe the sanctity of the Tethyan deal is essential to its efforts to encourage Western investment in Pakistan as a counter terror tool.

For China, however, American intervention was an alarm bell, confirming longstanding suspicions in Beijing that Pakistan's alliance with the U.S. in Afghanistan would come at the expense of China's relationship with the Pakistani military establishment and its exclusive access to Pakistan's wealth and strategic location.

But the confrontation between Pakistan's central government, responding to U.S. pressure, and a more intransigent provincial leadership also presented China with an opportunity. The giant Metallurgical Corp. of China, which controls the Chinese stake in the Saindak site, bid to take over the Reko Diq site from Tethyan, too.

Though the provincial and federal governments have yet to agree, MCC made a compelling case. In private meetings with Baloch leaders the Chinese representatives agreed to build a railroad and a power plant in Balochistan as well as to waive any requirements for sovereign guarantees. Says a frustrated William N. Center, the U.S. State Department's foreign commercial attaché in Pakistan, "These are terms that no private company could compete with."

Push to the Sea

A highway from Gwadar to Quetta will serve as a pipeline for China. Metallurgical Corp. of China, a stakeholder in the Saindak copper mine, is aiming to take over Barrick's Reko Diq site.

Reko Diq :

Reko Diq is a small town in Chagai District, Balochistan, Pakistan, in a desert area 70 kilometres north west of Naukundi, near to the Iran-Afghan border.

Reko Diq, also the name of an ancient volcano, literally means sandy peak, but this is something of a misnomer. It could be called Tangav Diq, or gold peak, because according to development expert Syed Fazl-e-Haider, below the sands lie some 12.3 million tons of copper and 20.9 million ounces of gold. The copper-gold deposits at Reko Diq are believed to be even bigger than those of Sarcheshmeh in Iran and Escondida in Chile.

Reko Diq is a large copper-gold porphyry mineral deposit on the Tethyan belt, located in southwest Pakistan in the province of Balochistan in which Barrick holds a 37.5% interest. A pre-feasibility study was completed in third quarter 2009; a full feasibility study is being finalized and is under review and progress continues with the expansion studies and the baseline environmental and social impact assessment which is expected to be completed in the first half of 2010.

Barrick's share of measured and indicated and inferred gold resources are 9.5

million ounces¹ and 6.4 million ounces¹, respectively and its share of measured and indicated and inferred copper resources are 11.7 billion pounds¹ and 8.4 billion pounds.

Posted by Author Analysis and Reviews ! at 12:46 AM

Labels: China Pakistan investment moid ansari review and analysis copper balochistan

All Day

How quickly can Pakistan tap into huge coal reserves -- APP

How quickly can Pakistan tap into huge coal reserves

Posted on 30 April 2010

Vision needed to use huge coal reserves to build Carbon-Chemical industry
Should Pakistan burn coal or use coal set up carbon-chemical industry which could be utilized to export value added materials to the planet and used for domestic consumption. Burning coal is like burning sandal wood. How quickly can Pakistan wean itself off the "burning coal" paradigm—perhaps after using it to meet the immediate energy needs. A lack of vision would just burn the carbon—smart people can come up with a lot of innovation.

Pakistan coal reserves are estimated at 175 billion tons which according to the Vice-Chancellor (VC) of Punjab University, Professor Dr Mujahid Kamran equal 618 billion barrels of crude oil. According to the most reliable analytical reports Saudi Arabian crude oil reserves are estimated at around 260 billion barrels. At 60 Dollars per barrel this equates to 3708 Billion Dollars or approx. 4 Trillion Dollars (at current prices). At future prices these reserves will be worth 8 or 24 Trillion Dollars. This is enough money to build the most modern infrastructure, the best roads, the best hospitals, the best education, the best universities, the best hi-speed rail system and the best public transportation system on the planet

ISLAMABAD – President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Zahid Maqbool Friday said there is need to utilise Thar coal as it has the potential to produce 100,000 MW for 300 years, which is the solution of the power crisis. He observed this while presiding over a meeting of ICCI Sub Committee on Energy. "According to the Geological Survey of Pakistan (2005), Pakistan has huge coal reserves of about 185b tons bulk of which are located in Sindh," he informed, He said that all South Asian economies including Pakistan are confronted with a massive crisis of power shortage leading to excessive load shedding due to which their economies are badly suffering. However, they can overcome this problem if they agree to a single point agenda of utilising untapped energy potential found in Pakistan and Nepal, he opined.

Not only Pakistan but Nepal also has the largest hydropower potential in South Asia, as it possesses 83,000 MW of hydroelectric power potential he said and added that both the countries have the potential to meet the energy needs of the entire South Asian region, but due to financial constraints, they could not tap this potential.

He stressed that to exploit this massive energy potential coal and water in Pakistan and Nepal, South Asian countries including India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan should pool their financial resources and technical expertise and start mega energy projects in Pakistan and Nepal and develop a consensus energy distribution formula for meeting their energy needs.

He said there are many examples of power sharing among countries of Africa, Latin America, Central Asia and South East Asia and South Asian countries should also take benefit from such arrangements.

KARACHI: The Thar Coal and Energy Board has constituted a committee to prepare a formula for determining Thar coal price based on international best practices.

The committee consists of Murad Ali Shah, Secretary Irrigation and Power and Asad Ali Shah, a private member of the board.

Board's secretary Aijaz Ali Khan told Dawn that while Ogra is regulatory regime for determining prices of oil and gas, there is no coal pricing agency or pricing formula in place for Thar coal.

He said that the absence of regulatory regime for Thar coal is one of the barriers in determining tariff for coal-fired power plants to be set up at Thar.

In the past a Chinese company, which had reached an advance stage of setting up a power plant at Thar, was refused a reasonable tariff by a federal agency, which compelled the company to pack off.

Meanwhile, the Thar Coal and Energy Development department is preparing detailed information guidelines, which will provide specific information on legal and regulatory framework as well as commercial benefits to the national and international investors participating in international bidding for Thar Coal Block I. The board has decided to offer 20 per cent Internal Rate of Return (IRR) to firms which achieve financial close before Dec 31, 2015 for power plants based on Thar coal.

It will offer 25 per cent IRR to firms, which achieve financial close by 2014.

Two international and two local companies are working in various Thar blocks to set up coal-fired power plants. A UK firm Cougar Energy is exploiting Block III for underground coal gasification, which will lead to a 400mw power plant.

UK firm Oracle Gas Fields also plans to develop 1.4 billion tons coal in Block V1 integrating the mine with the construction of a mine-mouth power plant.

The Thar Coal Power Project (TCPP) would attract over \$20 billion foreign investment within next six months, an official of Sindh Coal Authority Board (SCAB) told Business Recorder on Sunday. According to Sharjeel Memon, one of the SCABs governors, a host of interested companies from United States, China, Britain, Singapore, South Korea, Germany, Poland, Australia etc would invest over \$20 billion in the Tharparkar-based energy project.

Memon, who is also the member of provincial assembly of Sindh, revealed that even the neighbouring India had shown interest in the attractive coal-based power generation project, TCPP. He, however, opined that tension at border and an ongoing blame-game between the two nuclear-armed South Asian neighbours were likely to keep New Delhi away from the project. The SCAB official also linked the expected investment with an early end to the ongoing political turmoil in the country.

"Lots of MoUs have been signed and a host of foreign firms keen to invest in the coal sector are visiting the Chief Minister on almost daily basis... work is underway on war footing basis," he added. Also, he said, President Asif Ali Zardari, during his recent visit to China, had inked different MoUs with the investors in Beijing.

He said a nine-member Korean delegation, which had held a "fruitful" meeting with Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah last Thursday, would soon start boring for mining in Blocks 4 and 8 of the site.

The coal exploration work would follow the power generation process that, the MPA said, was a federal subject and would be carried out by Islamabad.

According to Memon the TCPP would help Sindh province generate at least 7000-8000 MW electricity by 2012, which would not only cater to the countrys 3,500MW power shortage, but would also be exported to the neighbouring countries. He said the provincial government had undertaken a fast track infrastructure development in Thar, along with a coal based mine-mouth thermal power plant by a Korean firm at an estimate cost of \$3 billion. According to Asad Ali Shah, another SCAB member, a coal-based power generation plant in Thar would help Pakistan save a huge sum of \$8 billion it was presently paying for imports of oil to run its power generation units. A recent study has revealed that Tharparkar has 175 billion tons of coal reserves with a best power generation quality, he added.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said that the feasibility report of the Thar Coal will be ready by June this year for submission to Sindh Government. Qureshi said that he has very good interaction with China's top corporate leaders here in Beijing and also held talk with a top official whose company is carrying out the feasibility report on Thar coal. The company will finish the work on feasibility report by June and thereafter it will be submitted to the Sindh Government. The foreign minister said that he has discussed the prospects of utilizing the Thar coal for generating thermal power and was pleased to learn that the quality of Thar coal is far better than the imported coal being presently used for the purpose.

"So the chances for using Thar coal for power generation is very bright, according to initial report", the foreign minister told APP in an exclusive interview during his stay in Beijing.

The geology

All Day

Pakistan to get Shadow Drones and 18 F-16's from the US ! -- pakistan moid ansari F 16 frigate terrorism USA US military aid

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

Pakistan to get Shadow Drones and 18 F-16's from the US !

Pakistan is scheduled to get 18 of the Block 52 F-16s, Oliver Hazard Perry Class frigate by fall and is expected to receive Shadow Drones within a year, a Pentagon official has said. Islamabad is set to receive all this military help under the enhanced US-Pakistan strategic cooperation.

"I would like to think that we would get them (Pakistan) within the year," the official said on Monday. "Shadow (Drone) is one of the things that they had asked for, and as we expanded and talked about other UAV platforms to be able to use is when they said: Well, let's take a look at them and then let's make sure we're picking the right one," the official said, adding that Shadow drones may in fact be the right platform at the end of the day.

In the last three years, the US has provided 14 F-16s, five fast patrol boats, 115 self-propelled howitzer field artillery cannons, more than 450 vehicles, hundreds of night- vision goggles, day and night scopes, radios, protective vests and first aid items to Pakistan's security forces. "Other significant military assistance to be provided later through this year through our Foreign Military Sales and Foreign Military Financing programs includes the delivery of the first batch of 18 of the Block 52 F-16s scheduled for the Pakistan Air Force, to arrive sometime this summer; and an Oliver Hazard Perry class frigate, the first for Pakistan Navy, this fall," the official said.

In fiscal year 2008, the US provided in excess of USD 1 billion as grants to Pakistan in security assistance and training. It, then, doubled in the last fiscal to just over USD 2 billion, and the figure is now projected to surpass this year.

"This significant commitment highlights the importance we place on our strategic long-term relationship and support for Pakistan," the official said, while observing that this was being done to assist Islamabad in the fight against terrorism.

The Obama Administration values Pakistan's strategic insight when it comes to Afghanistan and the region, and continues to consult their leaders closely, as exemplified by numerous visits by senior US officials to Islamabad, the official said. "Pakistan, is a key ally, and we face a common enemy and a common goal: a stable and secure Pakistan and the region," he added.

The Pentagon official said Pakistani officials were recently shown models of some drones in Afghanistan so that they would articulate their requirements. However, the US would not provide Pakistanis with drones having strike capabilities. "On the strike capability of drones, it's not US policy to be able to give any lethal capabilities with any of the drone technology that we do for any of the countries," the official said in response to a question.

Posted by Author Analysis and Reviews ! at 12:38 AM

Labels: pakistan moid ansari F 16 frigate terrorism USA US military aid

All Day

گوادر پورٹ پر ترقیاتی کاموں کے لیے 8 کروڑ روپے مختص -- Daily Intekhab

گوادر پورٹ پر ترقیاتی کاموں کے لیے 8 کروڑ روپے مختص

رقم چینل گہرا کرنے سمیت مختلف منصوبے مکمل کئے جائیں گے، ذرائع وزارت بندرگاہ

May 1, 2010

Sat

All Day

Tajikistan offered use of Gwadar Port -- ISLAMABAD - APP

Tajikistan offered use of Gwadar Port

Saturday, May 01, 2010

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rehman Malik has said Pakistan and Tajikistan have been facing common challenges.

Talking to media in Dushanbe on Friday, the minister said, "I conveyed the best wishes of the people of Pakistan, President and Prime Minister to the President of Tajikistan." He said: "Tajikistan and Pakistan are great friends, we share common religion, share borders and now we share hearts."

While appreciating the leadership qualities of the Tajik president, the minister said the challenges for these two countries are common. "Especially his leadership, wisdom has steered out Tajikistan from many challenges and problems," he said.

Rehman Malik said he held fruitful meeting with minister of defence, head of security and the interior minister.

"We discussed and worked out a roadmap to further enhance cooperation in the field of extremism as they exist in the region. We also worked out ways and means to curb human trafficking, drug trafficking and any heinous crimes." He said the two countries will not allow any act of terrorism from the soil of both countries. "We treat enemies of Tajikistan as enemies of Pakistan."

Answering a question, he said Tajikistan is helping out and pointing out in taking action against the terrorists." Replying to another question, he said there is no doubt that certain Tajik and Uzbek extremists are fighting out in Swat and Fata. The minister said there was no room for terrorists in both countries and they will continue their action.

He said terrorists are enemies of humanity and they have no religion and boundaries. "They have their own motives and follow their masters. They want to destabilise Pakistan, Afghanistan and the region," he asserted. Rehman Malik said Pakistan has left no stone unturned to fight terrorism and extremism and has broken their backbone.

"There are many challenges and we have to face it. There is no room for extremists." He said the people of Pakistan appreciate the cooperation being extended by Tajikistan.

The minister said cooperation between Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan will be a milestone in fighting terrorism.

He also appreciated the achievements of the government of Tajikistan in the field of hydro carbon and praised steps, wisdom and leadership of Tajik President for improving the economy of the country. He hoped that Tajikistan will progress by leaps and bounds under his leadership. The minister also offered the Tajik government to use the Gwadar port in future.

All Day

Electricity import talks held with Iran team -- Daily Dawn

ISLAMABAD: Iran has sought about 90 per cent increase in tariff for the 39MW of electricity it currently sells to Pakistan and the two countries agreed on Monday to expedite import of an additional 1000MW from the Islamic republic.

Informed sources told Dawn that Pakistan had been importing 39MW of electricity from Iran for Gwadar and border areas of Balochistan at about 5 cents per unit since 2003.

The import contract has expired and Iran wants to increase the tariff to 9.5 cents per unit. Pakistan considers it high and has offered 8 cents per unit. The two sides are yet to formalise a revised contract, according to the sources.

An Iranian delegation led by deputy economic minister for foreign affairs Seyed Amir Mansoor Baroghei held a meeting here with Pakistani team headed by Minister for Water and Power Raja Pervez Ashraf and discussed ways of speeding up work on import of 1000MW electricity.

According to an official statement, the two sides agreed to expedite the import of 1000MW power project and decided to hold experts level meetings every two months.

The meeting was briefed on the current status of the project. It was informed that the Pakistani side had completed its feasibility study while the Iranian company, Mushanir, was yet to complete its report. After completion of feasibility studies work will start on the project and a transmission line about 700 kilometres long will be constructed at an estimated cost of \$600 million in five years. The tariff for the mega project would be negotiated after completion of the studies. The Iranian side has, however, dispelled a perception that electricity would be provided at cheaper rates. The imported electricity will be for the national grid.

The meeting was informed that work on a 100MW import project for Gawdar would be completed in June, 2012. It observed that negotiations for the revision of tariff for the 39MW electricity for Gawadar were in progress.

Raja Pervez Ashraf said Pakistan was taking all possible measures to overcome its energy crisis, adding that the country was eager to complete the import of 1000MW power project well before time.

Mr Ashraf accepted Mr Baroghei's invitation to visit Iran for further talks. He asked members of the Iranian delegation to use their good offices for early completion of feasibility report by the Iranian company.

The Iranian minister noted with satisfaction Pakistan's willingness to buy electricity from his country and said his country would be happy to help Pakistan tide over the energy crisis. He said although the import of 1000MW project would take at least five years because of the long distance high voltage transmission line there was need to jointly explore ways of completing the important project sooner. He said the Iranian company would be asked to complete the feasibility report at the earliest.

May 5, 2010

Wed

All Day

Chinese companies have poured at least \$15 billion into Baloch projects:

-- China's Tianjin Zhongbei Harbor Engineering

Chinese companies have poured at least \$15 billion into Baloch projects: an oil refinery, copper and zinc mines and a deepwater port at Gwadar, in the Gulf of Oman.

"They wanted Gwadar to be another Dubai," says Khurram Abbas, the port's managing director, "to capture the transit trade with countries that are landlocked, like Afghanistan, and to encourage transshipment trade from the Persian Gulf to East Africa."

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China is taking matters into its own hands, starting to build a highway from Gwadar to the capital of Balochistan, Quetta, on the Afghan border, where it will connect to Pakistan's national highway network, and from there to the Karakoram Highway that leads into China. China's Harbor Engineering Corps is also working on a new airport at Gwadar, due to open in 2013.

All Day

Beijing is reviving the idea of 'empire' with the launch of the world's most ambitious high-speed rail line --

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/237306>

The New Silk Road

Beijing is reviving the idea of 'empire' with the launch of the world's most ambitious high-speed rail line

Thousands of years ago, trade caravans packed with spices and silk crisscrossed the Eurasian land mass along routes collectively known as the Silk Road. These caravans connected Constantinople to China's then-capital, Changan, and even today the city (now Xian) has an ancient Muslim quarter and a self-assuredness evoking that bygone era. In those days, all roads led to China, which lived up to its name as the Middle Kingdom. (In Chinese the country is called Zhongguo, literally Middle Country.) Now with an audacious scheme to link 17 countries with more than 8,000 kilometers of high-speed railway—ultimately capable of transporting cargo as well as passengers all the way to London—China hopes to revive its role at the center of the universe.

Even by larger-than-life Chinese standards, the plans seem mind-boggling. The first long-distance line inside China, linking inland Wuhan to coastal Guangzhou, opened in December, hitting top speeds of 350kph, faster than the speediest trains of Europe or Japan. Beijing hopes to have 800 bullet trains running across China by 2013 and, soon after that, across the border. Two networks will connect China to Europe—with terminuses in London and Berlin—and a third will link to Vietnam, Thailand, Burma, Malaysia, and Singapore. Chinese engineers have begun work in Burma, and Beijing says Central and Eastern European countries are keen for the building to start. The planned rail deals will vastly improve China's ability to transport crucial energy resources from suppliers in developing countries. "If the system is completed, it'll be more convenient for us to tap into natural resources, especially oil and gas, in Myanmar, Iran, and Russia," says Wang Mengshu, a Jiaotong University professor and consultant to China's high-speed-rail projects.

China's vision is at odds with the hopes that opened this century for a world of free markets and open borders, and it animates many of China's latest mega-projects. A new gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to China's remote Xinjiang province has already siphoned off 50 billion of the country's 80 billion cubic meters of gas. China is helping secure its access to strategic ports in Pakistan, Burma, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. The Chinese leadership is intensely focused on securing and expanding its shipping routes. These new Silk Roads are a sign of how China sees the world of the future—less predictable and more dangerous. Threats, including a potential trade war with the West, and conflicts over energy security abound. Witness China's unease over U.S. threats of sanctions against one of its main oil suppliers, Iran. In this world, Beijing believes it will be better to have constructed strategic facilities—railways, ports, pipelines—especially in less developed countries that lack experience or financing for such projects. In return, China is eyeing important long-term transport or supply contracts for natural resources. In one such technology-for-resources deal, Beijing is building a rail system for Burma in exchange for Burmese lithium.

Still, Beijing can't control everything that comes and goes on a network this big. If the ancient Silk Road was one of the first grand avenues of globalization, fueling trade from the Celestial Kingdom to medieval Europe, the new railroad will be the latest. All of its lines will carry both passengers and cargo, and are designed to keep China's economic miracle on track, as trade with Europe and the emerging markets grows. Thanks to China's energy hunger, its involvement with Mideast nations is also growing fast, as the Chinese exploit Iranian natural gas, Iraqi oilfields, and Afghanistan's Aynak copper mine. Ben Simpfendorfer, chief China economist for the Royal Bank of Scotland and author of *The New Silk Road: How a Rising Arab World Is Turning Away From the West and Rediscovering China*, says mainland merchants are fine-tuning products to appeal to these new consumers. Chinese-porcelain sellers are hawking less blue porcelain, popular among European buyers, and more red porcelain, popular among Arab buyers. China's new Silk Road strategy is meant to fill the vacuum of "strategic emptiness" that

emerged in Central Asia after the fall of the Soviet Union, and could lead to bilateral tensions. Over the last decade Chinese economic influence has been slowly but surely eroding Russian power in what Moscow regards as its Central Asian backyard. Although Beijing has been careful to avoid public confrontation, its inroads in the region have riled Russians. "By building their new Silk Road [railway], China is interfering in Russia's sphere of influence in Central Asia," says pro-Kremlin Russian lawmaker Konstantin Zatulin, the head of the Commonwealth of Independent States committee in the Duma, Russia's parliament.

The key to the new Chinese empire is not occupying turf but seeking reliable transport networks that aren't easily disrupted by powerful potential rivals, such as the U.S., Russia, or even India. Beijing's heavy involvement in developing infrastructure at Pakistan's port of Gwadar, for example, is linked to the fact that Gwadar is the downstream hub for pipelines linking Central Asia to China. In short, the new Silk Road is aimed at building a whole new world of infrastructure links that diminish Chinese reliance on traditional trade routes through the Strait of Hormuz (turf of the U.S. Fifth Fleet) and the Strait of Malacca (stamping ground of the U.S. Seventh Fleet). "If [those waterways] were to become blockaded, it would be a big problem for Chinese sea transport," says foreign-policy analyst Gao Heng of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, who believes authorities are very concerned about bottlenecks to energy imports. High-speed rail is part one of a backup plan to ensure energy security.

All high-speed trains run on the European gauge, meaning that Central Asian nations will have to change over if Beijing lures them away from the old Russian models. The geopolitical fallout could be intense. "Chinese projects in Central Asia sound threatening to Russia's economy, especially if China actually does build the railroad through Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan," says Azhdar Kurtov, a senior researcher at the Russian Institute of Strategic Research. "Russia has lost Central Asia," says Yuri Krupnov of Moscow's Institute of Demography and Regional Development. While Russia was "asleep" or distracted by conflicts with Ukraine and Georgia, China moved in—under the cover of the global economic crisis—to seal energy deals in Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan, and now the same will happen with rail projects in Central Asia, he predicts.

Beijing is already building high-speed rail routes in Turkey, Venezuela, and Saudi Arabia. It's also signed preliminary agreements with the state of California and General Electric, reflecting China's hopes to provide technology, hardware, engineers, and some financing to build high-speed rail lines on the West Coast of the U.S., which now lags behind China in the field. Officially at least, Beijing authorities tout the mutual good that its global rail schemes will bring—as well as the advertisements such deals will represent for the "Made in China" brand.

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/237306>

All Day

Daily Intekhab -- دسمبر سے گوادر کو 20 لاکھ گیلن پانی فراہمی کا فیصلہ

دسمبر سے گوادر کو 20 لاکھ گیلن پانی فراہمی کا فیصلہ
صوبائی وزیر ماہی گیری میر حمل کلمتی اور ڈپٹی کمشنر گوادر پسند خان بلیدی سے چیف سیکریٹری بلوچستان
میر احمد بخش لہڑی کی ملاقات
مکران میں بچلی کے بحران سے آگاہ ہیں، معاہدے کیلئے وفد 18 مئی کو ایران جائیگا، چیف سیکریٹری

All Day

Chinese companies in recent years have invested billions of dollars in Baluchistan -- By Tom Wright, The Wall Street Journal;

By Tom Wright

Of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

ISLAMABAD -(Dow Jones)- Barrick Gold Corp. (ABX, ABX.T) and Antofagasta PLC (ANFGY, ANTO.LN) are considering making a new revenue-sharing offer for development of a Pakistani gold mine after the local government threatened to cancel the deal and a Chinese state-owned company tried to muscle in.

In February, Baluchistan's chief minister said the province was canceling Tethyan's contract and was considering setting up its own public company to develop the Reko Diq site, one of the world's largest gold deposits located near Pakistan's border with Iran and Afghanistan.

Any overturning of the deal by the local government could hurt Pakistan's investment climate, which is already reeling due to Taliban terrorist attacks and a balance-of-payments crisis that led to International Monetary Fund intervention in 2008, analysts say.

The Reko Diq project, in which Tethyan has invested \$500 million since acquiring the project from BHP Billiton Ltd. (BHP, BHP.AU) in 2006, is one of the few big investment projects by Western companies in Pakistan, although Chinese state-owned firms have been more active. Foreign direct investment fell 49% to \$1.6 billion in the nine months ended March 31, according to figures from Pakistan's central bank.

The federal government has been keen to see the project go ahead. A spokesman for the Pakistan Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources said Tethyan's contract remains valid. But under Pakistan laws, local governments have the greater share of say in mining projects.

The Baluchistan government hasn't followed through on its threat to cancel Tethyan's exploration contract, said Mushtaq Ahmed Raisani, secretary for mines and mineral development in the Baluchistan provincial government.

Pressure on Tethyan to sweeten its deal increased after a unit of China Metallurgical Group, a state-owned Chinese company, made a counteroffer to take over the project, which is believed to contain 12.3 million tons of copper and 20.9 million ounces of gold.

Raisani said Baluchistan province had received a letter from China Metallurgical offering to develop the project but replied that it had an existing contract with Tethyan. Attempts to reach the Chinese company Thursday were unsuccessful.

Chinese companies in recent years have invested billions of dollars in Baluchistan, which is rich in natural resources, Pakistan officials say. Another unit of China Metallurgical is developing the Saindak copper and gold mine in Baluchistan, not far from the Reko Diq site.

The Chinese government has given financial and technical assistance to the development of Gwadar port in Baluchistan, which the government hopes will become a major global shipping hub and conduit for its natural resources. And Chinese companies are looking at bidding for infrastructure, power and coal projects in Baluchistan and other areas of Pakistan, local officials say.

-By Tom Wright, The Wall Street Journal; tom.wright@wsj.com

All Day

ملک میں گالف کے فروغ میں نیوی نے اہم کردار ہے بلوچستان حکومت کی درخواست پر
-- Voice of Asia
گواہر میں گالف کورٹس تعمیر کریں گے چیف آف نیول سٹاف ایڈمرل نعمان بشیر
of Asia

اسلام آباد(وائس آف ایشیا) چیف آف نیول سٹاف ایڈمیچور گالف کپ کی سینئرز کیٹگری میں انٹرکمڈیئر ریٹائرڈ راجا حفیظ جبکہ لیڈیز کیٹگری میں مسز تہمینہ علی خان نے کامیابی حاصل کر کے ٹائٹل اپنے نام کر لیا۔ اسلام

آباد میں کھیلے گئے چیف آف نیول سٹاف ایمپچور گالف ٹورنامنٹ کی سینئرز کیٹگری میں 133 کے نیٹ سکور کے ساتھ ایئر کموڈور ریٹائرڈ راجا حفیظ، لیڈیز کیٹگری میں 69 کے نیٹ سکور کے ساتھ مسز تہمینہ علی خان، جونیئرز کیٹگری میں 63 کے نیٹ سکور کے ساتھ ماسٹر منہاج وڑائچ، ایمپچور کیٹگری میں 198 کے نیٹ سکور کے ساتھ احمد سرور جبکہ گراس کیٹگری میں 224 کے گراس سکور کے ساتھ پاکستان نیوی کے طارق محمود فاتح قرار پائے۔ افتتاحی تقریب سے مہمان خصوصی چیف آف نیول سٹاف ایڈمرل نعمان بشیر نے خطاب میں کہا کہ ملک میں گالف کے کھیل کے فروغ میں پاکستان نیوی نے اہم کردار ادا کیا۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ بلوچستان حکومت کی درخواست پر گوادر میں گالف کورس تعمیر کیا جائے گا۔

All Day

Karzai's Balancing Act: Bringing 'China' In? -- By Shanthie Mariet D'Souza for ISAS

By Shanthie Mariet D'Souza for ISAS

China's interests in Afghanistan are perceived to be mainly economic. It is unlikely that the March 2010 Sino-Afghan joint declaration, following President Hamid Karzai's visit to China, will bring about a dramatic change in the present Chinese policy of abstaining from military engagement in the conflict-ridden country.

However, as the scenario of United States (US) withdrawal from Afghanistan looms large, China will have to prepare itself for a much larger and crucial role for long-term stabilisation and reconstruction of the war-ravaged country given that its interests would be at stake. Its friendly ties with Pakistan would continue to be a great leverage when it decides to pursue such a policy.

President Karzai's three-day state visit to China, beginning 23 March 2010, culminated with the establishment of the China-Afghanistan comprehensive cooperative partnership. This first visit after the Afghan President's re-election evoked immense international attention as an attempt by a beleaguered leader to indulge other big powers in the region at a time when he faces increasing criticism on corruption, cronyism and electoral reforms at home and abroad. Considering the fact that China's role in Afghanistan thus far has remained limited, this visit has sparked speculations regarding increased Chinese engagement in that country. In a joint declaration, Chinese President Hu Jintao emphasised on five aspects of the cooperative partnership - (1) political and diplomatic; (2) economic and trade; (3) humanitarian; (4) security and police affairs; and (5) multilateral efforts to build the comprehensive cooperative partnership of good-neighbourliness, mutual trust and friendship for generations.

The huge prohibitive costs notwithstanding, the Chinese Metallurgical group is willing to invest in the insurgency afflicted Logar province. This is in conjunction with China's larger regional economic strategy of development of its underdeveloped western regions and linking them with regional trade routes through Central Asia, South Asia, Iran and Middle East. In recent years, the region has witnessed highly visible and substantial Chinese investments into the Gwadar port (Baluchistan province) and Karakorum Highway in Pakistan and a multi-billion dollar pipeline from Kazakhstan to Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR). Afghanistan and Pakistan are seen as key transportation and trade links to actualise this strategy extending from Iran to China. The Gwadar port facilitates China to import 60 per cent of its energy needs from the Middle East.¹²

May 21, 2010

Fri

All Day

The Gwadar Port Civic Centre, Gwadar, and construction of Eastbay Expressway -- APP

Allocation for the Ports and Shipping Ministry for the new financial year is Rs 630 million for the two ongoing schemes, and there will be no foreign loan component of it. The schemes are: the Gwadar Port Civic Centre, Gwadar, and construction of Eastbay Expressway to link the Gwadar Port with the National Road Network.

All Day

بندر گاہ خلیج فارس، بحیرہ عرب، بحر ہند، خلیج بنگال اور اسی سمندری پٹی میں واقع تمام بندرگاہوں سے زیادہ گہری بندر گاہ ہو گی -- وکیپیڈیا سے

بندر گاہ خلیج فارس، بحیرہ عرب، بحر ہند، خلیج بنگال اور اسی سمندری پٹی میں واقع تمام بندرگاہوں سے زیادہ گہری بندر گاہ ہو گی اور اس میں بڑے بڑے کارگو بحری جہاز باآسانی لنگر انداز ہو سکیں گے۔ جن میں ڈھائی لاکھ ٹن وزنی جہاز تک شامل ہیں۔ اس بندر گاہ کے ذریعے نہ صرف [پاکستان] بلکہ افغانستان، چین اور وسط ایشیاء کی تمام ریاستوں کی تجارت ہوگی۔ بندر گاہ کی گہرائی 14.5 میٹر ہوگی یہ ایک بڑی، وسیع اور محفوظ بندر گاہ ہے۔ اس کی اہمیت کے پیش نظر بہت سے ممالک کی اس پر نظریں ہیں۔ بندرگاہ کا ایک فیز مکمل ہو جہاز لنگر انداز ہو سکیں گے جبکہ Ro-Ro 5 چکا ہے جس میں 3 برتھ اور ایک ریمپ شامل ہے۔ ریمپ پر کرین آپریشنل حالت میں لگ چکی ہیں۔ ایک RTG عدد فکس کرینیں اور 2 عدد موبائل کرینیں جبکہ ایک برتھ کی لمبائی 600 میٹر ہے جس پر بیک وقت کئی جہاز کھڑے ہو سکیں گے جبکہ دوسرے فیز میں 10 برتھوں کی تعمیر ہو گی۔ بندر گاہ چلانے کیلئے تمام بنیادی سامان اور آلات بھی لگ چکے ہیں

APP -- افغانستان کو تجارتی مرکز میں بدلنے کیلئے انقلابی ریل پراجیکٹ شروع

افغانستان کو تجارتی مرکز میں بدلنے کیلئے انقلابی ریل پراجیکٹ شروع پہلے مرحلے میں ریلوے لائن کے ذریعے مزار شریف کو ازبک سرحد سے ملایا جائیگا ایشیائی بنک 165 ملین ڈالر گرانٹ فراہم کریگا، تجارت کو فروغ ملے گا، ماہرین بیراتان (اے ایف پی) افغانستان نے غربت میں جکڑے اور جنگ سے تباہ حال ملک کو سلک روڈ تجارتی مرکز میں تبدیل کرنے کیلئے انقلابی ریلوے پراجیکٹ شروع کر دیا۔ اتوار کو افغانستان کے شہمال میں ازبکستان کے ساتھ سرحد پر مزدوروں نے سخت گرمی میں صحرائی علاقے میں ملک کے پہلے ریلوے پراجیکٹ پر کام کا آغاز کر دیا جس کیلئے ایشیائی ترقیاتی بنک (اے ڈی بی) 165 ملین ڈالر کی گرانٹ فراہم کر رہا ہے۔ پراجیکٹ کے تحت ریلوے لائن 75 کلو میٹر طویل پہلا سیکشن شمالی افغان شہر مزار شریف کو ازبک سرحد سے ملانے گا۔ ریلوے لائن کی تعمیر سے افغانستان میں تجارت کو فروغ ملے گا اور افغانستان کو بین الاقوامی بندر گاہوں سے ملانے میں مدد ملے گی۔ افغان وزیر خزانہ عمر زخیوال نے گزشتہ ہفتے اس حوالے سے منعقدہ افتتاحی تقریب میں کہا تھا کہ یہ افغانستان اور خطے کیلئے بہت اہم پراجیکٹ ہے، یہ ریل نیٹ ورک نہ صرف افغانستان بلکہ پورے خطے میں اقتصادی انقلاب کا باعث ہوگا۔ پراجیکٹ کا مقصد افغانستان میں زرعی، ٹیکسٹائل اور معدنیات کے شعبوں کو ترقی دینا ہے۔ افغان ماہر اقتصادیات سید مسعود نے کہا کہ یہ ایک بہت اہم منصوبہ ہے، اس سے افغانستان پاکستان، وسطی ایشیائی ممالک اور چین کے درمیان علاقائی تجارت کے لیے مضبوط ٹرانزٹ حب بن جائے گا۔ منصوبے کے تحت افغانستان کو ریلوے لائن کے ذریعے براستہ مزار شریف تاہرات ایران سے ملا یا جائے گا۔ واضح رہے کہ مزار شریف قدیم سلک روڈ کا اہم مرکز تھا۔ ماہرین کا کہنا ہے کہ افغانستان میں ریلوے لائن کی تعمیر سے تجارت کو فروغ میں حائل رکاوٹوں میں کمی ہوگی اور امداد کی فراہمی آسان ہو جائے گی۔

June 2, 2010

Wed

All Day

Naval chief for debate on Gwadar Port's potential -- SAMAA TV

Naval chief for debate on Gwadar Port's potential

Updated on: 02 Jun 10 01:00 AM

Staff Report

KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Noman Bashir has said that Indian Ocean is an important trade region as 33 percent of the world's total fuel passes through this sea route.

Speaking at the Karachi Institute of International Affairs (KIIA) here on Tuesday, he said the ships, which have so far arrived at Gwadar Port, are result of the subsidy provided by the Government of Pakistan.

He urged the need for holding a debate at the KIIA to explore the true potential of Gwadar Port.

All Day

Pakistan, China sign five agreements; Gilani says Chinese support source of strength -- APP

Pakistan, China sign five agreements; Gilani says Chinese support source of strength

ISLAMABAD, Jun 9 (APP): Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani Wednesday said China's support for Pakistan's security, stability and economic development is a source of strength. He thanked China for its steadfast support and solidarity to Pakistan through thick and thin and termed Pakistan-China relations a central pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy. The Prime Minister expressed these views at the start of bilateral talks held between Pakistan and China here at the PM House on Wednesday evening. The Chinese delegation was headed by Vice Premier Mr. Zhang Dejiang. Pakistan and China on at the conclusion of the bilateral talks also signed five agreements.

The agreements included Concessional Loan for PAKSAT I-R Project, Cooperation in Port Construction and Port-Management-Training, Cooperation in Information Technology, China-Pakistan Cable System Construction and Maintenance Agreement and contract agreement for engineering, procurement and construction works of the Darawat Dam Project.

Earlier, in the bilateral talks, the Prime Minister said that President Asif Ali Zardari would be visiting China next month and is also expected to meet President Hu Jintao in Tashkent on the margins of SCO Summit.

He expressed the hope that exchange of high level visits this year would provide further impetus to our expanding partnership.

Talking about regional situation, Prime Minister Gilani said that establishment of durable peace and respect for sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Afghanistan is a prerequisite for peace and stability of Pakistan.

Applying Chinese support, the Prime Minister said that Pakistan highly appreciates the US \$ 1 billion Balance of Payment support extended by Beijing in 2008-09.

He said that Pakistan-China friendship is a factor of peace and stability for the region and "we look forward to jointly celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations next year".

The Prime Minister said that Pakistan strictly adheres to "One-China Policy" and fully supports China's principled position on the return of Taiwan to the motherland. Islamabad regards Tibet as an inalienable integral part of China and is firmly opposed to any attempts to undermine China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, he added.

The Prime Minister said that both countries are committed to fight the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism and mentioned in the same context that "we unequivocally condemn ETIM and assure China of our complete cooperation in countering and defeating it".

Appreciating the Chinese assistance/extension of credit in setting up Chashma Nuclear Power Plants, the Prime Minister said that Mega projects like Gwadar, KKH, HMC and Neelum-Jhelum Hydro-electric Plant are shining symbols of our friendship.

Prime Minister Gilani emphasized that Pakistan and China should take full advantage of the FTA and both Governments should encourage and facilitate the bilateral cooperation between their private sectors by starting projects mutually facilitated by both Governments and run by the private sectors.

"We should strive to meet the bilateral trade target of US \$ 15 billion", he maintained.

He urged the Chinese Government to encourage its private sector and arrange for a Chinese Buyers delegation's visit to help bridge the ever widening trade gap between the two countries.

He stressed the need for Joint Economic Commission and Economic Cooperation Group to meet at an early date to review the entire range of economic cooperation.

The Prime Minister said that Karakoram Highway is the most vital trade and strategic link between Pakistan and China and its upgradation would greatly help boost economic ties.

Unfortunately, some sections of Karakoram Highway, he added, have come under deep water of Attabad lake, caused by recent landslides. Pakistan would like a Chinese technical team to evaluate the situation of Karakoram Highway, in the

wake of creation of Attabad lake, with a view of its urgent restoration, he added. He called on the Government of China to consider immediate assistance for Pakistan for construction of a bypass on KKH to re-open it for traffic and to facilitate issuance of visa permits and licenses to the personnel of the transport companies and business houses involved in arranging much needed surplus from China to the people of Hunza and other affected areas near Attabad lake. Pakistan, he maintained, is keen to pursue rail link between Havelian and Khunjerab, which would provide a direct link between Pakistan and China. The Gwadar port, he said, will provide an optimal trade route for China, Pakistan and the Central Asian States after completion of Havelian Khunjerab rail link. While appreciating the significance of IT sector, the Prime Minister said that both countries need to explore the possibility of development of an Integrated high-tech Manufacturing and ICT Services Technology Park in Pakistan and a Telecom University at a mutually agreed location with Chinese help. The major Chinese Electronics Companies, he said, should be encouraged to establish telecommunications equipment production facilities in Pakistan for the project. The Government of Pakistan, he maintained, could provide land and incentives package including corporate and personal tax holidays. Pakistani Companies excel at outsourced software development and this expertise combined with the skills of Chinese IT companies can be channelized for setting up of joint ventures between Chinese and Pakistani IT companies, he said. The Chinese Vice Premier while reciprocating the feelings expressed by the Prime Minister said that the growth of relations between Pakistan and China are very clear and visible. He lauded the Prime Minister and his family's role in promotion of ever closer Pakistan-China friendship and hoped that this remarkable sense of amity will be passed onward to his next generation. The Vice Premier noted with satisfaction that contacts at the highest level as well as people to people have gained strength over the years and resultant expanding relations had given boost to trade and economic ties and opened up new avenues of cooperation in the multifaceted ties. He assured that China would take every possible measure to rectify the trade imbalance between the two countries. He stated that relevant Chinese Ministries and departments will be directed to give top priority and favourable consideration to the specific projects proposed by the Prime Minister for assistance and cooperation in the fields of infrastructure connectivity, telecommunications, agriculture, energy, water conservation, and railways. The Chinese Vice Premier greatly appreciated Pakistan's role as a frontline state against terrorism. In the wake of economic losses to Pakistan in fighting war against terror, he assured, China would extend unilateral concessions to Pakistan in trade and commerce.

All Day

پاکستان اور چین میں نئی ٹی، بندرگاہوں، آبی وسائل کے شعبوں میں 5 معاہدے -- نمائندہ جنگ/ایجنسیاں

پاکستان اور چین میں نئی ٹی، بندرگاہوں، آبی وسائل کے شعبوں میں 5 معاہدے

بندرگاہوں اور آبی وسائل کے 'اسلام آباد (نمائندہ جنگ/ایجنسیاں) پاکستان اور چین کے مابین انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی شعبوں میں 5 معاہدے طے پا گئے۔ وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی اور چین کے نائب وزیراعظم ژانگ ڈیجیانگ معاہدوں کے تحت چین پاکستان کو پاک سیٹ ون آر منصوبے کیلئے رعایتی قرضہ 'اس موقع پر موجود تھے بندرگاہوں کی تعمیر و انتظام کے علاوہ انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی کے شعبہ میں پاکستان کے ساتھ تعاون 'فرام کریگا اس کے علاوہ پاک چین کیبل سسٹم کی تعمیر اور دیکھ بھال اور دراوٹ ٹیم منصوبہ کے 'کو فروغ دیا جائے گا خریداری اور تعمیراتی کام کے معاہدے بھی طے پا گئے۔ دریں اثناء وزیراعظم سید 'سلسلے میں انجینئرنگ یوسف رضا گیلانی نے کہا کہ پاکستان چین سے اپنے تعلقات کو بہت اہمیت دیتا ہے، پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی خطے میں امن اور استحکام کیلئے اہم عنصر ہے۔ انہوں نے یہ بات چین کے نائب وزیراعظم ژانگ ڈی جانگ سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہی۔ دوطرفہ مذاکرات سے قبل ون آن ون ملاقات میں چین کی جانب سے حمایت اور یکجہتی پر شکریہ ادا کیا۔ چینی نائب وزیراعظم نے گرمجوشی سے خیر مقدم کرنے پر وزیراعظم کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ انہوں نے چین کے وزیراعظم کی جانب سے وزیراعظم گیلانی کے نام خیر سگالی کا پیغام پہنچایا۔ علاوہ ازیں وزیراعظم گیلانی سے برطانوی وزیر مملکت برائے بین الاقوامی ترقی اینڈریو میل سے بات کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان اپنی معیشت کے استحکام کیلئے امداد کی بجائے تجارت کا خواہاں ہے۔ بھاری انسانی و معاشی نقصان کے باوجود دہشتگردی کیخلاف جنگ کے اپنے عزم پر قائم ہیں۔ پاکستان کے قانون نافذ کرنے والے اداروں کی

صلاحیت میں اضافے کیلئے بین الاقوامی تعاون بڑھانے کی ضرورت ہے۔ برطانیہ اور پاکستان کے دوستانہ تعلقات کو سراہتے ہوئے وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ بہت سے علاقائی اور عالمی امور پر دونوں ملک یکساں سوچ رکھتے ہیں اور انے والے برسوں میں اس ہم آہنگی میں اضافہ ہو گا۔ وزیراعظم نے توقع ظاہر کی کہ برطانیہ کے پانچ سالہ پروگرام 2008-2013ء کے تحت 1.2 بلین ڈالر کی مدد سے پاکستان سے غربت کے خاتمہ، گڈ گورننس کو بہتر بنانے اور پائیدار ترقی میں مدد ملے گی اور میلنیم ترقیاتی اہداف کو حاصل کیا جا سکے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ میلنیم ترقیاتی اہداف پر اگلی سربراہ کانفرنس میں برطانوی قادت سے بات چیت کا موقع ملے گا۔ برطانوی وزیر مملکت برائے بن الاقوامی ترقی اینڈریو مچل نے کہا کہ برطانیہ جہالت اور غربت کے خاتمہ کیلئے پاکستان کو ہر ممکن امداد فراہم کرے گا۔ انہوں نے یقین دلایا کہ برطانیہ فاٹا اور عسکریت پسندی سے متاثرہ علاقوں کی

All Day

Rs. 12984.001 million GB budget for FY 2010-11 presented -- APP

Rs. 12984.001 million GB budget for FY 2010-11 presented

GILGIT, June 23 (APP): The Rs.12,984.001 million Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) budget for the fiscal year 2010-11 was presented on Wednesday. GB Finance Minister Muhammad Ali Akhtar presented the budget in the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly session, which was chaired by Speaker Wazir Baig. The new budget provides allocation of Rs. 6,404.889 million for non-development expenditures, while the remaining amount has been earmarked for the development projects. Delivering the budget speech in the GBLA, Muhammad Ali Akhtar announced 50 per cent raise in the salaries of government employees with 100 per cent increase in medical allowance of employees from BPS 1 to 15, and 15 percent rise for employees from BPS 16 and above.

He told the House that the government requires Rs. 1227.740 million to meet this expenditure.

He also announced 50 percent raise in salaries of Police personnel and said the pay structure was being reviewed to bring it at par with other areas of the country. The Finance Minister said that 1500 new vacancies are being created during the next financial year.

He informed the House that though subsidies have been withdrawn throughout the country but subsidy on wheat amounting to Rs. 1878.600 million will remain intact in Gilgit-Baltistan.

He said a significant amount has been allocated for education sector besides increasing number of scholarships from existing 300 students to 600 students.

He said that all the secretaries and heads of the departments have been declared Principal Accounting Officers of their respective departments after promulgation of GB order 2009, enabling them to ensure speedy disposal of their financial matters under system of the financial control and Budgeting System 2009.

Operating expenses have been reduced by 26.5 percent as compared to financial year 2009-10 to make provision for recruitment against 1500 posts and 250 posts in Police department to improve Law and Order situation.

The finance minister told the House that for socio-economic improvement of poor segments, Benazir Income Support Program was being initiated for which a survey is underway.

He said that for the year 2010-11, Rs. 638.486 million has been increased for non-development budget, while Rs. 700 million have already been released for implementation of the empowerment order 2009.

He said that the government has established 6 new departments and for this purpose, six posts of secretaries have been created to run the affairs of the departments.

He said that keeping in view the growing population, new divisions, districts, sub divisions and tehsils are to be created. To improve the system of jail, a full-fledged separate department of jail is being set up, he added.

He said that services department has been directed to ensure 10 per cent quota for women and a department of Disaster Management Authority is being established to deal with calamities.

He further said that during the upcoming fiscal year, the revenue of the GB government has been targeted at Rs. 355.124 million.

He said that the development budget has been divided into two parts, with Rs. 3127.8 million allocated for 9 ongoing and one new projects under the PSDP, while Rs. 1234.6 allocated for Special Development Package.

The Finance Minister said that for the year 2010-11, Rs. 349.17 million have been earmarked as block allocation to complete 258 projects out of 611.

He told that block allocation is divided into two parts as 20 percent was allocated to initiate new projects whereas 80 percent to be spent on completion of ongoing projects.

He said that for power sector, the government has allocated Rs. 1140 million to complete 14 projects.

Similarly, he said the government has allocated Rs. 952.2 million for Transport and Communication sector. Besides, 50 Kilometer roads will be carpeted and 200 KM

new roads would be constructed.

He told the house that a total of 75 projects would be completed during the year 2010-11.

He said that for the Physical Planning & Housing Sector, the government has allocated Rs. 387.7 million to raise infrastructure in Education, Health, Tourism, Fisheries, Agriculture and Forest sectors.

He told the House, that some 52 new buildings would be constructed and 15 KM pipelines to be laid down.

He said Women Development and Social Welfare sector would enjoy special attention of the government. He also enumerated other achievements and said during the next fiscal year, Rs. 698.350 million would be spent to initiate new projects after consultation with members.

Later, Speaker Wazir Baig adjourned the House to meet again on Friday for debate on the budget.

All Day

Zardari to discuss open access policy for Railways in China visit -- THE NEWS

Zardari to discuss open access policy for Railways in China visit

Sunday, June 27, 2010

By Aftab Maken

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari in his scheduled week-long visit to China will deliberate upon an open access policy for railways, roads network to China and other viable options for oil and gas pipeline, The News learnt on Saturday.

Besides these two key sectors, the president with his Chinese counterparts will not only streamline, but also develop phased implementation plan of all these key projects connecting the two brotherly countries through rail and road networks for oil and gas transportation and transshipments to China, an official told The News.

Besides, the official said that the two countries would also appoint a reputable international consultant to refine the concept and to carry out investment definition study and based on projects viability a detailed feasibility study.

They will also establish a joint working group for formulating a comprehensive master plan, while large oil and gas companies, consultants, engineering firms and investment banks will also be taken on board on all these agreed issues, the official said.

Under the open access policy of Pakistan Railways, Chinese firm either private or public can invest in rolling stock and operate a freight trade company in Pakistan.

The private train operators will also be allowed to operate their private trains on Pakistan Railways infrastructure by paying a track access charge, he said.

The oil and gas pipelines, either in North-South oil corridor, connecting Central Asian Republics to Pakistan through Gwadar or South-North oil corridor, connecting China with the Middle East through Gwadar and West-East gas corridor, connecting Iran to China through Pakistan would also come under discussion, the official said.

The proposed oil and gas pipeline route of Havelian-Khunjerab section, the official said that it has a total distance of 662km between Havelian-Khunjerab and the pre-feasibility study has been completed by Dong Fang Electric Corporation and ILF, Austria-Germany for the project.

Two aide memoirs signed on October 28, 2009 and March 6 between the Railways Ministry of Pakistan and China Railway Group Limited to facilitate financing and complete feasibility study would also be reviewed during the meetings, he added.

All Day

Enhanced Chinese interest in Pakistan -- (Chennai, Sri Lanka Guardian)
Enhanced Chinese interest in Pakistan
by B.Raman

(July 01, Chennai, Sri Lanka Guardian) The Chinese Foreign Ministry has announced that at the invitation of the Chinese Government President Asif Ali Zardari of Pakistan will be visiting China from July 6 to 11, 2010, for talks with President Hu Jintao, Prime Minister Wen Jiabao and other Chinese leaders. This will be his second official visit to China at the invitation of the Chinese Government. His first visit was in October, 2008, shortly after he took over as the President. In fact, after assuming office as the President, he chose China for his first official bilateral visit to emphasise the importance attached by him to his country's relations with China.

2. He had announced during his first visit that he would be visiting various Chinese provinces once a quarter to learn from the Chinese experience in economic development. In pursuance of this, he had visited China thrice last year. These visits were not undertaken at the invitation of the Chinese Government. He visited a number of Chinese provinces and discussed with the local officials and businessmen about their experience in developing their provinces. He also discussed with them prospects for co-operation between their provinces and Pakistan. During these visits, he did not go to Beijing. The Chinese Foreign Minister flew to one of the provinces being visited by Mr. Zardari and called on him. Before leaving for Pakistan, he spoke with Mr. Hu and Mr. Wen over telephone.

3. The most productive of his visits so far has been his visit to Hang Zhou in the Zhejiang province and Guangzhou in the Guangdong province from August 21 to 24, 2009. During this visit, he sought Chinese participation in the development of hydel, thermal and solar energy projects, irrigation and fisheries and mobile telephone networks and in creating facilities for higher technical education, including the setting-up of a telecommunications university and research complex. Among the concrete results from this visit were:

- * The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote cooperation in river fisheries and related technologies by representatives of the Indus River Fresh Water Fisheries Research Institute and the Pearl River Fishery Research Institute of Guangzhou.

- * The signing of an MOU for the construction of a dam at Bunji in the Astore district of Gilgit-Baltistan by officials of Pakistan's Ministry of Water and Power and China's Three Gorges Project Corporation. The Chairman Board of Investment Saleem Mandviwala and Li Yang'an of the Chinese corporation signed the MoU. The dam, one of the eight hydel projects short-listed for construction by the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), will have a capacity of generating 7,000 megawatts of electricity.

- * The signing of an MOU on cooperation in drug regulation and production of hepatitis B and C vaccines.

- * The signing of another MOU between the Sindh Agricultural University in Tandojam and the South China Agricultural University in the Guangzhou province for cooperation in agricultural research, plant protection and animal husbandry.

- * The signing of two separate MsOU by the Board of Investment of Pakistan with the China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), Guangdong province and the Guangdong Sub Council of CCPIT.

4. Mr. Zardari attended a presentation on small and medium sized dams, water conservation and irrigation by the Zhejiang Design Institute of Water Conservancy and Hydroelectric Power. Li Yueming, the President of the institute, said they had carried out feasibility studies of a couple of medium-sized dams in the Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK). Shakeel Durrani, Chairman of the WAPDA, who was

present on the occasion, said that Chinese companies were already working on a number of hydel projects in Pakistan, including Neelum-Jhelum and Gomal Zam and the raising of the height of the Mangla dam in the POK. He said the institute would be invited to bid for the construction of 12 small dams. Five of these dams were to be built in Balochistan, four in Sindh, two in Punjab and one in Khyber-Pakthoonwa.

5. In a report carried by the "News" of August 18, 2009, before Mr. Zardari's visit, Mr. Kamran Khan, its journalist, alleged that without inviting open bidding from interested companies and investors, the Pakistan Steel had signed a non-transparent secret MoU with the Metallurgical Corporation of China (MCC) for a \$2.2 billion expansion programme to raise its current production capacity of 1.1 million tons to five million tons. According to him, contrary to relevant government rules and regulations as well as basic norms of transparency, the Pakistan Steel didn't place any advertisement in the local and international press to seek the best international offers before entering into secret negotiations with the Chinese company, which was long seeking to clinch this deal. He said: "The most shocking element of this MoU, available with this correspondent, which will bind Pakistan with an additional foreign loan of \$2.2 billion, is a clause that requires complete secrecy of this understanding. Clause 6.1 of this MoU states: "This MoU and any discussions related to it shall remain strictly confidential between the parties and no public announcement shall be made without written consent of both parties." Kamran Khan quoted a Pakistani official as saying: "This was not our requirement but the Chinese company asked for this secrecy clause and we agreed."

6. During his interactions with local officials and businessmen in the course of this visit, Mr. Zardari kept pointing out that the Western regions of China now being developed were closer to Pakistani ports than to Chinese ports and invited ideas and proposals for developing rail and road communications between Pakistan and Xinjiang. Since taking over as the President, he has reportedly been pressing the Chinese for early implementation of the ideas mooted by Pakistan when Gen. Pervez Musharraf was in office for the construction of gas and oil pipelines between the Chinese-constructed port of Gwadar and Xinjiang and for the construction of a railwayline between Pakistan and Xinjiang. Pakistan had also mooted with Beijing the idea of China purchasing part of the gas which will be coming into Pakistan from Iran when the proposed Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline is completed.

7. The Chinese have agreed to conduct a feasibility study on the proposed railway line between Pakistan and Xinjiang. Two MoUs were signed on October 28, 2009, and March 6, 2010, between the Railways Ministry of Pakistan and China Railway Group Limited on the feasibility study. The progress made in this regard is expected to be discussed during Mr. Zardari's forthcoming visit to Beijing.

All Day

Ambassador invites Pak businessmen to visit Tajikistan -- APP

Ambassador invites Pak businessmen to visit Tajikistan

LAHORE, July 2 (): Ambassador of Tajikistan Zubaydullo Zubaydov has invited Pakistani businessmen to take part in the Business Forum being arranged by the Tajik government from July 18 to 22 in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, to promote trade between both countries. Addressing a meeting held at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Friday, he said marvellous opportunities in fields including pharmaceutical, textiles, fresh fruits, juices, milling products, sugar, beverages, oil, inorganic chemicals, perfumes, cosmetics, soaps were available to Pakistani businessmen.

He said that traders should visit Tajikistan for getting first-hand knowledge. The Ambassador said that presently huge business between Pakistan and Tajikistan was being done through third party, depriving Pakistani businessmen of real dividend, therefore, the business community in Pakistan should initiate a direct contact with their Tajik counterparts to expedite the volume of two-way trade. He said Tajikistan had eased its visa policy for Pakistanis with the sole purpose of promoting trade and investment in both countries.

The Ambassador said during the visit of the President of Republic of Tajikistan to Pakistan eight agreements were signed between the two governments and the agreements contributed a lot to enhance and develop economic relations between Pakistan and Tajikistan.

Speaking on the occasion, LCCI Vice President Faisal Iqbal Sheikh said that it was very encouraging that both Tajikistan and Pakistan were trying to revive and strengthen their historical relationships, which he added remained dormant during the period of Soviet occupation of Tajikistan.

He said a greater interaction among chambers of the two countries, exchange of trade delegations and holding of single country exhibitions could increase the volume of our trade.

He said Pakistan would also be able to serve as a trade corridor for Tajikistan through the Gwadar port connected to the Central Asian States and China with a network of roads.

All Day

PM calls for taking Pak-Sino bilateral ties to new heights -- Daily Times
PM calls for taking Pak-Sino bilateral ties to new heights

* Gilani says Pakistan has always adhered to 'One China Policy' considering Taiwan part of the mainland

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Friday expressing his satisfaction over Pakistan's longstanding comprehensive strategic partnership with China called for re-doubling of the efforts by both sides to take the bilateral relations to new heights.

The PM was talking to Liu Jian, the newly-appointed Chinese ambassador to Pakistan who called on him at the Prime Minister's Secretariat. Gilani expressed confidence that the new Chinese ambassador would continue the tradition of the previous ambassadors in further strengthening the friendship between the two countries. He assured the ambassador of his government's complete cooperation in pursuing his mission and in supplementing his efforts in this regard.

The PM stated that Pakistan deeply valued the contributions of the Chinese government and its cooperation for the economic development of Pakistan. He said that Pakistan has always adhered to the 'One China Policy' and considers Taiwan a province of China and regards Tibet as an inalienable part of the Chinese mainland.

The PM noted that both the countries were committed to fighting the three evils of terrorism, sectarianism and extremism and Pakistan had unequivocally condemned the nefarious activities of the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM). He reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue to extend its fullest cooperation to China in countering and fighting the ETIM threat in the future as well. Gilani termed the regular contacts between the two countries particularly the people to people contacts and youth exchanges as vital for passing on the excellent Pakistan-China ties to the future generations.

He was of the view that President Asif Ali Zardari's visit to China next week would open up new vistas of bilateral cooperation as a number of memorandum of understandings (MoU) and agreements were to be signed by the two sides during that visit.

The PM also reiterated his invitation to the Chinese premier to visit Pakistan and asked the Chinese ambassador to convey it to the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao that the government and people of Pakistan were keenly looking forward to welcome him, later this year.

Gilani thanked the Chinese government for its prompt action to send its technical team for assessing the damages caused to Karakoram Highway by the artificial lake at Ataabad. He hoped that on submission of the Chinese team's report, both the sides would jointly take the required measures to immediately address the problem. Welcoming the satisfactory progress in the ongoing Karakoram Highway upgrade project, the PM stated that Pakistan would also welcome the investment by the Chinese corporations to develop infrastructure and connectivity projects linking Gwadar to upper parts of the country and establishment of transportation, communication and oil and gas pipeline corridors.

He also hoped that the Chinese government would continue assisting Pakistan in the defence sector and in the ongoing joint defence production projects would be resolutely pursued. Ambassador Liu Jian conveyed to the PM, the best wishes of the Chinese prime minister.

He termed his appointment as ambassador of his country to Pakistan as a singular honour and assured the PM of his determination to work for further strengthening and promotion of the bilateral relations between Pakistan and China during his tenure.

He expressed the hope that Pakistan would also accord him the same level of

cooperation, which his predecessors had enjoyed. Ambassador Liu thanked the PM for the measures to provide security to the Chinese nationals in Pakistan and for the continued support to his country against ETIM's threats. app

All Day

Daily Jahng -- بلوچستان- تعمیر اور تخریب کے دوراے پرجرگہ... سلیم صافی

سلیم صافی... بلوچستان- تعمیر اور تخریب کے دوراے پرجرگہ

ڈی جی آئی ایس پی آر میجر جنرل اطہر عباس اور قومی و بین الاقوامی میڈیا کے اہم کرداروں کی معیت میں بلوچستان کے بلوچ اور پختون علاقوں کے اس دو روزہ دورے میں امید اور افسوس کے ملے جلے خیالات نے ذہن کو گھیرے رکھا۔ محسوس کیا کہ یہ خطہ تعمیر اور تخریب یا پھر خوشحالی اور تباہی کے دوراے پر کھڑا رہنماؤں اور ملکی قیادت نے دونوں میں سے ایک کا انتخاب کرنا ہے۔ 'بے اور اب بلوچستان کے عوام افسوس کہ میڈیا کی بے تحاشہ کے اس دور میں بھی اس قوم کو کنفیوژن اور بے خبری نے اپنی لپیٹ میں لے رکھا ہے۔ قبائلی علاقوں کے زمینی حقائق سے لاہور اور کراچی والے بے خبر ہیں۔ کراچی کی اصل خبر باقی پاکستان تک نہیں پہنچ رہی اور بعینہ بلوچستان کے تلخ اور بعض شیریں حقائق اسلام آباد اور لاہور کے مکینوں ہر جگہ سے متعلق ہمیں جو کچھ بتایا 'کراچی ہو یا پختونخوا' کی نظروں سے پوشیدہ ہیں۔ فٹا ہو یا بلوچستان سے معاملہ یکسر الٹ نظر آتا ہے جب ہم متعلقہ علاقوں میں جاتے اور براہ راست 'پڑھوایا اور دکھایا جاتا ہے' متعلقہ لوگوں سے ملتے ہیں۔

سندھی 'مسئلہ یہ ہے کہ یہاں سیاست اور صحافت میں بھی فیشن کا دور دورہ ہے۔ ایک زمانے میں صرف بلوچ اور پختون قوم پرستوں کو گالی دینے کا فیشن تھا تو ہر طرف سے صرف انہی کو مطعون کیا جا رہا تھا اور مرکز یا پھر اسٹیبلشمنٹ کی تائید و حمایت کو پاکستانیت اور ایمان کا تقاضا قرار دیا جا رہا تھا۔ کچھ عرصہ سے صرف مرکز اور اسٹیبلشمنٹ کو مطعون کرنے اور بلوچ سرداروں کو مظلوم بنانے کا فیشن عام ہو گیا ہے چنانچہ اب گاڑی یکسر دوسرے رخ پر چل پڑی ہے۔ حالانکہ بلوچستان کے متعدد دوروں اور بلوچ عوام سے تبادلہ میں اس نتیجے تک پہنچا ہوں کہ بلوچستان کو پسماندہ رکھنے میں بلوچ سرداروں کا 'خیالات کے نتیجے میں حصہ بھی کسی سے کم نہیں۔ تعمیر ترقی کے حوالے سے جتنا فرق بلوچستان اور اسلام آباد کے درمیان موجود اس سے زیادہ فرق ایک سردار اور عام بلوچ کے معیار زندگی کے درمیان موجود ہے۔ عام بلوچ کا بیٹا 'بے اسکول اور کتاب کی شکل دیکھنے کو ترس گیا ہے لیکن کم و بیش ہر بلوچ سردار کا بیٹا بیرون ملک پڑھتا ہے۔ ایم پی اے جیسی اصطلاحات سے بھی واقف نہیں لیکن سردار کا 'عام بلوچ ووٹ ڈالنے اور ایم این اے اسٹیبلشمنٹ 'وزیر اعلیٰ یا پھر وزیر سے کم کسی منصب پر گذارنا نہیں ہوتا۔ مرکز بھی ذمہ دار ہے 'وزیر اعظم ہم جیسے صحافی بھی مجرمانہ 'اور بڑے صوبے کے مختاروں کی حماقتوں اور مظالم کا بھی کوئی شمار نہیں کردار کے مرتکب ہوئے ہیں لیکن بلوچستان کی پسماندگی اور تباہی میں خود بلوچ سرداروں کا کردار بھی کسی سے کم نہیں۔ جس نے ذاتی مفادات اور تعصبات کی خاطر پہلے بلوچ عوام کو غلام رکھنے کے لئے پسماندہ رکھا نیویارک یا پھر 'اور اب انہی مقاصد کے لئے اس کے ہاتھ میں بندوق اور بم تھمانا چاہتا ہے۔ جو خود تو لندن لاہور اور کراچی کی کوٹھیوں میں بسیرا کر رہا ہے لیکن عام بلوچ کے لئے اسے اس کی جھونپڑی 'اسلام آباد میں رہنا بھی گوارا نہیں اور انہیں وہاں سے نکال کر غاروں اور پہاڑوں کی طرف دھکیل رہا ہے۔ ہمیں یا تاثر دیا جا رہا ہے کہ جیسے بلوچستان میں اب بھی فوج آپریشن میں زوروں پر ہے لیکن وہاں جاکر پتہ وہ بھی ایف سی کے ذمہ ہوتی 'چلا کہ فوج کہیں آپریشن نہیں کر رہی۔ جہاں کارروائی کی ضرورت پڑتی ہے فوج امیج بلڈنگ کے لئے وہاں پہلی مرتبہ بعض منفرد اور قابل ستائش تعمیراتی کاموں میں بھی مصروف ہے۔ لیکن اس کے برعکس ہمیں جو یہ تاثر دیا جاتا ہے کہ بلوچستان میں پیپلز پارٹی اور اس کے اتحادیوں کی وہ بھی یکسر غلط ہے۔ بلوچستان کی سیاسی حکومت کے تمام اہم کرداروں نے اپنے آپ کو صرف 'حکومت کے عہدوں کی بندر بانٹ اور لوٹ مار تک محدود کر رکھا ہے جبکہ سیکورٹی اور بلوچستان کے مستقبل 'پروٹوکول بلوچوں 'کے تعین کا تمام تر کام فوج کے سپرد ہے۔ زلزلہ زدگان کی بحالی ہو تو فوج کے تعاون سے ہو رہا ہے چمکانگ کول مائنز اور اس سے وابستہ فلاحی 'کا مین سٹریٹ میں لانے کے منصوبے ہیں تو فوج چلا رہی ہے منصوبے ہوں تو فوج نگرانی کر رہی ہے۔ سیاسی حکومت صرف اقتدار کے ایوانوں یا پھر میڈیا میں نظر آرہی ہے۔ فوجی حکام سے کوئٹہ میں ٹارگٹ کلنگ کے بارے میں حکومتی اداروں کی بے بسی یا لاتعلقی کے بارے میں استفسار کیا تو کہنے لگے کہ کوئٹہ میں تو فوجی آپریشن ہو رہا ہے اور نہ یہاں کی سیکورٹی سے فوج کا کوئی تعلق ہے۔ جبکہ حکومت کی دلچسپی کا یہ عالم ہے کہ کئی ماہ سے اس صوبے میں انسپکٹر جنرل پولیس کی پوسٹ خالی پڑی ہوئی ہے۔

اس میں سرفہرست فوج میں بلوچ نوجوانوں کی شمولیت کا عمل 'دورہ بلوچستان میں امید کا جو مواد نظر آیا ہے۔ ہمیں بتایا گیا کہ اس وقت فوج سے نو (۹) ہزار سے زائد بلوچ نوجوان جن میں بعض آفیسرز رینک کے وابستہ ہیں۔ آرمی چیف جنرل اشفاق پرویز کیانی کے حکم پر رولز میں تبدیلی لاکر فوج میں بھرتی کے 'بھی ہیں عمر اور چھاتی 'تعلیم 'لئے بلوچ نوجوانوں کو خصوصی ترغیبات اور مراعات دی گئی ہیں۔ مثلاً ان کے لئے قد کی شرائط نرم کردی گئی ہیں جبکہ ٹریننگ اور تعیناتی میں بھی خصوصی سہولتیں دی گئی ہیں۔ بلوچ اپنے اس لئے ہر بلوچ کو ٹریننگ کے لئے ایبٹ آباد (بلوچ رجمنٹ کا 'علاقے سے باہر نکلنے سے انکڑاتے ہیں مرکز) جانے کی سوتی اور کوئٹہ میں ٹریننگ کی سہولت دی گئی ہے۔ بیشتر انسٹرکٹر بھی بلوچ رکھے گئے ہیں۔ ٹریننگ کی تکمیل کے بعد ہر فوجی کو ملک کے اس حصے میں جانا پڑتا ہے جہاں کمانڈر حکم دیتا ہے لیکن بلوچ نوجوانوں کو یہ آپشن دیا جاتا ہے کہ وہ بلوچستان میں رہنا چاہتا ہے یا پھر کسی اور صوبے میں جانا چاہتا ہے۔ ان ترغیبات کی وجہ سے بلوچ نوجوانوں کا فوج میں شمولیت کا رجحان بڑھ رہا ہے اور امسال ساڑھے تین ہزار سے زائد (3570) نوجوان بھرتی ہو کر کوئٹہ اور سوتی میں ٹریننگ حاصل کر رہے ہیں حقیقت یہ ہے کہ ان بلوچوں کو ٹریننگ حاصل کرتے اور پاکستان زندہ باد کے نعرے لگاتے دیکھ کر دل کو جو سکون ملا اس نے سی وں تھرٹی اور ہیلی کاپٹروں میں تکلیف دہ سفر کے سارے تھکن کو دور کر دیا۔ فوج کا دوسرا قابل ستائش منصوبہ لورالائی اور گوہلو کے سنگم پر واقع چمکانگ میں کونلے کے وسیع ذخائر پر کام کا آغاز ہے۔ یہ ذخائر انیسویں صدی کے اواخر میں دریافت ہوئے تھے لیکن پختون (لونی) اور بلوچ (مری)

قبائل کے تنازعے کی وجہ سے کوئی بھی کونلے کے اس ذخیرے سے استفادہ نہیں کر سکتا تھا۔ فوج کی ثالثی سے صوبائی اور دونوں قبائل کے مابین آمدنی کی تقسیم کا معاہدہ 2006ء میں طے 'دونوں قبائل کے مابین وفاقی پایا معاہدے کے تحت سیکورٹی کی ذمہ داری فوج نے سنبھالی۔ چنانچہ آج خشک پہاڑوں پر مشتمل اس علاقے ہوٹل اور ہسپتال تعمیر ہو گئے ہیں۔ بجلی اور پانی 'تعلیمی ادارے' کی شکل یکسر بدل گئی ہے۔ درجنوں کالونیاں جن 'کی سہولتیں میسر آگئی ہیں۔ آج اس پروجیکٹ میں 70 ہزار سے زائد لوگوں کی روزگار لگی ہوئی ہے میں ایک بڑی تعداد ملاکنڈ ڈویژن سے تعلق رکھنے والے پختونوں کی بھی ہے۔ دو ہزار سے زائد بلوچ نوجوان چمالنگ لیوی کا حصہ بن کر سیکورٹی کا فریضہ سرانجام اور معقول تنخواہیں حاصل کر رہے ہیں۔ مئی 2010ء تک یہاں سے چھ ارب روپے کا کونلہ نکالا جاچکا تھا اور نتیجتاً مری اور لونی قبائلی کی زندگی بدل جانے کے ساتھ ساتھ وفاقی حکومت کو بھی 208 جبکہ بلوچستان حکومت کو 134 ملین روپے کی آمدنی حاصل ہو گئی تھی۔ (CBEP) تاہم اس پراجیکٹ کا سب سے تابناک پہلو فوج کے زیر نگرانی چمالنگ بلوچستان ایجوکیشن پروگرام ہے۔ اس پروجیکٹ سے ملنے والی آمدنی کا ایک نہایت محدود حصے سے ایک فنڈ قائم کیا گیا ہے۔ اس فنڈ کو صرف اور صرف بلوچستان کے نوجوانوں کی تعلیم و تربیت کیلئے وقف کر دیا گیا ہے۔ مری اور لونی قبیلوں کے طلبہ کیلئے کوئٹہ چھاونی میں ایک ہاسٹل کے قیام کے علاوہ اس پروگرام کے تحت سینکڑوں بلوچ طلبہ اس وقت بہاولپور اور گواڈر اعلیٰ ترین اسکولوں میں تعلیم حاصل کر رہے ہیں جن 'گوجرانوالہ' 'پشاور' 'کراچی' 'لاہور' کے نہ صرف تمام اخراجات اس فنڈ سے ادا کئے جارہے ہیں بلکہ ان کو ماہانہ وظائف بھی دئے جاتے ہیں۔ اس فنڈ کے زیر اہتمام قائم کئے گئے چمالنگ بنیفشریز ایجوکیشن پروگرام کے زیر اہتمام قائم کئے گئے ووکیشنل آٹو 'کارپنٹر' 'ویلڈر' 'مکینکس' سنٹر میں بلوچستان کے نوجوانوں کو فوج کے انسٹرکٹر کمپیوٹر آپریٹر ڈرس ڈیزائننگ اور بیوٹیشن کی تربیت دے رہے ہیں جہاں سے ہزاروں لڑکے اور لڑکیاں 'ٹرائیور' 'الیکٹریشن' ہزاروں زیر تربیت جبکہ ہزاروں اپنی باری کے منتظر ہیں۔ امید اور خوشی کے 'تربیت حاصل کر چکے ہیں مظاہر کے ان مناظر کے علاوہ بعض افسوسناک اور اندوہناک پہلو بھی سامنے آئے۔ مثلاً یہ کہ بلوچ نوجوانوں کی اکثریت کا غم و غصہ اب بھی کم نہیں ہوا ہے۔

گزشتہ آٹھ سال کی فوجی کارروائیوں اور ایجنسیوں کے ہاتھوں سینکڑوں بلوچوں کے غائب ہونے کے واقعات نے ان کو اس قدر بددل کر دیا ہے کہ موجودہ عسکری قیادت کی طرف سے فوج کے امیج بلڈنگ کی بھرپور کوششوں کے باوجود ان کا غصہ کم نہیں ہو رہا۔ موجودہ سیاسی قیادت پر بھی بلوچستان کے عوام کو کوئی اعتماد نہیں۔ یوں وہ بلوچستان پیکج پر عمل درآمد کے سلسلے میں بھی پرامید نہیں۔ بلوچستان کی حکمران سیاسی قیادت نااہلی اور کرپشن کی داستانیں بھی دل دہلانے والی ہیں۔ کوئٹہ اور بعض دیگر شہروں میں جس 'کی لاتعلقی طرح پنجابیوں (جو کہ بلوچستان کی معیشت اور ترقی میں اہم کردار ادا کر رہے تھے) کو جس ٹارگٹ کلنگ کا اس سے نہ صرف نفرتیں جنم لے رہی ہیں بلکہ صوبے کی معیشت بھی مزید تباہ ہوتی 'نشانہ بنایا جا رہا ہے جارہی ہے جبکہ تعلیم و تربیت اور صحت کے شعبے بھی بری طرح متاثر ہو رہے ہیں۔ دوسرا تشویشناک اور خطرناک پہلو یہ سامنے آیا کہ بلوچوں کی احساس محرومی کو تو ختم نہیں کیا گیا لیکن اس کے خاتمے کے نام پر حکومت جو کچھ کر رہی ہے اس سے بلوچستان کے پختونوں میں احساس محرومی شدت سے بڑھنے لگی ہے۔ ایک طرف پختون قوم پرس

All Day

محکمہ تعلیم بلوچستان نے 1500 خواتین سمیت 3250 بلوچ گریجویٹس کو تقرر نامے جاری**Daily times -- کر دیئے**

محکمہ تعلیم بلوچستان نے 1500 خواتین سمیت 3250 بلوچ گریجویٹس کو تقرر نامے جاری کر دیئے۔ کوئٹہ (اُردو پوائنٹ اخبار تازہ ترین۔ 4 جولائی۔ 2010ء) محکمہ تعلیم بلوچستان نے آغاز حقوق کے تحت 1500 خواتین سمیت 3250 بلوچ گریجویٹس کو سرکاری تقرر نامے جاری کر دیئے، ٹیسٹ انٹرویو میں کامیابی حاصل کرنے والے 115 نوجوان جعلی ٹگریوں کے باعث تعیناتیوں سے محروم رہیں گے۔ ذرائع کے مطابق بلوچستان کے محکمہ تعلیم نے اتوار کے روز بھی آغاز حقوق بلوچستان کے تحت بلوچ گریجویٹس کی اپائنٹمنٹس کا سلسلہ جاری رکھا۔ اب تک مجموعی طور پر بلوچستان کے 26 اضلاع کے 3250 بے روزگار نوجوانوں کو تقرر نامے جاری کئے گئے ہیں جن میں 1500 خواتین بھی شامل ہیں۔ کوئٹہ اور مستونگ سے تعلق رکھنے والے گریجویٹس کے تقرر نامے بھی تیار کئے جا رہے ہیں۔ مجموعی طور پر پانچ ہزار تعلیم یافتہ نوجوانوں کو محکمہ تعلیم میں ملازمتیں دی جائیں گی جس کے لئے 37 ہزار گریجویٹس نے ٹیسٹ انٹرویوز میں حصہ لیا تھا جن میں سے 32 ہزار ناکام ہوئے تھے جبکہ 115 بلوچ نوجوانوں کی ٹگریاں جعلی ثابت ہونے پر تقرر جاری نہیں کئے جائیں گے۔ یہ افراد ٹیسٹ انٹرویو میں کامیابی کے باوجود تعیناتیوں سے محروم رہے ہیں۔

All Day

کرزئی کی الزام تراشی بند، افغانستان کا پاکستان کی طرف جھکائو، بھارت خوفزدہ --**برطانوی جریدہ اکنامسٹ**

کرزئی کی الزام تراشی بند، افغانستان کا پاکستان کی طرف جھکائو، بھارت خوفزدہ

کراچی (فارن ٹیسک) برطانوی جریدہ اکنامسٹ نے پاکستان کا افغانستان میں کردار کے عنوان سے رپورٹ شائع کی ہے جس میں کہا گیا ہے کہ قندھار کے وسط میں چھوٹا سا مشن اور تین اور جگہوں جلال آباد، مزار شریف اور ہرات میں بھارتی قونصل خانوں پر سخت برہم ہے کیونکہ یہ سفارتخانے پاکستان مخالف سرگرمیوں کا محاذ ہیں جو پاکستان میں بلوچ باغیوں کی مدد کرتے ہیں۔ رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ پاکستان کی ہمیشہ سے یہ خواہش رہی ہے کہ اس کا افغانستان میں عمل دخل رہے اور بھارت کے ساتھ مکمل جنگ کی صورت میں وہ اسے اسٹریٹجک امداد فراہم کر رہا ہے لہذا وہ قندھار جیسے مقام پر اپنے روایتی حریف بھارت کی موجودگی پسند نہیں کرتا۔ رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ افغانستان کا پاکستان کی طرف حالیہ جھکائو کے نتائج سے بھارت میں خوف پایا جاتا ہے۔ مسٹر کرزئی نے پاکستان پر الزام تراشی بند کر دی ہے حالانکہ انہیں حقانی گروپ کی جانب سے جون میں حملہ کیلئے جمع ہونے کی اطلاع بھی دی گئی جس کے پاکستان انتہیلی جنس کے ساتھ قریبی روابط ہیں مگر مسٹر کرزئی نے اس پر بھی کوئی الزام عائد نہیں کیا۔

All Day

قباٹلی علاقوں میں 500 ارب ڈالر کے معدنی ذخائر کا انکشاف -- شاموزنی (فارن ڈسک)

قباٹلی علاقوں میں 500 ارب ڈالر کے معدنی ذخائر کا انکشاف

امریکہ معدنیات کی صنعت کو فروغ دینے کیلئے یہاں 7.5 ارب ڈالر خرچ کر رہا ہے۔ شاموزنی (فارن ڈسک) پاکستان کے قباٹلی علاقوں میں 500 ارب ڈالر کے معدنی ذخائر ہیں۔ اس بات کا انکشاف امریکی خبر رساں ادارے اے پی نے ایک رپورٹ میں کیا ہے۔ اس رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ امریکہ معدنیات کی صنعت کو فروغ دینے کیلئے یہاں 7.5 ارب ڈالر خرچ کر رہا ہے۔ کچھ تخمینوں کے مطابق یہ ذخائر دگنی مالیت کے ہیں۔ گزشتہ ہفتے امریکہ نے افغانستان میں ایک کھرب ڈالر کے ذخائر کی موجودگی کا اعلان کیا تھا۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق ان ذخائر پر پہلے طالبان کا کنٹرول تھا۔ ایک سال کے پاک فوج آپریشن سے سوات کے یہ ذخائر مقامی لوگوں کے پاس واپس آ گئے ہیں۔ ان علاقوں میں قیمتی پتھر سنگ مرمر، گرینائٹ، کرومانٹ، اور کوئلہ کے ذخائر ہیں جن کو سمگلنگ سے بچانا ضروری ہے۔

All Day

China to invest \$10b in hydro-power projects in Pakistan -- By Agencies

China to invest \$10b in hydro-power projects in Pakistan

By Agencies

July 07, 2010

President Zardari being welcomed by Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zhi Jun.
PHOTO: APP

BEIJING: President Asif Ali Zardari, during his visit to China, met with the Chairman of a Chinese firm that is willing to invest \$10 billion in hydro-power projects in Pakistan.

On his sixth visit as President to China, Zardari also met with the President of Exim Bank as well as the President of The Three Gorges Corporation.

Briefing reporters after the meetings, Zardari said the company will build dams in Bunji and Kohala areas. The dams are to generate 7,000 and 12,000 megawatts respectively.

China has said it has the right to pursue nuclear power projects with Pakistan — which China treats as a counter-weight to Indian influence. Chinese nuclear companies have built one reactor unit at the Chashma atomic complex in Pakistan's Punjab province, and they are building another one likely to be finished in 2011 or 2012. Chinese companies have also unveiled plans to build another two bigger reactors at Chashma in coming years.

President Zardari also held talks with his Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao and Prime Minister Wen Jiabao.

A nearly \$7 billion trade deal between the two countries is also expected to be discussed.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang told the media that China and Pakistan will sign cooperation agreements in agriculture, healthcare, economy and technology sectors during President Zardari's visit.

Commenting on some media reports which claimed that China is striving to balance relations with India and Pakistan, Qin said China expects good neighbourly, friendly and cooperative relations with its two South Asian neighbours.

"We are willing to make joint efforts with both India and Pakistan to promote our bilateral ties, which will benefit the people in the three countries and common development and prosperity of the region," Qin said, noting that China is also glad to witness improvements in Indo-Pak ties.

All Day

Many Chinese companies operate in Pakistan and China is involved in the construction of a deep-sea port at Gwadar on the Arabian Sea. --

BEIJING

BEIJING — China and Pakistan pledged to step up joint efforts against terrorism Wednesday as the presidents of the two neighboring nations vowed to expand trade and economic cooperation, state media said.

Chinese President Hu Jintao welcomed Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari to the Great Hall of the People where the two leaders expressed their commitment to deepening ties in energy, communications and infrastructure construction.

"China and Pakistan are both victims of terrorism," China Central Television quoted Hu as telling Zardari.

"To strengthen Sino-Pakistani anti-terrorism cooperation and strike at terrorism, separatism and religious extremism is in the fundamental interests of the people's of both nations."

Hu urged Pakistan to continue to look out for the safety and security of Chinese nationals and companies in Pakistan following a spate of kidnappings in recent years, it said.

Zardari is in China until Sunday and will meet with Prime Minister Wen Jiabao and other leaders on Thursday, Chinese diplomats said.

Earlier Zardari met with top Chinese bankers and business executives pledging

greater protection for Chinese investment in his nation, his office said in a statement.

Besides talks with executives from NORINCO, China's top arms manufacturer, Zardari also met with leaders of Sinohydro Corporation, the nation's main dam builder and China Petrochemical Corporation, also known as SINOPEC, the statement said.

China is Pakistan's strongest ally and Islamabad relies heavily on Beijing for its defence and infrastructure needs.

Many Chinese companies operate in Pakistan and China is involved in the construction of a deep-sea port at Gwadar on the Arabian Sea.

China has also agreed to build two new civilian nuclear reactors in Pakistan, the government said in March, amid persistent concerns about the safety of nuclear materials in the restive south Asian state.

News of the reactors elicited concerns from Washington over the security of nuclear materials in troubled Pakistan, where the Taliban movement is waging a bloody offensive.

In recent days a Pakistan army contingent has been taking part in joint anti-terror exercises with the Chinese military in China in the latest sign of closer relations between the two countries, state press reported.

All Day

Pakistan president woos Chinese energy investment -- Associated Press Writer

Pakistan president woos Chinese energy investment

By ANITA CHANG

Associated Press Writer

Alexander F. Yuan, Pool

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, second right, and Chinese President Hu Jintao, right, shake hands while Zardari's daughters stand beside at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, Wednesday, July 7, 2010. Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari appealed Wednesday to Chinese business leaders for help in developing his country's ailing energy sector, pointing to nuclear power as one area of growth but making no public mention of a deal with China that has alarmed the U.S. and others.

Pakistan's president appealed Wednesday for Chinese help in developing his country's stagnant energy sector, pointing to nuclear power as one growth area but making no public mention of a deal with China that has alarmed the U.S. and others.

The weeklong visit to China is Asif Ali Zardari's fifth since he came to office in September 2008, underscoring the robust diplomatic, military and commercial ties between the neighbors. He met President Hu Jintao on Wednesday and signed six agreements, including one on economic and technology cooperation. Details were not made public.

The visit highlights China's support for Pakistan as they face scrutiny over a 2008 deal that would give energy-starved Pakistan two new nuclear power plants. Critics said transferring the reactors would violate international nonproliferation agreements.

"This deal comes at a time to assure the people of Pakistan that despite their repeated requests to the West to give them such a deal ... it is China once more which they rely on as an all-weather friend," said Adnan Bukhari, an associate research fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies of Singapore's Nanyang Technological University.

The deal also came shortly after a wide-ranging deal that allowed the U.S. to sell nuclear fuel, technology and reactors to India, a regional rival of both China and Pakistan.

Bukhari said the China-Pakistan deal is sending a message in particular to India,

whose relationship with Pakistan has been of varying tensions for decades. Both countries have nuclear weapons.

Zardari met with Chinese business leaders Wednesday in industries ranging from banking to defense in a bid to attract investment, according to a statement from his spokesman, Farhatullah Babar. He singled out energy as a growth industry in Pakistan.

Electricity shortages are chronic in Pakistan, where expansion of supply has lagged fast-growing demand. Some regions experience electricity outages of up to 18 hours a day and it is not uncommon for prolonged blackouts to provoke riots. Authorities planned to feed the grid through "hydro, coal, gas, nuclear and renewable energy sources," the Pakistan statement said, without elaborating on the growth of nuclear energy.

Pakistan, whose former top nuclear scientist has been accused of trafficking sensitive nuclear technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea, has not signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the main international agreement meant to stem the spread of nuclear weapons technology. China signed the treaty in the 1990s. India also has not signed the treaty.

Mark Hibbs of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace said in an April report that the U.S.-India deal was given the go-ahead by member states of the Nuclear Suppliers Group - which seeks to limit the spread of nuclear-related equipment - only after "considerable arm-twisting ... by the United States, France and Russia."

Yet Washington has expressed concern that China's nuclear deal with Pakistan doesn't have the necessary approval from the NSG, and has called for China to provide more information about it.

"In the past half-year or so, making peaceful use of nuclear energy has been a sensitive issue," said Wang Lian, an associate professor in the School of International Studies at Peking University. "The U.S. government has been urging the Chinese government to make the process more transparent."

So far, planning for the construction of the two reactors at the Chashma site in Pakistan's Punjab province has apparently gone forward.

"The United States and other NSG states may object to the pending transaction but they cannot prevent China from exporting the reactors," Hibbs said in his report. Other countries are also concerned about the risk of an attack on nuclear facilities by insurgents battling the Pakistani military in the country's northwest tribal areas adjacent to Afghanistan, Bukhari said.

"The more you expand your nuclear programs or installations, there is more threat of attacks on them or maybe stealing of your equipment or your weapons," he said. Pakistan maintains that it has stringent security at its existing nuclear facilities and screening of staff to prevent infiltration of their ranks.

China has said the deal would be carried out in line with "international obligations" and subject to international safeguards and supervision.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman did not answer a question about a nuclear deal with Pakistan in a news conference Tuesday.

Posted on Wed, Jul. 07, 2010 09:54 AM

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Zardari met with top Chinese bankers and business executives pledging greater protection for Chinese investment in his nation, his office said in a statement. -- SAMA TV

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Chinese President Hu Jintao welcomed Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari to the Great Hall of the People where the two leaders expressed their commitment to deepening ties in energy, communications and infrastructure construction.

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CHINA TO INVEST IN TWO HYDRO POWER PROJECTS IN PAKISTAN

Chinese Company Three Gorges has announced to invest in two hydro power projects in Pakistan, SAMAA reported Wednesday.

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari has met with Chairman of Three Gorges Corporation Cao Guangjing. After the meeting, Cao Guangjing while giving a briefing to media he said that his company Three Gorges has agreed to invest more than \$ 100 billion in two hydro power projects in Pakistan. For this purpose at the point of Bunji in Gilgit Baltistan, a dam of 7,000 MW, whereas 12, 00 MW dam at Kohalla will be constructed.

Zardari's visit aims at strengthening strategic partnership will also promote economic and trade cooperation and enhance cultural ties between the two countries.

During the past two years over five dozen new initiatives and nearly forty MoUs were signed between the two countries. These include hydro dams, transfer of hybrid technology, expanding banking operations, roads and communication networks, agriculture sector with optimum use of water, development of new high yielding varieties of wheat and cotton, proposed Thar Coal project and dredging of Tarbela reservoir.

Today, Zardari will hold a separate meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao.

Zardari will leave Beijing for Shanghai later this week, and visit the Pakistani National Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo.

This is Zardari's fifth visit to China since he became president of Pakistan.
SAMAA/AGENCIES

All Day

EPA -- پاکستان بحیثیت چنی گئی دہن والے معترض

پاکستان بحیثیت چنی گئی دہن والے معترض
ٹیکرز: تبصرے، سیاست

ہونے والی دہن ہمارے ہاں اس لڑکی کو کہتے ہیں جب وہ کسی نوجوان مرد کی جانب سے دست و قلب پیش کیے جانے پر ہاں کہہ دے، لیکن اگر کسی لڑکی کے دوخوستانگار ہوں اور دونوں ہی دست و قلب دہی پر مائل ہوں تو کیا ہو؟ اس نوع کی صورتحال آج پاکستان کے احوال پر صادق آتی ہے جواج بیک وقت واشنگٹن اور بیجنگ پر فریفتہ ہے۔ اپنی جغرافیائی حیثیت کے تئیں پاکستان کا کردار ہمیشہ تزویری نوعیت کا رہا ہے۔ چین، ہندوستان، ایران اور افغانستان جیسے ممالک پاکستان کے ہمسایہ ملک ہیں۔ سابق سوویت یونین کے ٹوٹنے سے جنم لینے والے کئی وسطی ایشیائی ممالک کی سرحدیں بھی اس ملک سے بہت دور نہیں ہیں، شاید یہی وجہ ہے کہ پاکستان کو امریکی اور ایشیائی ممالک کی سیاست میں ہمیشہ ہی اہم مقام حاصل رہا ہے۔ امریکہ اور نیٹو میں اس کے اتحادی ملکوں کی جانب سے افغانستان میں "تحریک طالبان" کے خلاف جنگ چھیڑے جانے کے بعد یہ اہمیت کہیں فزوں تر ہو چکی ہے۔ اصل میں پاکستان، افغانستان میں تعینات امریکی فوجیوں کو عقب سے کمک فراہم کرنے کے مرکز میں ڈھل چکا ہے۔

چین پاکستان کے ساتھ روایتی طور پر اچھے ہمسائے کا سا تعلق رکھتے ہوئے بلکہ ہندوستان کے ساتھ غیر عمومی تعلق کی وجہ سے وہ پاکستان کا اتحادی بھی ہے۔ چین نے پاکستان کے زیریں ڈھانچے، معیشت اور فوج کی ترقی کی خاطر، خاطر خواہ امداد فراہم کی ہے۔ چینی ماہرین اس وقت بھی پاکستان میں شاہراہوں اور گہرے پانی والی بندرگاہ گواہر کی تعمیر، الیکٹرونکس، جوہری توانائی اور میزائلوں کی صنعت میں مدد دے رہے ہیں۔ سب ٹھیک ٹھاک ہی ہوتا اگر پاکستان کا باثروت اور طاقتور سرپرست اپنی روش نہ بدل لیتا۔ اپنا رخ بدل کر واشنگٹن کی ہندوستان کے ساتھ تزویری شراکت کاری کے سلسلے میں رضامندی، دہلی کے ساتھ 2006 میں پرامن جوہری توانائی کے معاہدے پر دستخط کیے جانے اور ہندوستان کو جدید ترین اسلحہ دینے میں بڑھتی ہوئی دلچسپی پر اسلام آباد شدید تشویش میں مبتلا ہے۔ اگرچہ امریکہ پاکستان کو پہلے کی ہی طرح اپنا شریک کار گردانتا ہے لیکن لگتا یوں ہے کہ پاکستان اب ایسا نہیں سمجھتا۔ اس کا اندازہ پاکستان میں بڑھتے ہوئے امریکہ مخالف رویے سے ہوتا ہے، بالخصوص پاکستان کے افغانستان سے ملحقہ سرحدی علاقوں پر ڈرون طیاروں سے کیے جانے والی بمباری کے تسلسل کے باعث۔ واشنگٹن نے اسلام آباد کو درکار گیس کی خاطر ایران، پاکستان، ہندوستان پائپ لائن کی تعمیر کے لیے ایران سے معاہدہ کرنے سے روکنے میں بھی کردار ادا کیا، امریکہ نے پاکستان کے ساتھ پرامن جوہری توانائی کے ضمن میں ویسا معاہدہ کرنے سے انکار کر دیا جیسا وہ پہلے ہی ہندوستان کے ساتھ کر چکا تھا، اس عمل کو پاکستان والوں نے اپنی توہین کیے جانے پر محمول کیا۔ پاکستان کی نظریں چین پر زیادہ لگنے لگی ہیں، اندازہ ہے کہ صدر پاکستان آصف علی زرداری کا حالیہ دورہ چین اس ملک کو اپنے اور قریب لانے میں مدد ہوگا۔ پاکستان کو امید ہے کہ وہ چین سے وہ حاصل کر لے گا جس سے امریکہ ڈھٹائی سے انکار کر چکا ہے۔ بالخصوص فریقین کے مابین پاکستان میں چشمہ کے مقام پر ان دو جوہری ری ایکٹروں کے علاوہ جن میں سے ایک پہلے ہی لگایا جا چکا ہے اور ایک کی تنصیب 2012 میں مکمل ہوگی، دو اضافی ری ایکٹر لگائے جانے کے معاہدے پر دستخط کیے جانے کی توقع ہے۔ اگرچہ امریکہ اس منصوبے کا مخالف ہوگا پھر بھی چین اسے مکمل کرے گا۔

All Day

چین نے پاکستان سے ایٹمی تعاون پر بھارتی تحفظات مسترد کر دیئے -- بیجنگ (آن لائن)

چین نے پاکستان سے ایٹمی تعاون پر بھارتی تحفظات مسترد کر دیئے

بیجنگ (آن لائن) چین نے بھارت پر واضح کر دیا ہے کہ پاکستان کے ساتھ سول جوہری تعاون عالمی قوانین کے انتظار اور "عین مطابق ہے، نئی دہلی کو پاکستان میں چشمہ کے مقام پر دو ایٹمی ری ایکٹر کی تعمیر پر کی پالیسی پر عمل کرنا ہوگا کہ بیجنگ اپنے منصوبے پر کیسے آگے بڑھتا ہے۔ چین کے چار روزہ "دیکھو دورے کے اختتام پر وطن واپسی سے قبل یہاں بھارتی میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے بھارت کے قومی سلامتی کے مشیر شیشونکر مین نے بتایا کہ انہوں نے چینی حکام سے ملاقاتوں میں تین بار پاکستان میں نیو کلیئر ری ایکٹر کی تعمیر کا معاملہ اٹھایا جس پر چینی حکام نے تحفظات مسترد کرتے ہوئے واضح کیا ہے کہ پاکستان میں جوہری ری ایکٹر کی تعمیر اور سول جوہری تعاون عالمی قوانین کے عین مطابق ہے۔ نئی دہلی کو اس معاملے پر انتظار کرنا اور دیکھنا ہوگا عالمی قوانین کے نفاذ کے حوالے سے بھارتی مشیر نے کہا کہ عالمی قوانین کا نفاذ ہمارا کام نہیں ہے ہمیں اس معاملے پر انتظار کرنا اور دیکھنا ہوگا کہ یہ معاملہ کیا رخ اختیار کرتا ہے۔ اس کی واضح گائیڈ لائنز موجود ہیں۔ تاہم انہوں نے اس تاثر کو (NSG) حوالے سے نیو کلیئر سپلائرز گروپ مسترد کر دیا کہ صدر زرداری کے دورہ سے قبل ان کے دورہ چین کا مقصد پاک چین ایٹمی تعاون کے معاملات پر تبادلہ خیال کرنا تھا۔

All Day

صدر زرداری بیجنگ پہنچ گئے، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان کئی معاہدے ہونگے، ایٹمی تعاون پر پیشرفت کا امکان

صدر زرداری بیجنگ پہنچ گئے، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان کئی معاہدے ہونگے، ایٹمی تعاون پر پیشرفت کا امکان

بیجنگ (اے پی پی) صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری چین کے 6 روزہ سرکاری دورے پر منگل کی شب بیجنگ پہنچ گئے۔ اس موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے صدر نے کہا کہ دورہ چین کا مقصد دونوں ممالک کے درمیان

اسٹریٹجک تعلقات اور اقتصادی و تجارتی تعاون میں اضافہ ہے، چینی قیادت سے ملاقاتیں نتیجہ خیز ہونگی۔ پاکستانی صدر کے دورے کے دوران پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان کئی معاہدے ہوں گے، اسکے علاوہ آج چینی صدر ہوجن تائو سے ملاقات میں توانائی کے منصوبوں اور ایٹمی تعاون پر ٹھوس پیشرفت کا امکان ہے۔ بیجنگ پہنچنے پر ذرائع ابلاغ سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے صدر نے کہا کہ چین خطے کے امن و استحکام میں اہم کردار ادا کر رہا ہے، دورے کا بنیادی مقصد دونوں ممالک کے سٹریٹجک تعلقات، اقتصادی تعاون کو فروغ دینا، تجارتی تعلقات میں اضافہ اور دونوں جانب کے عوام کے درمیان باہمی رابطوں کو فروغ دینا ہے۔ چین میں پاکستان کے سفیر مسعود خان نے صحافیوں سے بات کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ہمارا تعاون شفاف ہے جو ایٹمی توانائی کے بین الاقوامی ادارہ آئی اے ای کے سیف گارڈز کے تحت ہوگا۔ صدر کے دورے کا مقصد اسٹریٹجک شراکت داری کو مستحکم بنانا ہے جس کے نتیجہ میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان اقتصادی و تجارتی تعاون اور ثقافتی تعلقات میں اضافہ ہوگا۔ دفتر خارجہ کے حکام نے بتایا کہ دونوں صدور کے درمیان ہونے والی ملاقات دہشتگردی کے خلاف مشترکہ کوششوں اور علاقائی اور بین الاقوامی امن و استحکام پر مرکوز ہوگی۔ صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری چین کے وزیر زراعت اور وزیر آبی وسائل کے ساتھ بھی ملاقاتیں کریں گے اور زراعت اور آبی تحفظ کے شعبوں میں اضافی تعاون کا جائزہ لیں گے۔

All Day

Pakistan-China for enhancing strategic partnership (Important)

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APP

Pakistan-China for enhancing strategic partnership

BEIJING July 8, (APP): In separate meetings with Prime Minister Wen Jiabao and Chairman of the Chinese Peoples Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Chairman Jia Qinglin President Asif Ali Zardari held wide ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues on Thursday. They stressed unanimity of views on a host of regional and international issues and called for further stepping up economic cooperation and enhancing people to people contacts between the two countries.

1. Briefing journalists Presidential Spokesperson Farhatullah Babar said that the talks focused on joint economic projects, promoting regional connectivity, militancy and terrorism and modalities for enhancing people to people contacts as an essential component of the strategic relationship between the two countries.
2. President Zardari said that language was the most potent instrument for promoting people to people contacts and called for elaborate institutional arrangements for teaching Chinese and Urdu languages to the students, workers and people of Pakistan and China.
3. In the long term this was a most effective way for giving boost to the existing relations, he said.
4. About connectivity the President said that the disruption in the Karakoram Highway recently due to landslide had demonstrated the need for establishing a railway line and also a pipeline from Gwadar to China to connect the two countries.
5. Farhatullah Babar said that the two sides agreed that a meeting of the Pak-China Joint Economic Forum would soon be held in Islamabad to adopt measures to take to new heights the economic cooperation between the two countries.
6. The Joint Forum will take up issues including that of currency swap, opening of branches of Chinese banks in Pakistan and relocating industries in the special proposed industrial zones in Pakistan. The Chinese Commerce Minister will lead his country's delegation at the talks.
7. It was also agreed that the China National Energy Administration will hold discussions with Pakistani authorities on how best to tackle Pakistan's energy needs.
8. A day before President Zardari had impressed upon President Hu Jintao that Pakistan needed assistance in developing energy mix that included components of hydro, coal, thermal, wind and solar and nuclear power reactors to overcome the yawning gap between power supply and demand.
9. The two sides also decided to celebrate in a befitting manner the 60th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations next year and agreed to set up special committees in both the countries to develop plans for this purpose.
10. Premier Wen Jiabao said that China deeply appreciated Pakistan's policy of One China and assured President Zardari of his country's continued support to Pakistan at the UN and at multilateral forums including SAARC and ECO. China has supported Pakistan's full membership of the SCO.
11. President Zardari said that Pakistan wanted international help to help itself and that was why it was stressing on trade and not aid.
12. He said that access to international markets would help promote industrial activity in the country that would generate employment and help in turning away the unemployed youth from militancy.
13. President Zardari reiterated that trade relations between the two countries fell

short of the potential and needed to be stepped up. He also said that strengthening strategic and economic cooperation was a key element guiding Pakistan's foreign policy towards China.

14.The President also briefed the Chinese leaders on Pakistan's fight against militancy and the political support for it in the country. Premier Wen said that China deeply appreciated Pakistan's fight against extremism and pledged his country's unflinching support in it.

15.The Spokesperson said that connectivity projects including the 500 million dollars KKH up gradation project and the National Trade Corridor (NTC) also came under discussion. The over 800 km long KKH provides a trade and strategic link between Pak and China and to Central Asia.

16.China is assisting Pakistan for the improvement of 335 km long Khunjrab-Raikot section of the KKH that is expected to be completed in 2012. Pakistan is also implementing a NTC Program to modernize the trade, transportation and logistics system in the country and to provide improved regional connectivity, he said.

17.The meeting with the Chairman CPPCC Jia Qinglin took place in the Great Hall of the People while that with Premier Wen Jiabao was held in his office in Zhongnanhai. The meeting with Wen Jiabao was followed by separate meetings with Chen Lei Minister for water Resources and Han Changfu Minister for Agriculture in the state guest house.

18.Earlier in the day the President inaugurated photo exhibition at the Tsinghua University in Beijing which he described as "an important element of soft power".

19.Addressing the students and faculty on the occasion the President said that Moenjodaro was the cradle of human civilization that was known as the "Manhattan of the Bronze Age". He said that the Moenjodaro ruins revealed man's wisdom and fortitude and also the power of that civilization. The need for wisdom and struggle was never so great as it was today, he further said.

All Day

The Pakistani segment of the gas pipeline from Iran will cost \$1.2 billion and work will be completed in four years, an official said. -- The Express Tribune

KARACHI: The Pakistani segment of the gas pipeline from Iran will cost \$1.2 billion and work will be completed in four years, an official said.

Managing Director Interstate Gas Systems, Naim Sharafat, said the project is planned to be funded through a debt-equity ratio of 70:30, requiring debt financing of \$872 million and equity investment of \$373 million. The Interstate Gas Systems is a joint venture of Sui Southern Gas Company and Sui Northern Gas Pipelines. He was giving a presentation to the Senate standing committee for Petroleum and Natural Resources on the status of Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project at the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC).

This was the first Senate committee meeting at the SSGC since Iran and Pakistan inked the historic agreement in Tehran in June for the supply of natural gas from 2015.

Chairman Standing Committee Sabir Ali Baloch chaired the meeting, which discussed salient features of the 1,150-kilometre pipeline that will connect Iran's South Pars gas field with Balochistan and Sindh provinces.

Sharafat said the project's debt portion is expected to be secured from domestic and international financiers including Sindh and Balochistan governments, Sui Southern Gas Company, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines, Oil and Gas Development Company, Pak Petroleum, Pak-Arab Refinery Company and National Bank. The NBP will contribute \$190 million or 51 per cent of equity structure.

Besides, potential private investors include Petronas of Malaysia and Gazprom of Russia which will contribute \$183 million or 49 per cent of the equity structure. Further elaborating, Sharafat said Pakistan will construct about a 780-kilometre 42-inch diameter pipeline from the border, traversing along the Makran Coastal Highway to connect with existing gas transmission network at Nawabshah. Almost 665 km of the pipeline will pass through Balochistan while about 115 km of the

pipeline will be laid in Sindh.

He said under the Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement (GSPA), Pakistan will import 750 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) of gas with a provision to increase it to one billion cubic feet a day (bcfd).

The senators suggested that the stakeholders in the pipeline routes must be taken into confidence, majority of which are remote and less-developed areas, with clear-cut assurances about providing new schools, hospitals and vocational training centres.

In response to queries, the MD Interstate Gas Systems said being one of the largest infrastructure projects, the Iran-Pak pipeline will create new job opportunities in the provinces of Balochistan and Sindh, thus improving income level and standard of living of citizens.

Sharafat stated the Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement was broad enough to allow force majeure in the event the project is hampered due to United Nations sanctions on Iran. He said in case the project does not materialise, a liquefied natural gas terminal will be set up at Gwadar to allow re-gasified LNG to the system.

Giving the current status of the project, Sharafat said a detailed route survey was in progress to pave the way for engineering and design of pipeline facilities.

Later talking to media, the chairman Senate committee said it was important that the project start as soon as possible to bridge the rising natural gas demand-supply gap.

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All Day

پاک، چین ریلوے لنک ضروری ہو گیا ہے، زرداری -- بیجنگ

پاک، چین ریلوے لنک ضروری ہو گیا ہے، زرداری
بیجنگ : صدر زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ شاہراہ قراقرم پر لینڈ سلائڈنگ کے بعد پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان ریلوے لنک اور تیل پائپ لائن ضروری ہو گئی ہے۔ صدر آصف علی زرداری سے چین کے وزیراعظم وین جیا باؤ نے ملاقات کی۔ دونوں ملکوں کے مابین مشترکہ اقتصادی منصوبے اور علاقائی روابط کے فروغ پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ صدر زرداری نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تجارت کیلئے ریلوے لنک اور گواہر کے راستے چین تک پائپ لائن تعمیر کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔

پچاس کروڑ ڈالر کی لاگت سے قومی تجارتی راہداری اور قراقرم ہائی وے کی اپ گریڈیشن کے منصوبے پر بھی بات چیت کی گئی۔ چینی وزیراعظم نے صدر ایصف زرداری کو ای سی او، سارک اور اقوام متحدہ سمیت ہر فورم پر پاکستان کا ساتھ دینے کی یقین دہانی کرائی۔ پاک چین مشترکہ اقتصادی فورم کا اجلاس جلد اسلام آباد میں ہوگا۔ جس میں کرنسی سوئپ، بینکوں کی شاخیں کھولنے اور صنعتی زونز کے قیام پر بات چیت کی جائے گی۔

All Day

APP -- چین کا امریکہ اور بھارت کو دوٹوک جواب

چین کا امریکہ اور بھارت کو دوٹوک جواب
چین نے امریکہ اور بھارت کے اعتراضات کو جوتے کی نوک پر رکھتے ہوئے صاف صاف کہہ دیا ہے کہ ان ملکوں کے پاس پاکستان کے ساتھ سول جوہری معاہدے میں رکاوٹ ڈالنے کا کوئی جواز موجود نہیں۔ معاہدہ عالمی توانائی ایجنسی کے قوانین کے مطابق ہے اور جو اسے نہیں مانتا وہ بھاڑ میں جائے۔ دنیا میں سر اٹھا کر جینے کا قرینہ وہ ہے جو چین نے اختیار کیا ہے نہ وہ کسی ملک کے ساتھ جنگ کر رہا ہے نہ کسی کو ٹرا دھمکا رہا ہے لیکن اس کے خوف 'رعب اور دبدبے کا یہ عالم ہے کہ امریکہ 'بھارت اور اسرائیل اس سے بری طرح خائف ہیں۔ کاش کہ یہ بات ان سخت گیر پاکستانی مذہبی لوگوں کو سمجھ میں آجاتی جو امریکہ دشمنی میں اپنے ہی ملک کا شیرازہ بکھیرنے کی کوشش کر رہے ہیں۔ اس کرہ ارض پر اسی قوم کا طوطی بولتا ہے جو ہر طرف سے بے نیاز ہو کر خود کو ناقابل تسخیر بنالیتی ہے۔ آج کس کی مجال ہے کہ چین کی طرف آنکھ اٹھا کر بھی دیکھ سکے جبکہ ایک ہم ہیں کہ چند ماہ تک امریکی امداد نہ ملے تو ہماری سٹی گم ہو جاتی ہے۔ ماضی کا غریب چین آج دنیا کا طاقتور ترین ملک ہے اور خوش قسمتی سے ہمارا سچا دوست بھی۔ ہم کب اس راستے کا انتخاب کریں گے جسے برسوں پہلے چین نے اختیار کیا تھا؟ ہم ایٹمی طاقت تو بن گئے لیکن ہم میں اتحاد اور اتفاق کی طاقت کب آئے گی۔ کب ہم ایک قوم بنیں گے اور ایک قوم کی حیثیت سے دنیا میں سر اٹھا کر چلنا سیکھیں گے

All Day

چینی کمپنیوں کا پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کا اعلان -- بیجنگ

چینی کمپنیوں کا پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کا اعلان

بیجنگ: مختلف کمپنیوں کے سربراہان نے بیجنگ میں صدر زرداری سے ملاقات کے بعد پاکستان میں توانائی کے شعبے میں دس ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری، ٹرین کے پچتر انجن اور دو سو بوگیاں فراہم کرنے کے اعلانات کر دیئے۔ صدر آصف علی زرداری عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے چھ روزہ سرکاری دورے پر ہیں۔ ایگزیم بینک اور تھری گورجز کارپوریشن کے سربراہان نے آج بیجنگ میں صدر زرداری سے علیحدہ علیحدہ ملاقات

کی۔ تھری گورجز کارپوریشن کے سربراہ ککوننگ جنگ نے صدر زرداری سے ملاقات کو نہایت سود مند قرار دیا۔ تھری گورجز کارپوریشن پاکستان میں گلگت بلتستان میں بونجی کے مقام پر ڈیم بنائے گی جس سات ہزار میگاواٹ بجلی بنائی جاسکے گی جبکہ کوبالہ کے مقام پر تعمیر ہونے والے ڈیم سے بارہ سو میگاواٹ بجلی تیار ہوگی۔ اس کے علاوہ کراچی میں ایک ارب ڈالر سے وند انرجی کا منصوبہ شروع کیا جائے گا جس سے پانچ سو میگاواٹ بجلی حاصل ہوگی۔ صدر زرداری سے چائنا نادرن ریلویز کارپوریشن کے چیئرمین چاؤ ڈیانگو نے بھی ملاقات کی۔ اس موقع پر چین کی جانب سے پاکستان ریلوے کو پچہتر انجن اور دو بوگیاں فراہم کرنے کا اعلان کیا گیا جبکہ صدر زرداری نے کہا کہ تجارت اور سرمایہ کاری کے فروغ کی غرض سے چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان ریل کے ذریعے رابطہ جلد از جلد قائم ہونا چاہئے۔ اس سے پہلے چین کے ایگزیم بینک کے صدر لی روجو تھری نے بھی صدر زرداری سے ملاقات کی اور دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ میں پاکستان کو ہونے والے مالی نقصان پر تئلہ خیال کیا۔ صدر زرداری آج عظیم عوامی ہال میں چین کے صدر ہوجن تاؤ سے بھی ون آن ون ملاقات کریں گے۔ اس کے بعد معاونین کے ہمراہ بھی بات چیت ہوگی۔ صدر کے ترجمان فرحت اللہ بابر کے مطابق اس ملاقات کے موقع پر بعض معاہدوں اور مفاہمت کی یادداشتوں پر دستخط متوقع ہیں۔

All Day

گیس پائپ لائن پروجیکٹ کو جلد شروع کیا جائے: سٹینڈنگ کمیٹی -- مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک

گیس پائپ لائن پروجیکٹ کو جلد شروع کیا جائے: سٹینڈنگ کمیٹی

جولائی 2010 : 45 : 08 09

اسلام آباد (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) پاکستان میں سینیٹ کی اسٹینڈنگ کمیٹی برائے پیٹرولیم و قدرتی وسائل کے چیئرمین سینیٹر صابر علی بلوچ نے زور دیا ہے کہ ایران پاکستان گیس پائپ لائن پروجیکٹ کو جلد از جلد شروع کیا جائے تاکہ ملک میں گیس کی طلب اور رسد کے تیزی سے بڑھتے ہوئے فرق پر قابو پایا جاسکے۔ انہوں نے ان خیالات کا اظہار پائپ لائن پروجیکٹ کے حوالے سے انٹر اسٹیٹ گیس سسٹم (پرائیویٹ) کے حکام سے اپنے پہلے اجلاس کے بعد میڈیا سے گفتگو میں کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گذشتہ ماہ تہران میں پاکستان اور ایران کے مابین تاریخی معاہدے کے بعد 2015 سے پاکستان کو قدرتی گیس ملنا شروع ہوجائے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ایران پاکستان گیس پائپ لائن پروجیکٹ کی تکمیل سے نہ صرف دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات مزید مستحکم ہوں گے بلکہ پاکستان کو اپنی گیس کی ضروریات مکمل کرنے میں بھی بھرپور مدد ملے گی۔ قبل ازیں اجلاس میں انٹر اسٹیٹ گیس سسٹم کے ایم ڈی نسیم شرافت نے اسٹینڈنگ کمیٹی کے ارکان کو پروجیکٹ کے حوالے سے تفصیلی بریفنگ دی۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ 1150 کلو میٹر کی پائپ لائن ایران کی جنوبی سرحد سے سندھ اور بلوچستان کے علاقوں سے منسلک ہوگی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان سرحد سے 42 انچ کی 780 کلو میٹر پائپ لائن کی تعمیر کا ذمہ دار ہوگا جس میں سے 665 کلو میٹر پائپ لائن بلوچستان اور 115 کلو میٹر سندھ سے گزرے گی۔ 4 سالہ منصوبہ میں پاکستان 1.2 بلین ڈالر خرچ کرے گا جس میں ملکی اور غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری بھی شامل ہوگی۔ ملکی سرمایہ کاری میں سندھ اور بلوچستان کی صوبائی حکومتوں، سوئی سدرن گیس کمپنی، ایس این جی پی ایل، او جی ڈی سی ایل، پی پی ایل، پارکو اور نیشنل بینک آف پاکستان کا مجموعی طور حصہ 190 ملین ڈالر ہوگا۔ علاوہ ازیں پروجیکٹ کی تکمیل کے بعد پاکستان 750 ملین مکعب کیوبک فٹ گیس برآمد بھی کرے گا۔ اجلاس میں بتایا گیا کہ اقوام متحدہ کی جانب سے پابندیوں کے سبب پروجیکٹ شروع نہ ہونے کی صورت میں ری گیسفائیڈ کیلئے گوادر کے مقام پر ایل این جی ٹرمینل قائم کیا جائے گا۔

All Day

چین گوادر سے فائدہ اٹھائے، وسط ایشیائی مارکیٹوں کے لیے مشترکہ اقدامات کرنا

ہونگے، صدر زرداری -- بیجنگ (ایجنسیاں)

چین گوادر سے فائدہ اٹھائے، وسط ایشیائی مارکیٹوں کے لیے مشترکہ اقدامات کرنا ہونگے، صدر زرداری

بیجنگ (ایجنسیاں) صدر آصف علی زرداری نے چینی وزیراعظم وین جیابائو کے ساتھ ملاقات میں کہا ہے کہ پاک چین دوستی اور تعاون جنوبی ایشیا میں استحکام کا باعث ہیں، چین گوادر کی بندرگاہ سے بھرپور استفادہ حاصل کریں۔ دونوں ممالک کو ایشیائی مارکیٹوں تک رسائی کیلئے مشترکہ اقدامات کرنا ہوں گے۔ جبکہ دونوں رہنماؤں نے سٹریٹجک تعلقات اور اقتصادی تعلقات کیلئے عوامی رابطے پر اتفاق کیا ہے۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق صدر آصف علی زرداری نے بیجنگ میں چینی وزیراعظم وین جیابائو کے ساتھ باضابطہ ملاقات میں دوطرفہ تعلقات پر تفصیلی تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ صدر زرداری نے کہا کہ چین نے بینظیر شہید کے دورحکومت میں پاکستان کے ساتھ بھرپور تعاون کیا۔ پی پی کی موجودہ حکومت چینجوں سے نمٹنے کے لئے چین کی ویسی ہی امداد کی خواہاں ہے۔ پاکستان چین کے ساتھ سڑکوں، تیل پائپ لائن اور ایئر فائبر کے ذریعے رابطے قائم کرنا چاہتا ہے۔ اس موقع پر چینی وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ چین عطاء آباد جھیل کی صورتحال کو کنٹرول کرنے کے لئے پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرے گا۔ پاک چین دوستی کی 60 ویں سالگرہ بھرپور انداز میں منائی جائے گی۔ پاکستان خطے کا اہم ملک ہے عالمی برادری کو چاہئے کہ دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ میں پاکستان کی مدد کے لئے آگے آئے۔ انہوں نے جلد پاکستان کا دورہ کرنے کی خواہش کا بھی اظہار کیا۔ دریں اثناء صدر آصف علی زرداری نے چینی عوامی مشاورتی کانفرنس کے چیئرمین جیاچنگ لن سے عظیم عوامی ہال میں ملاقات کی۔ ملاقات کے دوران دونوں رہنماؤں نے دوطرفہ تعلقات، علاقائی صورتحال اور باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تبادلہ

All Day

The development of Sino-Pakistani ties has been shaped by regional geopolitical dynamics. -- THE NEWS

Saturday, July 10, 2010

By Nauman Asghar

The development of Sino-Pakistani ties has been shaped by regional geopolitical dynamics. Pakistan solicited China's support in its search for security with the aim to balance the asymmetry of power in the region.

China too has not extended support to Pakistan out of altruism. China's assistance to Pakistan has been motivated by two major factors. Firstly, China believes that the separatist elements in Xinjiang province, posing a direct threat to China's territorial integrity, have links with extremists in the tribal areas of Pakistan. Pakistan has taken effective steps to mollify China's concerns by coming down hard on Uighur elements and their training places. The two countries have established a joint anti-terror mechanism at the level of interior ministers and have held joint military exercises to combat the threat of terrorism.

Secondly, China appreciates the fact that an unstable and economically weak Pakistan can jeopardise the prospects of a peaceful and stable South Asia. China has an observer status in SAARC and the volume of its trade with South Asian countries has increased manifold. China also views Pakistan as a counterweight to India in its strategy to establish a sphere of influence in the Indian Ocean.

The growing economic and military ties between Pakistan and China have prepared the ground for a vibrant, multidimensional and comprehensive strategic partnership. Since the signing of a Free Trade Agreement in 2006 between the two countries, significant improvement has been witnessed in bilateral trade, which has crossed \$ 7 billion and is expected to rise to \$15 billion in the foreseeable future. Chinese investment in Pakistan has reached \$1.5 billion and presently 60 big Chinese companies are involved in 122 projects in Pakistan in the fields of oil, gas, power generation, engineering and information technology.

China has also played a remarkable role in infrastructure development projects, like the construction of Karakoram Highway, Gwadar Port and development of Thar coal reserves. The first phase of Gwadar project has been completed with a total cost of \$248 million, of which \$198 million was provided by China. China has also invested \$200 million for the construction of the coastal highway linking Gwadar to Karachi. Chinese entrepreneurs, technicians and engineers are also engaged in developing top-priority hydel power projects, including the Neelum Jhelum Hydroelectric Project and Basha-Diamer Dam.

The Pakistan-China civilian nuclear deal signed in March will serve to firm up bilateral strategic cooperation. This nuclear cooperation dates back to 1986, when a comprehensive agreement was concluded under which China also assisted Pakistan in the enrichment of weapons-grade fuel. Later, in 1995, despite US protests, China also transferred 5,000 specially designed ring magnets to Pakistan. Under the deal, China will build two nuclear reactors at Chashma with a power production capacity of 690 MW.

Voicing their objections to the Pakistan-China nuclear deal, Washington and New Delhi say it will breach the norms of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and the guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group. But these objections have no legal validity because in 1986 China was not a member of the 46-nation NSG. China insists that it is in accordance with IAEA safeguards.

President Zardari's six-day visit to Beijing is of vital significance. He and Chinese president Hu Jintao have vowed to deepen strategic relations. The two countries have resolved to formulate a joint strategy to fight effectively the three forces of "separatism, extremism and terrorism." Currently a joint ant-terrorism exercise, "Friendship-2010," has also been arranged in China to bolster cooperation between the two armed forces against the scourge of terrorism.

In April this year, on the sidelines of 16th SAARC Summit, Pakistan and China agreed on trilateral cooperation between Pakistan, China and Afghanistan. The two countries are moving closer to expand the parameters of their cooperation to address their common security concerns.

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All Day

Kashgar-Gwadar railway line would give Beijing a window on the Persian Gulf -- ASIA NEWS

Kashgar-Gwadar railway line would give Beijing a window on the Persian Gulf. Such a railway line would allay China's greatest fear, a naval blockade that could stop oil shipments from Africa and the Middle East. However, major political, technical and financial problems remain, including India's opposition.

Beijing (AsiaNews/Agencies) – Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari and Chinese President Hu Jintao met last Wednesday during an official visit of the Pakistani leader to the mainland. They discussed plans to build a railway line from Kashgar in China's Xinjiang province to the Pakistani port of Gwadar. This could give China direct access to the Persian Gulf and make Pakistan an alternative route for Chinese goods and Middle East and African oil, which currently have to go around India.

The ambitious plan has been on the drawing boards for many years. It has advantages for both parties. Beijing would have direct access to the Arabian Sea; currently, 80 per cent of China's oil travels through the Indian Ocean and the Strait of Malacca, an area plagued by piracy. More importantly, in case of war, China's enemies could easily block its oil supplies. Pakistan would especially benefit from increased traffic in the Gwadar port, which was built with Chinese capital and assistance and opened in 2008.

Now the railway, which until recently appeared to be technically impossible because of the difficult terrain, at 5,000 metres above sea level, could be built thanks to the experience and knowledge China has accumulated during the construction of the Qinghai-Tibet railway.

However, Professor Wang Mengshu, a rail expert at Beijing Jiaotong University, said that the Kashgar-Gwadar project would be "more difficult than the one in Tibet" because Chinese surveyors and mappers will not have as good an understanding of the local terrain as they did in Tibet.

This would also create uncertainties about the cost, which Wang estimates would be around 200 million yuan (US\$ 30 million) per kilometre, a bill too great even for Beijing.

In addition, India is not going to look favourably at closer Sino-Pakistani relations. New Delhi has always regarded Islamabad as its main adversary and Beijing as its main rival.

In fact, the proposed railway would have to pass through Pakistan-administered Kashmir, a territory claimed by India, and would thus undermine the latter's claim. Indeed, important Indian newspapers have described the project as a serious threat to India's security.

However, the idea still has many supporters in China and many see its completion as only a matter of time.

People's Liberation Army Navy Rear Admiral Yin Zhuo said China relied too heavily on sea transportation for its oil imports. Hence, "We must either build a much more powerful navy or find alternative transportation channels."

All Day

LNG terminal at Gwadar Port likely alternative -- Pakistan Observer

LNG terminal at Gwadar Port likely alternative
Amanullah Khan

Karachi—The much needed Iran Gas Pipeline project seems to be in hot waters international pressures and the UN sanctions against Iran it is learnt.

If the project fails to materialize the government is considering to set up an LNG Terminal at Gwadar port as an alternative to Iran gas pipeline project which is being considered as the savior in the persisting energy crisis in the country.

Meanwhile Naim Sharafat, MD SSGC in a briefing to the members of the Senate Committee on Wednesday has said an LNG terminal will be set up in Gwadar to allow re-gasified LNG to the system if Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project is hampered due to sanction on Tehran.

It may be mentioned that the Senate Standing Committee for Petroleum and Natural Resources was given a comprehensive presentation on the status of the Iran-Pakistan Pipeline project by the officials of Interstate Gas Systems. This was the first Senate Committee meeting held at SSGC since Iran and Pakistan inked the historic agreement.

All Day

Pakistan plans to mobilise domestic -- The News

Pakistan plans to mobilise domestic

Thursday, July 08, 2010

By Saad Hasan

KARACHI: Pakistan plans to mobilise domestic funding for a multi-billion dollar gas pipeline from Iran in the wake of U.N. sanctions on Tehran, which bar global lenders from supporting the project, a top government official said on Wednesday.

The government remains undeterred by the UN sanctions against Iran because of the burgeoning energy needs of the country, which spends \$10 billion annually to import furnace oil just to run power plants, said petroleum secretary Kamran Lashari.

"There is no doubt about financing being a big challenge," he said after a meeting of the Senate's Standing Committee on Petroleum. "We need to arrange \$1.2 billion and we need to work hard for that."

The committee was told that funding will be under a 70/30 debt to equity ratio, he said. "SSGC, SNGPL, Pakistan Petroleum Limited, OGDC and National Bank can easily put together funds for the equity."

The Managing Director of Interstate Gas Company Naim Sharafat said that some local pipeline manufacturers assured the government of suppliers' credit.

The Interstate Gas Company is spearheading the construction of Pakistan's 780 kilometers section of the pipeline.

"Getting financiers is not as hard as it seems," he said. "The government has already asked public sector entities to pump in the equity. The National Bank of Pakistan and other commercial banks can also be approached to raise the money. The National Bank will also contribute \$190 million, or 51 percent, to the equity structure."

"In case the project does not materialise, an LNG terminal will be set up in Gwadar to allow re-gasified LNG to the system."

The total length of the pipeline from Iran to Pakistan is 1,900 kilometers. Iran has already started the construction despite sanctions. There are different routes being considered for the project, but the likely route would be through the restive Balochistan's Gwadar district.

Pakistan depends heavily on the natural gas to run factories and households. Gas makes up nearly 50 percent of its total energy consumption. But demand has surpassed supply in recent years as existing wells deplete.

Production stands at 4 billion cubic-feet per day, while demand stands at around 4,800mmcf, according to some estimates. Pakistan seeks to import 750mmcf from Iran.

Lashari said that by the time Pakistan starts importing gas from Iran in 2015, the demand would have doubled to 8 BCF. "There would be a need to import much more."

Security of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline remains a big issue. Baloch militants, who demand greater provincial autonomy, attack gas pipeline infrastructure regularly.

Chairman of the committee Senator Sabir Ali Baloch said that the project would remain on track despite the security problems. "We will have to address the grievances of the locals."

All Day

PM orders all help to develop Thar Coal projects -- APP

PM orders all help to develop Thar Coal projects

July 13, 2010

KARACHI: Thar's coal deposits are of national importance and are a primary source for power generation in the country, said Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani at a meeting with members of the Sindh cabinet at Chief Minister House on Monday.

Gilani directed the federal and provincial agencies to offer "all required support" for the Thar coal projects and ensure the timely availability of infrastructure. He also directed the Sindh government to plan the allocation of funds under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) with the federal minister of finance.

The Thar Coal and Energy Board (TCEB) plans to generate at least 1,000 megawatts from Thar coal by the year 2020, coal and energy development secretary Ajaz Khan informed the prime minister. The project will save \$79 billion (net present value) on fuel replacement costs and will benefit the national economy by Rs8 trillion on account of reduced power generation costs, Khan added.

Sources said that during the briefing, advisor to the CM on development, Kaisar Bengali, said that due to financial constraints the government will face problems developing the Thar coal site. He said that funds are not released by the federal government on time. Sources said that the prime minister assured him that the funds would be released without any delay.

According to a handout issued by Chief Minister House, the CM said that work on roads and an airstrip is in full swing and by 2020 the government would start generating power from the coal.

A pre-feasibility study on Sindh-Engro JV, a flagship project of the Sindh government, will be completed in August 2010, PPI report..

The PM also directed the Sindh government to improve law and order in collaboration with other coalition partners as it was a provincial subject. He directed the provincial government to take strict action against the land mafia. Interior Minister Rehman Malik gave the PM a briefing on the overall law and order situation.

Provincial minister for culture affairs Sassui Palijo said that she was not allowed to speak about the Chashma Jhelum Link Canal issue during the Sindh Cabinet meeting, Online reports. She has been vocal about the water shortage in Sindh as her district, Thatta, has been one of the worst affected.

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All Day

صدرزرداری سے وزیراعظم وین جیباؤ کی ملاقات، پاک چین سٹریٹجک شراکت داری کو مزید مستحکم بنانے پر اتفاق -- بیجنگ آن لائن

صدرزرداری سے وزیراعظم وین جیباؤ کی ملاقات، پاک چین سٹریٹجک شراکت داری کو مزید مستحکم بنانے پر اتفاق

بیجنگ (آن لائن) پاکستان اور چین نے سٹریٹجک شراکت داری کو مزید مستحکم بنانے پر اتفاق کیا ہے جبکہ دونوں ممالک کی قیادت کے مابین تمام باہمی علاقائی و عالمی امور پر مکمل اتفاق رائے پایا گیا، صدارتی ترجمان کے مطابق یہ اتفاق رائے صدر زرداری اور چین کے وزیر اعظم وین جیباؤ اور چین کی عوامی سیاسی مشاورتی کانفرنس کے چیئرمین جیاکنگن سے ملاقات میں ہوا، ملاقاتوں کے دوران باہمی علاقائی و علاقائی امور زیر بحث آئے، دونوں ممالک کی قیادت نے اس بات پر زور دیا کہ پاکستان اور چین کو معاشی تعاون اور ممالک کے عوام کے درمیان بڑھانا چاہیے، صدارتی ترجمان کے مطابق ملاقات میں مشترکہ اقتصادی منصوبے، علاقائی ممالک کو سڑکوں کے ذریعے آپس میں جوڑنے، دہشت گردی اور عسکریت پسندی کے خاتمے اور لوگوں کے مابین روابط کو مزید فروغ دینے کے طریقے کار پر بات چیت کی گئی جو کہ دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان سٹریٹجک شراکت داری کا اہم عنصر ہے، صدر زرداری نے کہا کہ زبان لوگوں کے مابین رابطے کا اہم ذریعہ

ہے اور اس حوالے سے ایک ایسا ادارہ جاتی نظام ہونا چاہیے کہ دونوں ممالک کے طلباء، محنت کش اور لوگ چینی اور اردو زبان سیکھ سکیں، انہوں نے کہا کہ اس سے پاک چین تعلقات مزید آگے بڑھیں گے، صدر نے کہا کہ حال ہی میں لینڈ سلائیٹنگ کی وجہ سے شاہراہ قراقرم کے متاثر ہونے کی وجہ سے یہ ضروری ہو گیا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین ریلوے لائن اور پائپ لائن کے ذریعے ایک دوسرے سے خود کو جوڑیں اور اس حوالے سے انہوں نے گواہی سے چین تک ریلوے اور پائپ لائن بچھانے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا، اس بات پر اتفاق کیا گیا کہ پاک چین مشترکہ معاشی فورم اجلاس جلد اسلام آباد میں ہو گا جس میں مشترکہ فورم میں کرنسی سے متعلق معاملات، چینی بینکوں کے پاکستان میں شاخیں کھولنے اور خصوصی صنعتی زونز میں چینی صنعتوں کے قیام کے لئے مقامات کے تعین کا جائزہ لیا جائے گا ان مذاکرات میں چینی وزیر تجارت اپنے وفد کی قیادت کریں گے اس بات کا بھی فیصلہ کیا گیا کہ چین کی نیشنل انرجی انتظامیہ پاکستانی حکام کے ساتھ توانائی کے شعبے اور توانائی کی ضروریات پورا کرنے کے لئے بات چیت کریں گے، صدر نے چینی قیادت سے ملاقاتوں میں اس بات پر زور دیا تھا کہ پاکستان کو توانائی کی اشد ضرورت ہے، اور اس حوالے سے ہم ہائیڈرو، کول، تھرمل، ونڈ، سولر اور نیو کلینر پاور ریکٹر سے توانائی حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں تا کہ طلب اور رسد میں فرق ختم ہو سکے، ملاقات میں پاک چین سفارتی تعلقات کی 60 ویں سالگرہ بھر پور انداز میں منانے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا، چینی وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان کی ون چائنہ پالیسی کا خیر مقدم کرتا ہے اور چین اقوام متحدہ سمیت سارک، ای سی او اور تمام عالمی فورم پر پاکستان کی حمایت کرتا رہے گا، انہوں نے کہا کہ چین نے پاکستان کو شنکھائی تعاون تنظیم میں بھی مستقل نمائندگی دینے کی حمایت کی ہے، صدر زرداری نے کہا کہ پاکستان کو اپنے پاؤں پر کھڑا ہونے کے لئے عالمی برادری کی مدد کی ضرورت ہے اور ہم دنیا سے تجارت چاہتے ہیں امداد نہیں، ہماری مصنوعات کو عالمی منڈیوں تک رسائی دی جائے اس سے روز گار پیدا ہو گا اور بے روز گار نوجوان عسکریت پسندی کی طرف مائل نہیں ہوں گے، انہوں نے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تجارتی روابط کو بھی مستحکم کرنے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا، صدر نے کہا کہ پاکستان دہشت گردی کے خلاف بھر پور انداز میں جنگ جاری رکھے ہوئے ہے اور اس حوالے سے حکومت کو سیاسی و عوامی حمایت حاصل ہے، چینی وزیر اعظم نے پاکستان کی کوششوں کو سراہا اور کہا کہ ان کا ملک پاکستان کی حمایت جاری رکھے گا، صدارتی ترجمان کے مطابق چین پاکستان کو مختلف منصوبوں کے لئے امداد بھی دے گا جس میں سے پانچ سو ملین ڈالر قراقرم ہائی وے اپ گریڈیشن اور نیشنل ٹریڈ کرائیڈر شامل ہیں اس پر بات چیت ہو رہی ہے، 8 سو کلو میٹر طویل قراقرم ہائی وے پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تجارت اور سٹریٹجک رابطہ ہے جبکہ چین پہلے تین سو 35 کلو میٹر طویل گھنجراب وے سیکشن کو بہتر بنانے کے لئے مدد فراہم کر رہا ہے، بعد میں آصف زرداری سے چین کے وزیر آبی وسائل وزیر زراعت نے بھی ملاقاتیں کیں جبکہ صدر نے دیگر تقریبات میں بھی شرکت کی اور ایک بھر پور دن گزارا۔

All Day

Chitral to be linked with China -- APP

Chitral to be linked with China

The government will link Chitral with time-tested friend China by constructing Chitral-Gilgit road that would make the northern districts of Pakistan a hub of economic investment, said Federal Minister for Communication Arbab Alamgir Khan here on Monday.

He said Chitral-Gilgit road and Lawari Tunnel will open up Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for investment and would give further impetus to development process in Chitral, Dir, Swat and Malakand Agency, Dr Alamgir Khan remarked.

Addressing a big public gathering at Chitral and Garam Chashma here after starting of his three days visit, he said the completion of these two mega projects will revolutionise the communications sector, enhance trade activities with Central Asian Republics and bring an industrial revolution in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The construction of tunnel will help establish strong road links with Central Asian States and hopefully it would be completed in 2011 at a cost of Rs17.50 billion. He said that Quid-e-Awam Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Shaheed loved Chitral from the core of his hearts and his vision of construction of Lawari Tunnel would be fulfilled.

Bhutto had launched scores of developmental projects in Chitral and had great desire to make it a hub of investment, he added. He said that 450 employment vacancies would be created for talented youth of Chitral after construction of Lawari Tunnel.

The construction of Booni, Shandur-Gilgit Road and Chitral-Garam Chashma-Ashkasho Road would help strengthen trade ties with China also, he remarked. He said that Chitral-Gilgit road would be linked with China to give further impetus to development process in Pakistan.

Work on Chitral-Garam Chashma Road is in full swing and NHA are constructing it in line with roads international standard, he added. Arbab Alamgir Khan said PPP had rendered great sacrifices for return of democracy in Pakistan and her charismatic leader Shaheed Benazir Bhutto sacrifices her life for the noble of cause to guard the rights of poor and marginalised community. A modern Muslim welfare state was the vision of slain PPP leader Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and we will ensure it for future generation, he remarked.

The Prime Minister will soon visit Chitral and discuss with him starting of Benazir Shaheed University for people of Chitral, he remarked. He said that he would take up the matter of giving Mastuj a district status to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government.

Other leaders of PPP including Chitral President Muhammad Hakeem Advocate, Secretary Information Shah Murad Khan has thanked the government and the communication minister for taking keen interest in the development of Chitral and assured full support to them on behalf of people of Chitral.

All Day

Pak China Railway Track to Cost \$30 Million Per Kilometer -- APP

Pakistani President Zardari and Chinese President Hu Jintao in their July 7, 2010 meeting during an official visit of the Pakistani leader to China discussed plans to build a railway line from Kashgar in China's Xinjiang province to the Pakistani port of Gwadar. This could give China direct access to the Persian Gulf and make Pakistan an alternative route for Chinese goods and Middle East and African oil, which currently have to go around India.

The ambitious plan has been on the drawing boards for many years. It has advantages for both parties. Beijing would have direct access to the Arabian Sea; currently, 80 percent of China's oil travels through the Indian Ocean and the Strait of Malacca, an area plagued by piracy. More importantly, in case of war, China's enemies could easily block its oil supplies.

Pakistan would especially benefit from increased traffic in the Gwadar port, which was built with Chinese capital and assistance and opened in 2008.

Now the railway, which until recently appeared to be technically impossible because of the difficult terrain, at 5,000 metres above sea level, could be built thanks to the experience and knowledge China has accumulated during the construction of the Qinghai-Tibet railway.

However, Professor Wang Mengshu, a rail expert at Beijing Jiaotong University, said that the Kashgar-Gwadar project would be “more difficult than the one in Tibet” because Chinese surveyors and mappers will not have as good an understanding of the local terrain as they did in Tibet.

This would also create uncertainties about the cost, which Wang estimates would be around 200 million yuan (US\$ 30 million) per kilometre, a bill too great even for Beijing.

In addition, India is not going to look favourably at closer Sino-Pakistani relations. New Delhi has always regarded Islamabad as its main adversary and Beijing as its main rival.

In fact, the proposed railway would have to pass through Pakistan-administered Kashmir, a territory claimed by India, and would thus undermine the latter's claim. Indeed, important Indian newspapers have described the project as a serious threat to India's security.

However, the idea still has many supporters in China and many see its completion as only a matter of time.

People's Liberation Army Navy Rear Admiral Yin Zhuo said China relied too heavily on sea transportation for its oil imports. Hence, “We must either build a much more powerful navy or find alternative transportation channels.”

All Day

Jang -- چین ایک قابل اعتماد دوست

چین ایک قابل اعتماد دوست

پاکستان کو اپنے قیام سے اب تک بے شمار اتار چڑھاؤ کا سامنا کرنا پڑا ہے۔ دوست اور دوستوں کے معیار بھی بدلتے رہے لیکن ایک دوست پاکستان کا ایسا بھی ہے جس کی دوستی پر بجا طور پر پاکستان فخر کر سکتا ہے اور بلاشبہ وہ چین ہے کہ اس دوست نے کبھی پاکستان کو تنہا نہ چھوڑا 1950 میں دونوں ملکوں کے تعلقات قائم ہوئے اور ہمیشہ مثالی رہے۔ چینی پاکستان کی دوستی پر فخر کرتے ہیں۔ چین نے ہمیشہ مشکل وقت میں پاکستان کا ساتھ دیا ہے اور آج بھی تیار ہے۔ چین اور دوسرے ممالک کی مدد ہمیشہ ایک دوسرے سے مختلف رہی ایک تو یہ وقت اور حالات کی محتاج نہ رہی اور دوسرا یہ کہ اسے جمہوریت اور انسانی حقوق جیسے بہانوں سے منسلک نہیں کیا گیا اور معاشی مدد کے ساتھ ساتھ ٹیکنالوجی بھی منتقلی کی گئی جس سے کسی مخصوص میدان میں ہمیشہ کی محتاجی کا خاتمہ ہو جاتا ہے۔ چین کی مدد سے بننے والے چھوٹے ہتھیاروں کو پاکستان نہ صرف خود استعمال کر رہا ہے بلکہ برآمد بھی کر رہا ہے۔ 1971 میں سانحہ سقوط ڈھاکہ کے بعد چین کی مدد سے ہی بیوی میکینیکل کمپلیکس ٹیکسلا، پاکستان آرٹیننس فیکٹریز واہ اور ایروناٹیکل کمپلیکس کامرہ نے پاکستان کی دفاعی صلاحیت کو کافی مضبوط کیا۔ اگرچہ 1990 میں پاکستان کے ساتھ چین کو بھی امریکی پابندیوں کا سامنا کرنا پڑا جب چین پر یہ الزام عائد کیا گیا کہ اُس نے پاکستان کو پانچ سو رینگ میگنیٹ دئے ہیں میزائل بنانے میں مدد دی ہے اگرچہ اس الزام کو دونوں ملکوں نے M-11 اور جوہری وار ہیڈلے جانے والے شدت سے رد کیا۔ صنعتی اور ترقیاتی کاموں میں بھی چین نے ہمیشہ پاکستان کی مدد کی سینڈک کا عظیم منصوبہ، گواہر کی بندرگاہ، تھرکول، کوسٹل ہائی وے اور ایسے ہی کئی منصوبے اور ان سے بڑھ کر شاہراہ ریشم چین کی دوستی کا ثبوت ہیں یوں چین پاکستان کی دفاعی اور صنعتی ترقی میں مکمل طور پر شامل ہے چین کے پاکستان سے یہ دوستانہ تعلقات امریکہ اور بھارت کے لئے کبھی بھی پسندیدہ نہ رہے۔ بھارت خود کو چین کے مقابلے پر لانے کے لئے بھرپور کوششوں میں مصروف ہے کیونکہ وہ جانتا ہے کہ علاقے میں اس کی بالادستی کی راہ میں پاکستان اور چین بڑی رکاوٹ ہیں۔ اگرچہ بظاہر وہ چین سے تعلقات بہتر بنا رہا ہے مگر وہ افغانستان میں انتہائی درجے تک خود کو ملوث کر رہا ہے۔ بھارت کی ان ساری کوششوں کا توڑ صرف یہی ہے کہ پاکستان چین کے ساتھ اپنے تعلقات کو مستحکم کرے بلکہ مزید وسعت دے تاکہ وہ عالمی سازشوں کا مقابلہ کامیابی سے کر سکیں اور دنیا میں طاقت کا توازن قائم رکھ سکیں۔ چین اس وقت معاشی میدان میں دنیا کا واحد مستحکم ملک ہے۔ امید کی جارہی ہے کہ دفاعی میدان میں بھی چین سپر پاور بننے کی صلاحیت رکھتا ہے اور مسلسل کامیابیوں سے ہمکنار بھی ہو رہا ہے، پاکستان کو چین کے ساتھ باہمی تعلقات کو مزید ترقی دینا وقت کی اہم ضرورت بھی ہے اور عظیم دوست کی دوستی کا تقاضا بھی۔ اس وقت ہم اندرونی اور بیرونی معاشی اور اقتصادی طور پر جن حالات کا شکار ہیں ہماری مغربی سرحدوں اور علاقوں میں جو کچھ پوربا ہے ان سب کے پیش نظر ہمیں دور دراز کی بجائے اپنے ہمسائے میں ایک قابل اعتماد دوست کی دوستی کا فائدہ اٹھانا چاہئے اور یہ امید کرنی چاہئے کہ یہ دوستی ہمارے لئے باقی تمام دوستوں سے زیادہ باعث اطمینان اور قابل اعتماد ہے۔ کیونکہ اس کو وقت اور حالات نے ہر طرح سے آزمایا ہے اور ہمیشہ مضبوط اور مستحکم پایا ہے۔ (نغمہ حبیب۔ کراچی)

All Day

APP -- صدر پاکستان کا دورہ چین...شہ رگ...ڈاکٹر مرزا اختیار بیگ

ڈاکٹر مرزا اختیار بیگ...صدر پاکستان کا دورہ چین...شہ رگ

صدر آصف علی زرداری 6روزہ دورہ چین ختم کر کے آئے ہیں۔ صدر بننے کے بعد یہ ان کا پانچواں دورہ ہے جس سے یہ اندازہ ہوتا ہے کہ پاکستان چین سے تعلقات کو کتنی اہمیت دیتا ہے۔ 21 جولائی کو پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات کی 60 ویں سالگرہ ہے جن کو دونوں ممالک جوش و خروش سے منانے کا ارادہ رکھتے ہیں۔ پاکستان پہلا اسلامی ملک تھا جس نے 1951ء میں اپنے سفارتی تعلقات چین سے قائم کئے۔ پاکستان نے ہی امریکہ کے ساتھ چین کے تعلقات استوار کرائے اور اقوام متحدہ میں چین کی شمولیت کی پرزور حمایت کی اور آج ہم یہ بات وثوق سے کہہ سکتے ہیں کہ چین نے کشمیر اور تمام ایشوز پر پاکستان کی اور پاکستان نے تائیوان، تبت اور دوسرے ایشوز پر چین کی مکمل حمایت کی ہے حالانکہ اس عرصے میں بھارت نے چین کے مغربی صوبے سنگیان میں مسلمانوں کے بھیس میں اپنے ایجنٹ بھیج کر وہاں دہشت گردی کی کارروائی کرائی اور کہا کہ اس کے پیچھے پاکستان کا ہاتھ ہے لیکن بعد میں چین کو اصل حقائق کا علم ہو گیا۔ 2008ء میں ممبئی بم دھماکوں کے ردعمل کے طور پر بھارت نے پاکستان پر حملہ کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا تو چین نے بھارت کو واضح طور پر بتادیا کہ اگر جنگ ہوئی تو وہ پاکستان کا ساتھ دے گا۔ پاکستان کو آج جو دفاع کے شعبے میں مہارت حاصل ہوئی ہے اس کا سب سے زیادہ کریڈٹ چین کو جاتا ہے چین نے ٹیکنالوجی کے ساتھ ساتھ ہمیں انفراسٹرکچر بھی بنا کر دیا۔ بیوی میکینیکل کمپلیکس ٹیکسلا وغیرہ اس کی مثال ہیں جہاں آج ہم فوجی ساز و سامان تیار کر رہے ہیں۔ گواہر پورٹ جو خطے میں نہایت اہم حیثیت کی حامل ہے، چین ہی کی مدد سے عمل میں آئی۔ پاک چین دوستی معاشی زوایے سے دیکھنے سے پہلے میں اپنے قارئین سے ایک بات شیئر کرنا چاہوں گا کہ آنے والے دو یا تین سالوں میں جب امریکی اور نیٹو کی فوجیں بالآخر افغانستان سے واپس بلالی جائیں گی تو یقیناً امریکہ اور یورپ کا پاکستان کے ساتھ رویہ بھی تبدیل ہو جائے گا۔ میں یہ نہیں کہہ سکتا کہ اس وقت خطے میں حالات کتنے اچھے یا کتنے خراب ہوسکتے ہیں لیکن ہمیں اس مشکل وقت میں اگر کوئی ملک حقیقی معنوں میں مدد کر سکتا ہے تو وہ قابل اعتماد دوست ملک چین ہے۔

صدر پاکستان آصف علی زرداری سے ایوان صدر میں میری گزشتہ ملاقات کے دوران صدر پاکستان نے مجھے بتایا کہ وہ چین سے زراعت کے شعبے میں ان کی جدید ٹیکنالوجی جلد از جلد پاکستان منتقل کرنے کے خواہاں ہیں۔ پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی زراعت کی ترقی سے منسلک ہے۔ کائن، گیہوں، گنا وہ فصلیں ہیں جن کی خراب

کارکردگی سے ملکی صنعت اور کھانے پینے کی اشیاء میں مہنگائی سے ایک عام شخص بری طرح متاثر ہوتا ہے۔ زراعت کے شعبے میں چین نے ڈرپ ابری گیشن اور فی ایکڑ پیداواریت میں ریسرچ اینڈ ڈیولپمنٹ کے ذریعے بڑی مہارت حاصل کی ہے اور اس کو حاصل کر کے پاکستان بھی فصلوں کی فی ایکڑ پیداواریت جو اس وقت خطے میں سب سے کم ہے کو بڑھا سکتا ہے۔ اسی طرح چین نے چھوٹے ڈیموں کی تعمیر، ہائیڈرو، کوئلے، ونڈمل، نیوکلیئر اور متبادل انرجی کے ذرائع کے توسط سے اپنے آنے والے 20 سالوں کی انرجی کی ضروریات کو پورا کر لیا ہے۔ مجھے یہ بتاتے ہوئے نہایت افسوس ہو رہا ہے کہ چین کی ایک کمپنی نے جو کول ماننگ اور کوئلے سے بجلی پیدا کرنے کی مہارت رکھتی تھی نے گزشتہ حکومت میں تھرکول پروجیکٹ پر کئی سال کام کیا اور پروجیکٹ کی فزیبلٹی رپورٹ تیار کی لیکن صرف ایک سینٹ کی قیمت کے فرق کو افسر شاہی نے ماننے سے انکار کر دیا اور چینی کمپنی اپنے پروجیکٹ کو بند کر کے کئی سالوں کی محنت سے تیار کی ہوئی فزیبلٹی رپورٹ اپنے ساتھ واپس لے گئی۔ اگر اس کمپنی کو اس وقت پروجیکٹ پر کام کرنے کی اجازت دے دی جاتی تو آج پاکستان بھی جرمنی، پولینڈ اور دیگر ترقی یافتہ ممالک کی طرح کوئلے سے سستی بجلی 100 سالوں تک ملکی ضروریات کو پورا کرنے کے لئے حاصل کر سکتا تھا۔

صدر پاکستان نے اپنے موجودہ دورے میں چین میں دفاع، پیٹرولیم، بینکنگ، تعمیرات اور انرجی سیکٹر کی ایک درجن سے زیادہ کمپنیوں جس میں جاننا انٹسٹریز، جاننا ایگزم بینک، جاننا پیٹرو کیمیکل، سنڈیک سائنو ہائیڈرو کارپوریشنز بھی شامل تھیں کے سربراہان سے ملاقات میں انہیں پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کی دعوت دی ہے اور انہوں نے پاکستان میں بجلی کی پیداوار میں 10 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کا ارادہ ظاہر کیا ہے۔ اس دورے پر دستخط ہوئے ہیں۔ چین کے صدر MOU's میں دوطرفہ معاشی تعاون کو بڑھانے کے ایک معاہدے اور چار نے پاکستان میں نئے منصوبوں کے لئے 50 ملین یو این کی گرانٹ کا بھی اعلان کیا جس میں نیلم، جہلم پروجیکٹ بھی شامل ہے۔ چین نے پاکستان کے ساتھ سول نیوکلیئر انرجی کے مجموعی 600 میگاواٹ کے 2 ری ایکٹرز پاکستان کو سپلائی کرنے کا معاہدہ کیا ہے حالانکہ امریکہ اور بھارت کی جانب سے IV اور چشمہ III چشمہ اس پر اعتراضات اٹھانے جارہے ہیں لیکن چین نے انہیں مسترد کر دیا ہے۔ یاد رہے کہ بھارت نے خود سول نیوکلیئر ٹیکنالوجی کے حصول کے معاہدے امریکہ، کینیڈا، روس اور دوسرے ممالک سے کئے ہوئے ہیں۔ اس دورے میں سندھ کے ساحلی علاقے میں ہوا سے 500 میگاواٹ بجلی پیدا کرنے کی ایک یادداشت پر بھی دستخط کئے گئے ہیں جس کی مالیت تقریباً ایک ارب ڈالر ہوگی۔

بے جس کے تحت دونوں ممالک میں امپورٹ (FTA) پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان اس وقت فری ٹریڈ ایگریمنٹ اور ایکسپورٹ پر کوئی کسٹم ڈیوٹی اور ٹیکسز نہیں ہیں۔ پاکستان اور چین کی باہمی ٹریڈ اس وقت تقریباً 7 بلین ڈالر تک پہنچ گئی ہے اور اس سال اس میں 31% اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ اس طرح چین پاکستان کا دوسرا بڑا تجارتی کے صحیح فوائد اسی وقت حاصل ہوتے ہیں جب دونوں ممالک FTA پارٹنر بن چکا ہے لیکن میرے نزدیک آپس میں جوائنٹ وینچرز کر کے بنائی ہوئی اشیاء کو مقامی مارکیٹ کے علاوہ اپنے ملکوں کو بغیر ڈیوٹی ایکسپورٹ کریں۔ چین کی تعمیراتی کمپنیاں دنیا بھر میں سرفہرست ہیں۔ صدر پاکستان نے ان کمپنیوں کو پاکستان کی کمپنیوں کے ساتھ کنسورشیم بنا کر پاکستان میں سستے مکانات بنانے کی تجویز دی ہے جس میں حکومت پاکستان اپنی ایکویٹی کے طور پر زمین دے سکتی ہے۔ ایک اور یادداشت کے تحت چین گلگت بلتستان میں 2 ہائی ویز بنائے گا جس کی تعمیر پر تقریباً 45 ارب روپے لاگت آئے گی جس کا 85% چین ادا کرے گا۔

میں پاکستان امریکہ تجارت بڑھانے کے لئے اگلے ہفتے نیویارک جا رہا ہوں جہاں میری پاکستان کے سفیر حسین حقانی، پاکستان کے لئے امریکہ کے خصوصی نمائندے رچرڈ ہالبروک اور امریکہ میں پاکستان کی ٹیکسٹائل مصنوعات کی رسائی کے سلسلے میں اعلیٰ امریکی حکام سے میری ملاقاتیں ہیں۔ اس سے پہلے میرے علاوہ صدر اور وزیر اعظم پاکستان نے یورپی یونین میں مارکیٹ رسائی کے لئے کئی ملاقاتیں کی ہیں لیکن ابھی تک یورپی یونین نے دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ میں پاکستانی معیشت کو پہنچنے والے نقصانات کو مدنظر رکھتے ہوئے ہمیں مارکیٹ رسائی نہیں دی حالانکہ صدر اور وزیر اعظم پاکستان نے بار بار اپنا یہ موقف اپنے اتحادیوں پر واضح کیا ہے کہ موجودہ حالات میں ہمیں ایڈ کے بجائے ٹریڈ کی ضرورت ہے۔ ان حقائق کو مدنظر رکھتے ہوئے ہمیں اب مغرب کے ساتھ ساتھ مشرق کی جانب بھی اپنی توجہ مرکوز کرنی ہوگی۔ امریکہ اور یورپ کے بڑے بڑے معیشت دانوں نے یہ پیش گوئی کی ہے کہ آنے والی دہائی میں سب سے زیادہ معاشی ترقی ایشیاء میں ہوگی لہذا ہمیں علاقائی تجارت کے کامیاب ماڈل کو اپنانا ہوگا اور خطے کے ممالک سے باہمی تجارت کو فروغ دینا ہوگا جس میں چین سرفہرست آتا ہے۔

All Day

Karakoram to Gwadar via Chashma! -- DR.JAVID IQBAL COMMENTS ON SECURITY RELATED EXERCISE FROM HIGH MOUNTAINS TO SEACOAST

Karakoram to Gwadar via Chashma!

ACROSS THE LINES

DR.JAVID IQBAL COMMENTS ON SECURITY RELATED EXERCISE FROM HIGH MOUNTAINS TO SEACOAST

As Kashmir rises in fury and faces massive flexing of state power, a security exercise is unfolding in the neighbourhood from the high peaks in Himalayas closing on the vale down to the seacoast. Somewhere in the path is Chashma, which is linked to the trail. Living a curfew ridden life, recalling Basharat Peer's Curfewed Night, the hard realities of geopolitics project through news channels on TV, recalling too what way Allama Iqbal said back at the start of 20th century:

Gharan Khab Chini Sambalnay Lagey

Himaliya Kay Chashmay Ubalnay Lagey!

Chinese awake from a slumber deep

Himalayan streams on a date to keep!

Yes Chinese are up and coming, as Zardari gets to China for a bonus, he is met with a bonanza...multiplier on 10%! Father-in-law had worked it out long back.

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in foreign office in sixties, ridden with imbalanced security scenario vis a vis India, worked to bring Chinese in the equation. Some say, Manzoor Qadir-Pakistan's foreign minister before Bhutto conceived it earlier. Manzoor or Zulfikar wouldn't matter, were the Chinese not equally interested. China like Russia is not exactly a huge land mass with a narrow sea coast and that too, with the cold sea coastline. South China Sea forms a considerable coastline.

However what is missing is ready access to warm waters-the energy sea lanes-a subcontinental security plus. Russian bear wearing its communist USSR garb came roaring via Afghanistan to gain access. Americans came in the path riding on the high tide of what is now derisively called-militant Islam! It served a purpose then; it is taken to be a deterrent now, as the civilizational hypothesis comes to fore.

Russian bear didn't burn its fingers only but lost its USSR garb too, as Afghanistan far from taking it to warm waters led it to 'Glasnost' and to oblivion as a superpower!

China on the contrary came creeping, not to lord over but provide help, albeit help needed to suit her designs. With diplomatic overtures to Pakistan, heat was turned on Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai-brothers after all have scores to settle, more often than not seemed to be strategy. Apart from making strides in Aksai Chin, it picked a slice of erstwhile [pre 1947] J&K State, in a border settlement with Pakistan. It came with a proviso to review it, in a final settlement of Kashmir issue, in and when it takes place. It did not translate into making China a stakeholder, nor did it assert any claim. Nevertheless, role of a watcher, even if distant was unmistakable. That is on high mountains, coastline tale has a geopolitical link.

While as Russians wanted to gain access to warm waters by a bloodbath, Chinese got positioned right on the coast on Gwadar. A port used for clandestine subcontinental trade of yore with the Gulf was given a modern hue to accommodate bigger vessels. In the bargain Pakistan's maritime trade potential was sought to be widened, lessening the stress on overworked Karachi port. The huge works in Gwadar are still on. China in the process has lost many men-victims of insurgency in Balochistan. Pakhtuns in NWFP and Balochis continue to resent their assets passing into official hands. Many Balochis are citizens of gulf too-Oman and UAE, they thrive on clandestine trade. Chinese are bringing new perceptions in subcontinental power equations.

Bhutto's input in the geopolitical balancing exercise was carried forward by Yahya-perhaps his only positive input was easing Kissinger's Chinese path via Peshawar. Ever since USA has taken a light view of Pak/China axis to India's chagrin. Eventually the Karakoram link-up was converted to a viable road, widening Pak/China geopolitical prospects. Pakistan gradually was coming out of insecurities vis a vis India. India's 1974 Pokharan atomic workout had Bhutto swearing to eat grass but get the bomb. He looped oil rich Libya and others promising to share technology. By the time Pakistan had the technology, Bhutto was out. Zia inherited his China policy and while he took Bhutto to gallows, he ensured to continue where

Bhutto had left. Thus the policy became the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy, even while Pakistan's officialdom swore by Pak/USA strategic relationship.

With Chinese push for a rail link on Karakoram, as Zardari visits China, Indian worry is understandable. As if Karakoram to Gwadar link-up were not enough, Chashma falls somewhere close to geopolitical bridge. To the one nuclear reactor already in place, China has been preparing to build two more. As per reports Andrew Small, an expert on Pak/China- a fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, commented "For China, the counter-balancing element of the Pakistan relationship is more important than it was a few years ago," The deal as weighed by various experts has various aspects:

- (a) a "counter-weight" to the partnership between India and the United States, who signed a nuclear power pact in 2008,
- (b) rising India, and the India-US factor, China's traditional element of backing Pakistan is back more in play,
- (c) little room for Washington to oppose outright the Chashma deal after it sealed its own energy pact with New Delhi,
- (d) alienating Pakistan is not in the U.S. interest,
- (e) offers Chinese nuclear exporters an opportunity to hone their prowess in building reactors abroad, Chashma helps keep them in the game,
- (f) protecting ties with Beijing and Pakistan or risking a diplomatic brawl-a western dilemma

India is already being accused in some quarters of opening the 'Pandora's box' by going whole hog for Indo/USA nuclear deal. This is projected as opening up the provision of more such deals. However Indian plea of having fool proof nuclear safeguards in place, with Pakistan failing to explain the technology transfer, in violation of international safeguard norms has takers too. Pakistan's domestic instability is another concern. China, it is said may not go whole hog in winding up the deal during Zardari's visit, however as the reports suggest, China is confident it would get over whatever be the international concerns in its expansion plans at Chashma-prime project, which is taken as a national objective. Karakoram rail link, coming down from high Himalayan peaks right upto Arabian Sea in Gwadar, the intensity being shown in developing Chashma has an added geopolitical factor of concern to India- establishing the rail link to Tibet, a technological marvel.

While Indian strategists make out the contradiction, Pakistan sees only concurrence of interests. Indian concerns nevertheless remain. In fact 2010 started with ominous reports of Chinese push in Ladakh. There were musings of J&K Government officials conveying concerns to Gol. Chinese evasiveness in settling the Indo/Chinese border is a known factor in this geopolitical power play. In fact, it predates the communist regime in China. During the British Raj in India, the Chinese displayed a similar attitude, leaving room for a claim, whenever it fitted into Chinese game plan. Strange, it might seem, an un-settled border suits Chinese, much as it served the German interests in 19th and first half of 20th century Europe. The push in Sudetenland on the plea of un-settled German/Czech border turned into prodding the Second World War. Chinese followed the same pattern in 1962. Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru had been warned by Sardar Patel and even his own daughter; Indira Gandhi, who got suspicious of Chinese moves in fifties. Nehru however thought China could be contained, even if it had a few tricks up the sleeve, by his charm offensive. The result was the debacle of 1962.

India of 2010 is not the India of 1962. Post 1962 debacle, defence has assumed the form of genuine investment. And could those versed with that debacle fault the Indian national leadership, down from Indira Gandhi to Sonia Gandhi and her techno-savvy Prime Minister? In 1962, the forward posts did not have the needed logistic support, nor was the training of troops, as precise as it is today. India has learned the hard way t

All Day

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Daily Jang -- کا سمجھوتہ۔
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All Day

-- امریکی وزیر خارجہ اسلام آباد پہنچ گئیں، آج 43 منصوبوں کیلئے امداد کا اعلان کرینگے

Daily Jang

امریکی وزیر خارجہ اسلام آباد پہنچ گئیں، آج 43 منصوبوں کیلئے امداد کا اعلان کرینگے

اسلام آباد (رپورٹ: حنیف خالد) آج پاک امریکی اسٹریٹجک ڈائلاگ میں امریکی وزیر خارجہ ہیلری کلنٹن پاکستان کے 43 پروجیکٹوں کے لئے امداد کا اعلان کریں گی۔ امریکہ ورلڈ فوڈ پروگرام کیلئے پاکستان کے حساب میں عالمی ادارہ خوراک کو 20 ملین ڈالر دے گا۔ اعلیٰ امریکی عہدیدار نے بتایا کہ پاکستان کے فوجی امداد میں اضافہ کریں گے۔ امریکا پشاور میونسپل واٹر پراجیکٹ، گومل زام پراجیکٹ، مینگو ایکسپورٹ پراجیکٹ، جیکب آباد میونسپل واٹر پراجیکٹ، بلوچستان واٹر سٹوریج پراجیکٹ، تربیلا ڈیم ہائیڈرو الیکٹرک پاور سٹیشن، امپرومنٹ پراجیکٹ، ہائی ایفی شینٹی اری گیشن پراجیکٹ، ملٹی ڈونر ٹرسٹ فنڈ، مالاکنڈ ہاؤسنگ ری کنسٹرکشن، پاکستان یو ایس سائنس اینڈ ٹیکنالوجی کوآپریشن پروگرام، رورل ڈویلپمنٹ ڈیری پراجیکٹ سمیت 43 منصوبوں کیلئے امداد مہیا کریگا۔ ایک اعلیٰ امریکی عہدیدار نے کہا کہ تحریک طالبان پاکستان درحقیقت امریکہ پاکستان کی مشترکہ دشمن ہے، امریکہ پاکستان مفاہمت فریب تر آگئی ہے۔ مذکورہ منصوبوں کیلئے امداد کی رقم کیری لوگر ہل سے دی جائیگی۔ انہوں نے سوالوں کے جواب میں کہا کہ وزیر خارجہ ہیلری کلنٹن اتوار کی دوپہر اسلام آباد پہنچی ہیں۔ وہ اکتوبر 2009 میں بھی پاکستان آئی تھیں۔ وہ دونوں ملکوں کے تعلقات کو مضبوط بنانے کی حامی ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ امریکہ کی پاکستان کے متعلق جامع پالیسی ہے۔ ہم پاکستان کی امداد ری اسٹرکچر کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ امریکی انتظامیہ آئندہ 5 سال میں ساڑھے سات ارب ڈالر دیگی۔ ہم پاکستان کی فوجی امداد میں اضافہ کریں گے۔ امریکی وزیر خارجہ اور پاکستانی وزیر اعظم پیر کو اسٹریٹجک ڈائلاگ کو چیئر کریں گے۔ دونوں ملکوں کے 13 ورکنگ گروپوں کی ملاقاتیں ہونے لگی ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دنیا کے کسی اور ملک میں امریکہ کی اتنی دلچسپی نہیں ہے جتنی پاکستان کے ساتھ ہے۔ امریکی وزیر خارجہ اسٹریٹجک ڈائلاگ میں اس کا تفصیلی ذکر کریں گی۔ امریکی عہدیدار نے کہا کہ سیکرٹری آف اسٹیٹ پاکستان کے چاروں صوبوں اور گلگت بلتستان میں نئے پراجیکٹوں کیلئے امداد کا اعلان کریں گی۔ گزشتہ سال پاکستان کی حکومت اور اپوزیشن کے ارکان ایف سکس تھری گلی نمبر 1 کے مکان نمبر 32 کے اسی کمرے میں جمع ہوئے تھے، مشاورت کی گئی تھی اس کے نتیجے میں پراجیکٹ تیار کئے گئے۔ بریفنگ کے دوران تین نقشے رکھے گئے جن کی مدد سے سینئر صحافیوں کو بریف کیا گیا۔ مذکورہ عہدیدار کی سیکرٹری نے اس موقع پر بتایا کہ ان میں سماجی معاشی ترقی کے پراجیکٹ ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کا بجلی کا مسئلہ حل کرنے 'توانائی' بجلی 'پانی' اس کے لئے انفراسٹرکچر تیار کرنا ہو گا۔ اس پر اعلیٰ امریکی عہدیدار نے کہا 'کیلئے جادو کی چھڑی نہیں ہے کہ امریکہ نے پاکستان میں ہائیڈرو پاور کے پراجیکٹ لگانے میں تعاون کا آغاز کیا ہے۔ پاکستان کی حکومت کے ساتھ انرجی پراجیکٹ قائم کرنے کیلئے امریکہ تعاون کر رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ 1960ء کے عشرے میں تربیلا ڈیم امریکی امداد سے بنا جو آج بھی پاکستانی قوم کو بجلی فراہم کر رہا ہے۔ کیری لوگر ہل کے تحت امریکہ امداد دے رہا ہے۔ پراجیکٹوں کیلئے امریکہ پرائیویٹ پبلک پارٹنر شپ کے ذریعے مدد کریگا۔ امریکہ ست پارہ اور گومل زام ڈام کیلئے امداد دے گا جن سے 17.4 میگا واٹ بجلی پیدا ہو گی۔ امریکہ پاکستان کو 5 ارب ڈالر کی امداد دے رہا ہے لیکن یہ کافی نہیں کیونکہ پاکستان نے امریکہ کیلئے اس سے زیادہ کیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ان پراجیکٹوں کی رقم کا غلط استعمال نہیں ہونے دیا جائیگا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ واٹر ایشو کے بارے میں پہلی بار امریکہ نے پاکستان سے تبادلہ خیال کیا ہے۔ اس کیلئے جامع حکمت عملی اختیار کرنا ہو گی۔ رقم کیری لوگر ہل سے آئیگی جسے امریکی عوام دیں گے۔ 5.3 ارب ڈالر کی امداد احباب پاکستان نے دینے کا وعدہ کیا جن میں ایک ارب ڈالر امریکا کے ہیں۔ باقی 4.3 ارب پوری دنیا کے ہیں۔ جاپان کے تقریباً ایک ارب ڈالر ہیں۔

All Day

US to provide \$7 billion non-military aid to Pak: Hillary -- Daily Jang

US to provide \$7 billion non-military aid to Pak: Hillary

July 19, 2010

US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has said that Pakistan has to remove reservations of the international community over its Civil Nuclear Technology deal with China, saying under Kerry-Lugar Bill, US would give Pakistan \$7 billion in non-military aid over five years.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that Pakistan signed the agreement with China aimed to tackle its on-going energy crisis and no country should has reservations over it.

Addressing a joint press conference along with her Pakistani counterpart Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi at Foreign Office after Strategic Dialogues, the US Secretary of State said US is waiting Pakistan's response regarding reservations on Civil Nuclear Technology deal with China.

She said Washington has tripled the non military aid to Pakistan to \$7.5 billion under the Kerry Lugar Bill over the next five years. This reflects our deepening of relations with Pakistan.

The US Secretary of State said that during her visit she held important meetings

with President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani and matters related to Pak-US Strategic Dialogues were discussed. Secretary Clinton conveyed the United States' support for Pakistan's socio-economic advancement. In this context, she said the United States would, in particular, support programmes and projects in the priority areas of energy and food security and social sector development. Secretary Clinton announced U.S. assistance for Signature Projects in energy, water and health. She said that US experts are working on different project with Pakistani experts to steer the country of its energy crisis.

All Day

Daily Jang -- امریکا کامختلف منصوبوں میں ڈیڑھ سو ملین ڈالر دینے کا اعلان

امریکا کامختلف منصوبوں میں ڈیڑھ سو ملین ڈالر دینے کا اعلان

پاکستان اور امریکا کے درمیان اسٹریٹجک ڈائیلاگ کے دوسرے مرحلے کا آغاز ہو گیا ہے ، امریکا ... اسلام آباد نے پاکستان کو توانائی ، صحت اور پانی کے مختلف منصوبوں میں تعاون دینے کے ساتھ چھوٹے اور درمیانے درجہ کے کاروبار کے فروغ اور سرمایہ کاری کی ترغیب کے لئے ڈیڑھ سو ملین ڈالر دینے کا اعلان بھی کیا ہے۔ اسٹریٹجک ڈائیلاگ کا انعقاد ، دفتر خارجہ اسلام آباد میں ہوا جس میں امریکی وزیر خارجہ ہلیری کلنٹن اور ان کے پاکستانی ہم منصب شاہ محمود قریشی نے شرکت کی۔ افتتاحی خطاب میں شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کے پائیدار تعلقات دوطرفہ امور کے ساتھ علاقائی و عالمی سطح پر بھی اہم ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہمیں توقع ہے کہ پاکستانی برآمدات کو عالمی مارکیٹ زیادہ رسائی دی جائیگی اور دہشت گردی کیخلاف جنگ میں پاکستان کی مشکلات دور کرنے میں مدد دی جائے گی۔ ہلیری کلنٹن نے کہا کہ اسٹریٹجک ڈائیلاگ کے تحت مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کیلئے 13 ورکنگ گروپس بنائے گئے تھے جنہوں نے تعاون کی نئی راہوں کو تلاش کیا۔ ہلیری کلنٹن نے کہا کہ یہ تاثر درست نہیں کہ پاکستان سے امریکا کا تعاون سکیورٹی مفادات پر مبنی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ توانائی شعبے میں پاکستان کو مزید تعاون دیا جائیگا۔ پارہ ، گومل زام اور اسکردو میں ڈیمز کی تعمیر میں مدد دی جائے گی اور توانائی کے متبادل وسائل کی ترقی میں بھی تعاون ہوگا۔ ہلیری کلنٹن نے کہا کہ پاکستانی عوام کو صاف پانی کی فراہمی اور نکاسی آب منصوبوں میں اس کے ساتھ تین بڑے اسپتالوں کی توسیع کی جائے گی، چھوٹے اور درمیانے درجے کے کاروبار کے فروغ کے لئے 100 ملین ڈالر اور سرمایہ کاری اور ایکویٹی کیلئے پچاس ملین ڈالر دئے جائیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ڈیری ڈویلپمنٹ کا بڑا پروگرام شروع کیا جائے گا اور پاکستانی ام کی امریکا میں برآمدات بڑھانے کیلئے منصوبہ شروع ہوگا ، مذاکرات کے باضابطہ آغاز پر وزیر خزانہ حفیظ شیخ نے اسٹریٹجک ڈائیلاگ کے نتائج اور آئندہ کی تجاویز کا جائزہ پیش کیا۔

All Day

Daily Jang -- پاک، افغان ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ معاہدے پر دستخط

پاک، افغان ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ معاہدے پر دستخط

اسلام آباد: پاک افغان ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ سمجھوتے پر دستخط کر دیئے گئے۔ بھارت افغانستان کے لیے پاکستان کا زمینی راستہ استعمال نہیں کرسکے گا۔ پاک افغان ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ معاہدے کے مندرجات پر دستخط کی تقریب وزیراعظم باؤس اسلام آباد میں ہوئی۔ پاکستان کی جانب سے وزیر تجارت امین فہیم اور افغان وزیر تجارت انوار الحق واحدی نے دستخط کئے۔ اس موقع پر وزیراعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی اور امریکی وزیر خارجہ ہلیری کلنٹن بھی موجود تھیں۔ اس سے قبل پاک افغان ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ معاہدے کے مسودے کو حتمی شکل دینے کیلئے دونوں ممالک کی وزارت تجارت کا اہم اجلاس اسلام آباد میں ہوا۔ پاکستانی وفد کے سربراہ حمایت اللہ خان نے کہا کہ پاکستان اپنے مؤقف پر قائم رہتے ہوئے معاہدہ کر رہا ہے۔ بھارت کو زمینی راستہ نہیں دیا جائے گا، بھارت صرف سمندری یا فضائی راستہ استعمال کر سکتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ افغانستان کے سالانہ دو سو ٹرک پھل اور سبزیاں لے کر آتے ہیں۔ ذرائع کے مطابق افغانستان کے ٹرک واپگہ تک اپنا سامان لائیں گے، اور پاک افغان سرحد پر جہاں کسٹمز کی سہولت ہے وہاں سے ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ کی جا سکے گی۔

All Day

Jang -- پاکستان امریکا اسٹریٹجک ڈائیلاگ کے دوسرے مرحلے کا آغاز

پاکستان امریکا اسٹریٹجک ڈائیلاگ کے دوسرے مرحلے کا آغاز

پاکستان اور امریکا کے درمیان اسٹریٹجک ڈائیلاگ کے دوسرے مرحلے کا آغاز ہو گیا ہے اس ... اسلام آباد موقع پر پاکستانی وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی کا کہنا تھا کہ آج کا دن پاکستان اور امریکا کیلئے بہت اہم ہے۔ پاکستان امریکا تعلقات کا نیا دور شروع ہو رہا ہے، جبکہ امریکی وزیر خارجہ ہلیری کلنٹن کا کہنا تھا کہ وہ امریکی انتظامیہ، عوام اور صدر اوباما کی جانب سے خیر سگالی اور نیک خواہشات کا پیغام لائی ہیں۔ پاک امریکا اسٹریٹجک ڈائیلاگ کے افتتاح سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے شاہ محمود قریشی کا کہنا تھا کہ پاک امریکا پائیدار تعلقات دوطرفہ اہمیت کے ساتھ علاقائی و عالمی سطح پر بھی اہم ہیں۔ اسٹریٹجک پارٹنر شپ پاکستان ، امریکا سمیت پورے خطے کے مفاد میں ہے اور پاکستان ، امریکا سے تعلقات اور تعاون میں مخلص ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک امریکا ڈائیلاگ میں سکیورٹی، جوہری عدم پھیلاؤ، انسداد دہشت گردی سمیت تعلیم، کلچر، سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی کے شعبوں میں تعاون بھی شامل ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ امید ہے کہ پاکستان اقتصادی شعبے میں اہداف حاصل کریگا اور پاکستان اور امریکا اپنے طویل تعلقات کو پائیدار بنانے کیلئے کام کریں گے۔ امید ہے کہ دہشت گردی کیخلاف جنگ میں پاکستان کی مشکلات دور کرنے میں مدد دی جائیگی، اور پاکستانی برآمدات کو عالمی مارکیٹ میں زیادہ رسائی دی جائیگی۔ اس موقع پر امریکی وزیر خارجہ ہلیری کلنٹن کا کہنا تھا کہ پاک افغان معاہدہ علاقے کے لیے اہم ہے۔ ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ پر کامیاب پاک افغان مذاکرات پر دونوں ممالک مبارک باد کے مستحق ہیں، ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ معاہدے سے دونوں ممالک میں روزگار فراہمی اور اقتصادی ترقی میں مدد ملے

گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یقیناً دونوں ممالک کے درمیان فرق ہے لیکن ہمارا دشمن ایک ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ افغانستان سے اعتماد اور تعاون کے قیام میں پاکستان کی حکومت کا کردار قابل قدر ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ان مذاکرات کا مقصد معاملات کا بغور جائزہ لینا ہے اور پاکستان کے ساتھ مختلف شعبوں میں تعلقات مضبوط بنانا ہے۔ اس موقع پر بلیری کلنٹن نے مزید ترقیاتی پروگراموں کا اعلان کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ توانائی تعاون کے دوسرے مرحلے میں پاکستان کو مزید تعاون دیں گے۔ سد پارہ، گوم زام اور اسکردو میں ڈیمز کی تعمیر میں مدد دیں گے۔ پاکستانی عوام کو صاف پانی کی فراہمی اور نکاسی آب منصوبوں میں بھی تعاون دیں گے۔ امریکی وزیر خارجہ نے توانائی اور پانی کے اہم منصوبوں کیلئے امداد کا اعلان کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کو صحت شعبے میں تعاون کے لئے تین بڑے اسپتالوں کی توسیع کی جائیگی اور چھوٹے اور درمیانے درجے کے کاروبار کے فروغ کیلئے 100 ملین ڈالر دیں گے اور پاکستان میں ڈیری ڈیولپمنٹ کا بڑا پروگرام شروع کیا جائیگا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ امریکا پاکستان میں دو ہائیڈرو الیکٹرک ڈیم کے منصوبے مکمل کرے گا اور امریکا متبادل توانائی کے ذرائع کی ترقی کیلئے پاکستان کی مدد کریگا، جن میں توانائی ہوا اور شمسی توانائی کے ذرائع شامل ہیں۔

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Daily Jang -- پاکستان کا بھارت کو افغانستان تک زمینی راہداری دینے سے انکار

پاکستان کا بھارت کو افغانستان تک زمینی راہداری دینے سے انکار

اسلام آباد پاکستان نے بھارت کو افغانستان تک زمینی راہداری دینے سے انکار کر دیا ہے، جبکہ وزیر تجارت امین فہیم نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان نے افغانستان کو راہداری دینے کا فیصلہ کر لیا ہے۔ اسلام آباد میں منعقد پاک افغان ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ معاہدے کو حتمی شکل دینے کیلئے اجلاس میں شریک پاکستانی وفد کے سربراہ حمایت اللہ نے کہا ہے کہ پاک افغان ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ کو حتمی شکل دے دی ہے جس کے تحت بھارت کو افغانستان تک زمینی راہداری نہیں دے سکتے بھارت صرف فضائی یا بحری راستہ استعمال کر

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پاکستان کو افغانستان کے راستے وسط ایشیا تک تجارتی راہداری مل گئی، افغانستان کو بھی

Daily Jang -- تجارتی سامان براستہ پاکستان بھارت بھیجنے کی اجازت

پاکستان کو افغانستان کے راستے وسط ایشیا تک تجارتی راہداری مل گئی، افغانستان کو بھی تجارتی سامان براستہ پاکستان بھارت بھیجنے کی اجازت

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ جنگ، ایجنسیاں) پاکستان اور افغانستان میں ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ کے موضوع پر جاری مذاکرات کامیاب ہو گئے ہیں اور دونوں ملکوں میں تمام اہم ایشوز پر مفاہمت ہو گئی ہے۔ مذاکرات میں یہ اتفاق ہو گیا ہے کہ بھارت کو واپگہ کے راستے افغانستان کیلئے برآمدات کی اجازت نہیں دی جائے گی تاہم افغانستان کو اپنی اشیاء فضائی راستے واپگہ سے انڈیا برآمد کرنے کی اجازت ہوگی۔ اس طرح پاکستان کو افغانستان کے راستے وسط ایشیا کیلئے برآمدات کی اجازت ہوگی۔ اس اہم اور وسیع البنیاد ریکارڈ نوٹ پر اتوار کی شام وزیر اعظم ہاؤس اسلام آباد میں دستخط ہوئے۔ وزیر اعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی اور امریکی وزیر خارجہ بلیری کلنٹن اس موقع پر موجود تھے۔ پاکستان اور افغانستان نے توقع ظاہر کی کہ پاکستان اور افغانستان ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ سے متعلق تمام حل طلب دیرینہ ایشوز کو حل کرنے سے معاہدہ جلد ہونے میں مدد ملے گی۔ دونوں جانب سے قانونی تقاضے پورے ہونے کے بعد معاہدہ پر دستخط ہوں گے۔ اس معاہدے پر دستخط پاکستان اور افغانستان کے درمیان تجارت کی ترقی اور دونوں ملکوں کے باہمی مفاد میں معاشی تعلقات کیلئے سنگ میل ثابت ہوگا۔ وسیع البنیاد ریکارڈ نوٹ پر پاکستان کے وزیر تجارت مخدوم امین فہیم اور افغانستان کے وزیر تجارت و صنعت ڈاکٹر انوار الحق امدی نے دستخط کئے۔ اس مفاہمتی تحریر میں کہا گیا ہے کہ افغانستان کا برآمدی سامان لے جانے والے ٹرکوں کو واپگہ اور پاکستانی بندر گاہوں تک جانے کی اجازت ہوگی تاہم یہ سامان طے شدہ روٹ کے ذریعے جائے گا۔ افغان ٹرانسپورٹ گاڑیوں کو واپسی میں پاکستانی مصنوعات اور اشیاء کو افغانستان لے جانے کی اجازت ہوگی۔ یہ بھی فیصلہ کیا گیا کہ افغان ٹرانزٹ کا سامان بین الاقوامی معیار کے کنٹینرز میں جائے گا۔ تین سال کیلئے یہ طے پایا کیا جاسکے (سربراہ) جو سامان Seal ہے کہ کارگو بین الاقوامی معیار کے ایسے ٹرکوں میں جائے گا جنہیں کنٹینرز میں درآمد نہیں ہوتا اسے بندرگاہ سے کھلے ٹرکوں میں لوڈ کیا جائے گا۔ اس طرح جو اشیاء خراب ہوسکتی ہیں انہیں کھلی گاڑیوں میں لے جایا جائے گا۔ ریکارڈ نوٹ کے تحت ڈرائیورز اور کلیئرز پر مٹ کے ذریعے دونوں ملکوں میں داخل ہوسکیں گے البتہ ہائیو میٹرک سسٹم سے گزریں گے جو داخلی مقامات پر نصب ہوگا۔ ایک ثالثی ٹریبونل قائم کر نیکا بھی فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے ثالث یہ اتفاق نہ ہونی کی صورت میں دونوں ملک تیسرے کسی ملک کے دو افراد نامزد کریں گے اور ان چار افراد میں سے ایک ثالث کا انتخاب کیا جائے گا۔ غیر مجاز تجارت کے مسئلہ سے نمٹنے کیلئے یہ طے کیا گیا ہے کہ ٹرانسپورٹ یونٹس پر ٹریکنگ ڈیوائس (آلات) نصب کی جائے گی اور دونوں ملکوں کے محکمہ کسٹمز کے درمیان اطلاعات کے تبادلے کا میکانزم وضع کیا جائے گا۔ اس تناظر میں یہ فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے پاکستان کی امپورٹ لیویز کے مساوی مالیاتی گارنٹی مجاز کسٹم کلیئرنگ ایجنٹ جمع کرائے گا اور جب سامان ملک سے چلا جائے گا تو یہ ضمانت ریلیز کردی جائے گی۔ اگر مقررہ وقت کے اندر سامان ملک سے باہر نہ گیا تو محکمہ کسٹم یہ گارنٹی کیش کراسکے گا۔ معاہدے کے مطابق پاکستان نے افغانستان کو اپنی سمندری حدود کے علاوہ فضائی حدود حتیٰ کہ زمینی راستے سے بھارتی برآمدات منگوانے کی اجازت دے دی ہے۔ افغانستان کا برآمدی سامان جسمیں خشک پھل تازہ پھل شامل ہیں پہلے ہی پاکستانی شاہراہوں سے گزر کر واپگہ کے راستے انڈیا جارہا ہے۔ ذرائع کے مطابق انڈیا عشروں سے افغانستان اور وسطی ایشیائی ممالک کی منڈیوں تک اپنا برآمدی سامان واپگہ کے راستے پہنچانے کی ناکام کوششیں کیں مگر اب انڈیا یہ سہولت پاکستان سے افغانستان اور امریکہ کے گٹھ جوڑ کی وجہ سے حاصل کرنے میں کامیاب ہو گیا ہے۔ پاکستان کی برآمدات پہلے ہی افغانستان کے راستے وسطی ایشیائی ریاستوں میں جارہی ہیں۔ اس معاہدے میں اسے اس شق کے طور پر شامل کر لیا گیا ہے کہ افغانستان پاکستان کی برآمدات کو افغانستان کے راستے وسطی ایشیائی ممالک تک بھجوا کرے گا۔ این این آئی کے مطابق بھارت کو افغانستان تک سامان کی نقل و حمل کیلئے پاکستان کے فضائی اور سمندری راستے استعمال کرنے کی اجازت ہوگی۔ اس حوالے سے وفاقی

وزیر برائے تجارت امین فہیم نے بتایا کہ اتوار کو اسلام آباد میں دونوں ملکوں کے عہدے داروں نے تفصیلی بات چیت میں افغان ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ کے معاہدے کو حتمی شکل دے دی ہے جس میں افغانستان کو تجارتی رابداری دینے کی شق بھی شامل ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس شق کے تحت افغان تجارتی سامان کو کراچی سے لے کر افغانستان کی سرحدوں تک ترسیل کے لیے رابداری دی جائے گی جبکہ لاہور کے قریب واپگہ بارڈر سے افغانستان کے لیے تجارتی سامان کو بھی افغان ٹرکوں پر لاد کر افغانستان بھیجا جا سکے گا۔ امین فہیم نے کہا کہ معاہدے کے تحت بھارت کے ٹرک واپگہ بارڈر پر سامان اتارنے کے پابند ہوں گے جسے پاکستانی یا افغان ٹرکوں پر لاد کر افغانستان روانہ کیا جائے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس رعایت کے بدلے افغانستان وسط ایشیائی ریاستوں کے ساتھ تجارت کیلئے پاکستان کو رابداری کی سہولت دے گا۔

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Daily Jang -- پاکستان کی ضروریات کا علم ہے، سات ارب روپے امداد دینگے، سعیدہ وارثی

پاکستان کی ضروریات کا علم ہے، سات ارب روپے امداد دینگے، سعیدہ وارثی

گوجرخان برطانوی کنزرویٹو پارٹی کی چیئر پرسن سعیدہ وارثی نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کی کامیابی برطانیہ کی کامیابی ہے۔ برطانیہ کے اصول اپنا کر پاکستان کو بہتر بنا یا جاسکتا ہے میرا ملک برطانیہ ہے اسلام میں پائی جانے والی خوبیوں اس میں موجود ہیں برطانیہ میں عورت کی عزت محفوظ ہے پاکستان میں بھی عورت کی عزت محفوظ ہونی چاہیے جس طرح سیاستدان یہاں اکٹھے ہیں اسی طرح پاکستان کے لئے بھی ایک ہوجائیں سیاستدانوں کے ایک پلیٹ فارم پر اکٹھا ہونے پر شکرگزار ہوں ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے گوجرخان میں اپنے آبائی گاؤں میں ایک تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان سے جو پیار ملا اس کا کبھی سوچا بھی نہ تھا اپنے علاقے کے لئے کچھ کرنے کا خواب تھا جو آج پورا ہو گیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ مجھے یہاں سیاستدانوں کے درمیان تقریر نہیں کرنی سیاستدانوں کا ایک پلیٹ فارم پر اکٹھا ہونے پر ان کی شکرگزار انہوں نے کہا کہ جس طرح سیاستدان یہاں اکٹھے ہیں اسی طرح وہ پاکستان کے لئے بھی ایک ہوجائیں۔ 'ہوں انہوں نے کہا کہ اگر پاکستان کے ایک مزدور کی بیٹی برطانیہ کی وزیر بن سکتی ہے تو کچھ بھی ہوسکتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ برطانیہ میرا ملک ہے اور اسلام میں پائی جانے والی بہت سے خوبیاں اس میں موجود ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ حقوق انسانی اور رواداری اسلام کے بنیادی اصول ہیں جو برطانیہ میں موجود ہیں لیکن پاکستان میں نہیں، حکمران عوام کی خدمت پر توجہ دیں، ان کا کہنا تھا کہ برطانیہ ان کا ملک ہے اس ملک میں وہی اصول ہیں جو ہمارے مذہب اسلام نے ہمیں بتائیں ہیں لیکن افسوس کہ اسلام کے یہ اصول پاکستان میں نظر نہیں آتے انہوں نے کہا کہ برطانیہ کے اصول اپنا کر پاکستان کو بہتر بنایا جاسکتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے اصول اسلام کے اصول نہیں ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ برطانیہ میں اکیلی باہر نکلنے والی خاتون کی عزت محفوظ ہے، اس سے قبل برطانوی ہائی کمشنر نے تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ برطانیہ کو پاکستان کی ضروریات کا علم ہے برطانیہ پاکستان سے کبھی منہ نہیں موڑے گا، انہوں نے کہا کہ برطانیہ پاکستان کو سات ارب روپے کی امداد دے گا۔

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Daily Jang -- پاکستانی معیشت اور جمہوری اداروں کا استحکام چاہتے ہیں، ہلیری کلنٹن

پاکستانی معیشت اور جمہوری اداروں کا استحکام چاہتے ہیں، ہلیری کلنٹن

امریکی وزیر خارجہ ہلیری کلنٹن نے کہا ہے کہ امریکا پاکستانی معیشت اور جمہوری اداروں کا... اسلام آباد استحکام چاہتا ہے پانچ سال میں پاکستان کو ساڑھے سات ارب ڈالر کی غیر فوجی امداد دینگے۔ وہ دفتر خارجہ اسلام آباد میں اپنے پاکستانی ہم منصب شاہ محمود قریشی کے ساتھ اسٹریٹجک مذاکرات کے بعد مشترکہ پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب کر رہی تھیں۔ امریکی وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ صدر زرداری اور وزیر اعظم گیلانی سے ملاقات مثبت رہی، ان سے پاکستانی عوام کے مسائل پر بات چیت کی گئی۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان سے دیر پا تعاون اور تعلقات چاہتے ہیں۔ امریکا توانائی، صحت اور تعلیم کے شعبوں میں پاکستان سے تعاون کرے گا۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ اسٹریٹجک ڈائلاگ میں پاکستانی عوام کا معیار زندگی بلند کرنے پر توجہ دی گئی، پانی اور بجلی کے منصوبوں پر بات چیت کی گئی۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ تقریر سے عمل یقیناً بہتر ہوتا ہے اور ہم عمل کر رہے ہیں۔ ایک سوال کے جواب پر انہوں نے کہا کہ افغانستان میں امن چاہنے والوں سے مذاکرات کیلئے تیار ہیں، انہوں نے اعتراف کیا کہ افغانستان عوام اور فوج کا بہت زیادہ جانی نقصان ہوا ہے۔ ہلیری کلنٹن نے داتا دربار اور دیگر خودکش حملوں پر تعزیت اور متاثرین سے ہمدردی کا اظہار کیا۔ اس موقع پر انہوں نے پاکستانی امون کی لذت کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستانی ام بہت لذیذ ہوتے ہیں، میں نے خود خرید کر کھائے ہیں، شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ مذاکرات دونوں ملکوں کے عوام کے مفاد میں ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ مذاکرات میں دونوں ملکوں کے تعلقات کومزید مستحکم کرنے اور سہ طرفہ تعلقات پر غور کیا گیا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ کیری لوگر بل طویل مدتی تعلقات کی دستاویز ہے، امریکی وزیر خارجہ سے صحت تعلیم اور پاکستانی عوام کے مسائل کے بارے میں گفتگو کی گئی۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ پاک امریکا مذاکرات کا اگلادور اکتوبر میں واشنگٹن میں ہوگا۔ ایک سوال کے جواب میں انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان توانائی کے بحران سے دوچار ہے، جس سے ہماری معیشت اور زراعت متاثر ہو رہی ہے۔

All Day

Daily Jang -- رواں سال بارک اوباما کا خطے کا دورہ متوقع ہے، ہلیری کلنٹن

رواں سال بارک اوباما کا خطے کا دورہ متوقع ہے، ہلیری کلنٹن

اسلام آباد میں پاکستان اور امریکا کے وزرائے خارجہ کے درمیان اسٹریٹجک ڈائلاگ کے دوسرے... اسلام آباد مرحلے کا آغاز ہو گیا ہے۔ اس موقع پر وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے دفتر خارجہ میں میڈیا کو بریفنگ دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ اسٹریٹجک پارٹنر شب امریکا اور خطے کے لیے بہت اہمیت کی حامل ہے اور ڈائلاگ خطے کے لیے بہت اہم ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا آج کا دن پاکستان اور امریکا کے لیے بہت اہم ہے جیسا کہ پاکستان کے عوام کو ان مذاکرات سے امیدیں وابستہ ہیں۔ پاکستان اور امریکا کے تعلقات میں مضبوطی آئی ہے۔ پاکستان کی کام

یابی بین الاقوامی برادری کے لیے نہایت اہم ہے۔ کوششوں اور مذاکرات کا مقصد عوام کی زندگی میں بہتری لانا ہے۔ پاکستان اور امریکا کے تعلقات میں بہتری آئی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ میں امید ہے کہ پاکستان کی مشکلات دور کرنے کی کوشش کی جائے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان امریکی مارکیٹ تک رسائی کا خواہش مند ہے اور ہم امریکا کے ساتھ دیرپا اور مضبوط تعلقات چاہتے ہیں اور توانائی کے شعبے میں مساوی سلوک کے خواہاں ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ان مذاکرات سے پاکستان کی دہشت گردی کے خلاف صلاحیت میں اضافہ ہو گا۔ پاکستان کی کامیابی افغانستان کی کامیابی میں کلیدی حیثیت رکھتی ہے۔ اس موقع پر امریکی وزیر خارجہ ہلیری کلنٹن نے کہا میں اور میرے ساتھیوں کو پاکستان آ کر بہت خوشی ہوئی۔ یہ میرا پاکستان کا چھٹا دورہ ہے اور میں ہمیشہ پاکستان آنے کی خواہاں رہتی ہوں۔ انہوں نے کہا داتا دربار جیسی مقدس جگہ پر دہشت گرد حملہ تمام مسلم اور غیر مسلم افراد کے لیے نہایت افسوس ناک ہے اور میں اس سانحے میں شہید ہونے والوں سے تعزیت کا اظہار کرتی ہوں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس سال کے آخر میں صدر اوباما کا خطے کا دورہ متوقع ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا پاکستان اور افغانستان کے درمیان تجارتی معاہدہ بہت اہمیت کا حامل ہے۔ ہمیں پاکستان اور امریکا کے درمیان اختلافات کم کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا مذاکرات کا مقصد معاملات کا بغور جائزہ لینا ہے۔ یقیناً دونوں ممالک کے درمیان فرق ہے لیکن ہمارا دشمن ایک ہے۔ کلنٹن نے تسلیم کیا کہ مجھے معلوم ہے گزشتہ دو ہفتے پاکستانیوں کے لیے بہت مشکل تھے۔ پاک امریکا تعلقات کو مزید وسعت دی جائے گی، پاکستان میں جمہوری حکومت کے لیے مدد کریں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ امریکا پاکستان میں صحت کی سہولیات کے لیے تعاون کرے گا۔

All Day

Jang -- فوج پر انگلی اٹھانے والے ملک کے دشمن ہیں، بھارتی آرمی چیف

فوج پر انگلی اٹھانے والے ملک کے دشمن ہیں، بھارتی آرمی چیف

نئی دہلی (این این آئی) بھارتی فوج کے سربراہ جنرل وجے سنگھ نے کہا ہے کہ خطرناک جنگجوؤں سے نمٹنے کے لئے فوج کے پاس خصوصی اختیارات کا ہونا ضروری ہے۔ فوج پر انگلی اٹھانے والے ملک کے دشمن ہیں۔ سرکاری ٹی وی کو دیئے گئے ایک انٹرویو میں بھارتی فوج کے سربراہ جنرل وجے سنگھ نے کہا کہ جب فوج کو ان خطرناک جنگلاتی علاقوں میں تربیت یافتہ اور جدید ہتھیاروں سے لیس جنگجوؤں کا سامنا ہو تو اس وقت فوج کے پاس خصوصی اختیارات کا ہونا ضروری ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جب بھی کسی فوجی اہلکار کو انسانی حقوق کی خلاف ورزیوں میں ملوث پایا گیا تو ان کے خلاف سخت کارروائی کی گئی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ریاست جموں و کشمیر یا ملک کی کسی بھی ریاست میں زیادتیوں میں ملوث فوجی اہلکاروں کو کسی بھی صورت میں بخشا نہیں جا سکتا۔ فوجی سربراہ نے کہا کہ کسی بھی کارروائی کے دوران فوج کے اعلیٰ افسران ایک دوسرے سے رابطہ بناتے رہتے ہیں۔

All Day

Pakistan and China's economic cooperation -- By Ismat Sabir

Pakistan and China's economic cooperation

By Ismat Sabir

China is a friend and a strategic partner promoting stability and economic progress in Pakistan, said Chinese President Hu Jintao. While responding to this statement, President Asif Ali Zardari said, "It is our belief that Pakistan can act as a force multiplier for China and we will continue to work towards this end."

These views were expressed at the time of the president's fifth five-day visit to China, since assuming presidential office in 2008. He said Pakistan is determined to strengthen relations with its neighboring country through people-to-people contacts. This visit would enhance bilateral trade and commercial ties between the two countries and reach new heights, as both the countries are partners in the economic growth of the region.

Chinese interest in Pakistan's economic growth is growing day by day. For instance, in Pakistan there are more than 120 companies and about 10,000 Chinese working in different sectors like mining, energy exploration and infrastructure building.

Energy: The Chinese government reconfirmed to carry out its project of installing two nuclear reactors in Pakistan. China said these projects are in total compliance with all international obligations.

Presently, China and Pakistan are cooperating in civilian nuclear energy. The cooperation is exclusively for peaceful purposes and to accept International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. The agreement was signed during the president's visit last year. The Chinese president and president of Pakistan were present at the signing ceremony of the Sino-Pakistani economic and technological cooperation agreement. The other agreements were in the field of agriculture, health, justice and information.

Zardari met representatives of different sectors, in particular, wind, solar, and renewable energies to seek solutions to overcome energy crisis in Pakistan.

A Chinese firm would invest \$10 billion in hydro power projects in Pakistan. The company would build dams in Bunji and Kohala areas. The dams would generate 7,000 megawatts (MW) and 12,000MW, respectively.

In his last visit to China, Zardari emphasised on implementation of all agreements signed between the two countries. It is pertinent to mention that during the last two years of the Pakistan People's Party government, more than five-dozen new projects have been undertaken and nearly 40 MoUs signed.

Under the Five-Year Programme for trade and economic cooperation 62 projects have been identified, out of which 27 have been launched, 26 are being examined and 12 are being reviewed. Pakistan also offered China access to emirates through Pakistani ports. Pakistan always encourages China to reap maximum benefits from Gwadar Port.

A Chinese firm has finalised a deal with the Pakistan Stone Development Company. China is the largest importer of chromites. The black coloured stone contains around 55 percent steel properties and is used in steel making and steel material for tank making. Chinese investors are showing great interest in Pakistani marble due to its quality and demand in the international market.

Chinese firms have signed agreements to buy 2,000 tonnes of Cotan beige and two grades of Mastung beige quality marble, found in Balochistan. It is expected that China will become the largest buyer of stone in the coming years.

Another Chinese firm will invest \$50 billion in Punjab during the next 10 years. The investment will be done to build a state-of-art industrial city, along with an industrial

estate on 100,000 acres.

Trade: In 2009 the total foreign trade of China declined by 13.9 percent but trade value between Pakistan and China declined only 2.9 percent, reaching \$6.8 billion. The total export of China declined by 16 percent but reduced by 7.7 percent only with Pakistan, at \$5.5 billion. China imported \$1.3 billion from Pakistan, showing an increase of 25.3 percent, which was the result of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

China-Pakistan trade in the first five months of this year reached \$3.3 billion, up 31 percent. Chinese commerce minister said that bilateral trade could hit \$15 billion in 2015.

Hu Jintao said that China had become Pakistan's second largest trading partner and gave assurance to make steady progress in cooperation with Pakistan in energy, telecom sectors, Neelum-Jhelum project and Pakistan's telecommunication satellite project.

Pak-China bilateral trade touched \$7 billion from \$2 billion in 2002. China has granted four types of trade concessions to Pakistan, one-sided, which would help increase Pakistan's exports to China by \$1 to \$1.5 billion annually. China would provide duty concessions on tariff lines not covered under Pakistan-China FTA.

The two states signed an agreement to establish a joint venture company in the private sector to promote sale of certified hybrid seeds and other varieties of seeds, which are to be developed according to the soil conditions and environment of Pakistan.

Pakistan and China would cooperate in the fields of water conservation, water resource management, hybrid seed technologies, drip and sprinkling irrigation systems.

During the visit, Zardari also stressed the need to set up railway line and a pipeline from Gwadar to China to connect the two countries. Importance of connectivity through railway link was felt in the recent disruption in the Karakoram Highway due to a landslide that blocked the road transportation.

China said that cooperation for the construction of railway link between the two countries is because China and Pakistan are strategic partners; have a deep traditional friendship cooperating in various fields. The cooperation would not only benefit the two countries but also help regional stability, common development and prosperity and not against any third country.

Zardari said that a road connection with China is one of his ideas to be realised. The travelling time, by sea, from China to Pakistan or Southeast Asia takes months, but by road transportation to Pakistani port, is only 1,100 miles from the Chinese border. The construction of road link with China would surely boost bilateral trade.

Zardari met executives of NORINCO, China's top arms manufacturer and leaders of Sino Hydro Corporation, the China's main dam builder and China Petrochemical Corporation, SINOPEC. The president also told Chinese business tycoons that authorities had planned to feed Pakistani grid through hydro, coal, gas, nuclear and renewable energy sources.

MoUs were also signed in the fields of health and Geological Survey of Pakistan and China. An MoU was also signed for cooperation between Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation and China Radio International for Urdu service broadcasts in selected Pakistani cities on FM channel with the China Radio International (CRI). China has promised a 50 million yuan grant for new projects to be set up in Pakistan.

Zardari termed Pakistan and China as the joint cornerstone of stability in South Asia. The Chinese prime minister said Pakistan is an important country of the

region and fighting war against terrorism made it even more important. The international community should come forward to help Pakistan and make the war on terror a success. He further said we can jointly think about going upward in Asia exploring new markets through Pakistan.

In the next meeting issues will be taken up including currency swap, opening of branches of Chinese banks in Pakistan and relocating industries in the special proposed industrial zones in Pakistan. It was also agreed that the China National Energy Administration would hold discussions with Pakistani authorities to solve Pakistan's energy problem.

The Chinese PM said his country appreciated Pakistan's policy of "One China" and assured Zardari that China would continue supporting Pakistan at the UN and multilateral forums, including SAARC and ECO.

Chinese president said that he had instructed his foreign minister to make arrangements for the exchange of youth delegations, cultural and writers' delegations between the two countries and also incr

All Day

Pakistan, U.S. to enhance cooperation in energy and developmental sectors -- Xinhua

Pakistan, U.S. to enhance cooperation in energy and developmental sectors
08:19, July 20, 2010

The Pakistan-U.S. Strategic Dialogue concluded here on Monday with a positive note sugarcoating the security concerns as both countries have finalized a comprehensive strategy to enhance the bilateral cooperation in the energy and developmental sectors.

"In order to deepen our relationship we have gone far beyond security," the U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told a joint news conference flanked by her Pakistani counterpart Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

Enveloping the security concerns under the five-year 7.5- billion-dollar economic and development package that was offered under the Kerry-Lugar Berman Act, Clinton responded a question saying "of course, there's legacy of suspicions which won't be able to be eliminated overnight."

"I heard about the trust deficit," she commented recalling her last year's visit while tactically deflecting through the sensitive security-related issues and highlighting the more appealing core economic and development matters.

Since the first round of bilateral dialogue in March 2010, 13 working groups were formulated that would help Pakistan in key areas of energy, water, education, health, employment, infra- structure building and others.

"Our partnership would go far beyond," said Clinton who arrived on a two-day official visit on Sunday with a heavy purse of 500 million dollars. Her participation in a forthcoming international donor's conference in Kabul right after successfully holding the second round of strategic dialogue to be held in Washington in October.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Qureshi said that Pakistan and U.S. have shifted to a productive mode as the U.S. will assist Pakistan in building water projects in Satpar, Skardu and Gomal-Zam dams.

"We are tapping an energy mix resources," Qureshi said while elaborating the various means the energy-hungry country has been employing to meet its needs. The electric power shortfall in Pakistan has reached 4,500 Mega Watts.

Brushing aside a question on Pakistan's nuclear energy resources, particularly nuclear power plant with the help of China, Qureshi said that Pakistan holds 35 years of experience in generating nuclear energy and "no untoward incident has ever happened."

Source: Xinhua

All Day

پاک افغان ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ معاہدہ تاریخی ہے، دونوں ممالک کے عوام مبارکباد کے مستحق ہیں

امریکہ: -- اُردو پوائنٹ

پاک افغان ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ معاہدہ تاریخی ہے، دونوں ممالک کے عوام مبارکباد کے مستحق ہیں، امریکہ واشنگٹن (اُردو پوائنٹ اخبار تازہ ترین۔ 20 جولائی۔ 2010ء) امریکہ نے پاکستان اور افغانستان کے درمیان ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ معاہدہ طے پانے پر دونوں ممالک کے عوام کو مبارکباد پیش کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ یہ تاریخی معاہدہ پورے خطے میں تجارت کے فروغ کیلئے اہم سنگ میل ہے گزشتہ روز پریس بریفنگ کے دوران امریکی محکمہ خارجہ کے ترجمان فلپ جے کراؤلی نے کہا کہ پاک افغان ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ معاہدہ دونوں پڑوسی ممالک کی ایک اہم اور تاریخی کامیابی ہے جو بلاشبہ نہ صرف ان کے عوام کے عظیم تر مفاد میں ہے بلکہ پورے خطے میں تجارت کے فروغ کے سلسلے میں بھی اہم سنگ میل ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وزیر خارجہ ہیلری کلنٹن نے اپنے شراکت داری ■ پانی ■ دورہ پاکستان کے دوران بڑی تعداد میں منصوبوں کا اعلان کیا ہے جن میں صحت جنسی مساوات اور دہشت گردی سے بے گھر ہونے ■ سلامتی ■ توانائی ■ نجی شعبے کی حمایت ■ والے افراد کی بحالی کا پروگرام وغیرہ شامل ہیں اور یہ منصوبے مستقبل میں امریکہ کی جانب سے پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کی عکاسی کرتے ہیں۔

All Day

پاکستان کیلئے 69 کروڑ ڈالر کے 73 امریکی منصوبوں کا اعلان -- جنگ

پاکستان کیلئے 69 کروڑ ڈالر کے 73 امریکی منصوبوں کا اعلان

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ جنگ) امریکا نے پاکستان کیلئے 69 کروڑ ڈالر کے 73 امریکی منصوبوں کا اعلان کیا ہے۔ جس میں توانائی، پانی، صحت و تعلیم سمیت متعدد ترقیاتی منصوبے شامل ہیں جبکہ دونوں ممالک نے دوطرفہ تعاون کو مزید تقویت دینے کے عزم کا اظہار کیا ہے اور اسٹریٹجک ڈائیلگ کا اگلا دور اکتوبر میں واشنگٹن میں ہوگا۔ پیر کو پاک امریکا اسٹریٹجک ڈائیلگ کے دوسرے وزارتی دور کے اختتام پر جاری کئے گئے مشترکہ اعلامیہ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ پاک امریکا اسٹریٹجک ڈائیلگ کے دوسرے وزارتی دور کے اجلاس میں وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی اور امریکی وزیر خارجہ ہیلری کلنٹن نے اپنے وفد کے ہمراہ شرکت کی۔ وزیر خارجہ محمود قریشی اور ان کی امریکی ہم منصب ہیلری کلنٹن نے اب تک ہونے والے مذاکرات اور دونوں حکومتوں کے درمیان بڑھتے ہوئے تعاون پر بھرپور اطمینان کا اظہار کیا۔ اعلامیہ کے مطابق امریکا تجارت کے فروغ کیلئے منڈیوں تک وسیع تر رسائی کی پاکستانی کوششوں اور تعمیر نو مواقع زونز کے قیام کیلئے تعاون جاری رکھے گا۔ بعد ازاں امریکی وزیر خارجہ ہیلری کلنٹن نے پیر کو اسٹریٹجک ڈائیلگ کے دوسرے دور کے بعد وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی کے ہمراہ مشترکہ پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ امریکا نے پاکستان کیلئے اپنی مالی معاونت ساڑھے سات ارب ڈالر تک تین گنا کی ہے جو کیری لوگر برمن ہل کے تحت پانچ برسوں میں دی جائیگی۔ وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور امریکا نے طویل المدتی پر اتفاق کیا ہے اور پاکستان اور "دستاویز بصیرت" رابطوں اور دونوں عوام کے مابین شراکت داری کیلئے ایک امریکا کے درمیان اسٹریٹجک ڈائیلگ کا اگلا دور اکتوبر میں واشنگٹن میں ہوگا۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان جوہری توانائی کے پر امن استعمال کیلئے اشتراک کار سے متعلق سوال پر ہیلری کلنٹن نے کہا کہ امریکہ پاکستان کی توانائی ضروریات پوری کرنے کیلئے بات چیت کر رہا ہے، نیوکلینر سپلائرز گروپ اور بین الاقوامی برادری نے بعض سوالات اٹھائے ہیں جن کے جواب کی ضرورت ہے، ہم اسلام آباد سے ان سوالات کے جواب کے منتظر ہیں۔ وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ پاکستان کو توانائی کی شدید قلت کا سامنا ہے، شہری علاقوں میں چھ سے آٹھ گھنٹے اور دیہی علاقوں میں دس سے بارہ گھنٹے لوڈ شیڈنگ ہو رہی ہے جس کا صنعتی اور زرعی شعبوں پر اثر پڑ رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سول جوہری منصوبے عالمی جوہری توانائی ادارے کے معائنے کیلئے کھلے ہوں گے۔ انہوں نے یقین دلایا کہ بین الاقوامی کو اس معاملے میں کوئی پریشانی نہیں ہونی چاہیے۔ علاوہ ازیں دفتر خارجہ میں دونوں ممالک کے وزارتی اسٹریٹجک ڈائیلگ کے بعد امریکی سفارتخانہ سے جاری تفصیلات میں کہا گیا ہے کہ ہیلری کلنٹن نے پاکستان میں خواتین کو باختیار بنانے اور ان کے حقوق کے تحفظ کیلئے چار کروڑ کے 5 سالہ منصوبے کا اعلان کیا۔ اس پروگرام کیلئے امریکا پہلے ہی ایک کروڑ پچیس لاکھ ڈالر کا وعدہ کر چکا ہے اور توقع ہے کہ امداد آئندہ ماہ سے ملنا شروع ہو جائیگی۔ ہیلری کلنٹن نے لڑائی سے متاثرہ خاندانوں کی مدد کیلئے 120 ملین ڈالر کی امداد کا اعلان کیا، اس میں سے 6 کروڑ 50 لاکھ ڈالر مالاکنڈ ہاؤسنگ کیلئے، 2 کروڑ 50 لاکھ ڈالر ملٹی ڈونر ٹرسٹ فنڈ، 2 کروڑ ڈالر ورلڈ فوڈ پروگرام اور ایک کروڑ ڈالر یو این ایچ سی آر کو فراہم کئے جائیں گے۔ عالمی ادارہ خوراک اگست سے دسمبر 2010ء تک حال ہی میں 75 ہزار بے گھر ہونے والے خاندانوں کو خوراک فراہم کرے گا جبکہ یو این ایچ سی آر 14 لاکھ بے گھر خاندانوں کی مدد کرے گا۔ امریکی وزیر خارجہ نے زراعت کے شعبہ کی معاونت اور نئی منڈیاں تلاش کرنے کیلئے دو کروڑ ایک لاکھ ڈالر امداد کا اعلان کیا۔ یہ امداد رورل ڈویلپمنٹ ڈیری پراجیکٹ اور امون کی برآمد کے منصوبے کیلئے استعمال ہو گی۔ انہوں نے نجی شعبہ کی قیادت میں اقتصادی ترقی اور پاکستانی عوام کیلئے روزگار کے مواقع پیدا کرنے کے بارے میں کئی پروگراموں کا بھی اعلان کیا۔ اس سلسلہ میں امریکہ کی اوور سیز پرائیویٹ انویسٹمنٹ کارپوریشن جے ایس پرائیویٹ ایکویٹی فنڈ کیلئے پانچ کروڑ ڈالر فراہم کریگی جبکہ یو ایس ایڈ آئندہ پانچ برسوں کے دوران چھوٹے اور درمیانے کاروبار کیلئے 10 کروڑ ڈالر فراہم کریگا۔

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ جنگ/ایجنسیاں) امریکی وزیر خارجہ ہیلری کلنٹن نے کہا ہے کہ عالمی خدشات ختم کیے... # بغیر پاک امریکا ایٹمی معاہدہ نہیں ہوسکتا، چین سے جوہری سمجھوتے پر تحفظات دور کیے جائیں، پاکستان کی توانائی کی ضروریات کو تسلیم کرتے ہیں، جنہیں پورا کرنے کیلئے جامع اپروچ کی ضرورت ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جوہری تعاون کیلئے پاکستان کو ایک طویل عمل کو پورا کرنا ہوگا اور نیوکلینر سپلائر گروپ سے بھی

منظوری حاصل کرنا ہوگی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے ذمے واجب الادا 1.6 ارب ڈالر ہیں ہم انہیں معاف یا کم کرنے پر غور کریں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں اپوزیشن متحرک ہے جو اپنا کردار ادا کر رہی ہے، عدلیہ اور میڈیا آزاد ہیں، 18 ویں ترمیم کی منظوری سے مثبت تبدیلی نظر آ رہی ہے تاہم جمہوریت کے تمام پہلوؤں کو ادارہ جاتی بنانا ہو گا، صدر اوہاما پاکستان میں جمہوریت چاہتے ہیں۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے پیر کو یہاں وفاقی دارالحکومت میں ٹی وی اینکرز سے گفتگو اور نیشنل کونسل آف آرٹس میں ٹاؤن ہال میٹنگ سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ ٹی وی اینکرز کے ساتھ نیشنل آرٹ گیلری میں منعقدہ پروگرام میں اظہار خیال کرتے ہوئے امریکی وزیر خارجہ ہیلری کلنٹن نے کہا کہ پاکستان کو امداد اس کی قربانیوں کی وجہ سے نہیں دے رہے بلکہ پاکستان ایک روشن مستقبل کا مستحق ہے اور چیلنجوں کے باوجود پیشرفت کے آثار نظر آ رہے ہیں، حکمران بدلتے رہتے ہیں مگر ہم پاکستان کے ساتھ دیرپا شراکت داری قائم رکھنا چاہتے ہیں۔

All Day

کابل: دورہ پاکستان سے مطمئن ہوں، ہلیری کلنٹن -- کابل (اے ایف پی)

کابل: دورہ پاکستان سے مطمئن ہوں، ہلیری کلنٹن

کابل (اے ایف پی) امریکی وزیر خارجہ ہلیری کلنٹن نے کہا ہے کہ وہ اپنے دوروزہ دورہ پاکستان سے مطمئن ہیں۔ اسلام آباد سے روانگی کے بعد افغانستان پہنچنے پر کابل اینرپورٹ پر صحافیوں سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ دورہ پاکستان سے دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات مزید مستحکم ہوں گے۔ دریں اثناء امریکی وزیر خارجہ ہلیری کلنٹن افغان صدر حامد کرزئی سے ملاقات کیلئے افغانستان کے دارالحکومت کابل پہنچ گئی۔ جہاں وہ افغان جنگ کے مستقبل کے بارے میں ہونے والی عالمی کانفرنس میں شرکت کریں گی۔

All Day

Jang -- رواں سال دسمبر تک 2400 میگاواٹ سے زائد بجلی

رواں سال دسمبر تک 2400 میگاواٹ سے زائد بجلی

Wednesday, 21 July 2010

حکومت نے دسمبر تک 2400 میگاواٹ بجلی سسٹم میں شامل کرنے کا منصوبہ تیار کر لیا

اسلام آباد - 21 جولائی (اے پی پی) حکومت نے ملک میں بجلی کی کمی پر قابو پانے کے لئے رواں سال دسمبر تک 2400 میگاواٹ سے زائد بجلی سسٹم میں شامل کرنے کا منصوبہ تیار کر لیا ہے۔ وزارت پانی و بجلی کے ذرائع کے مطابق آئی پی پیز کے 6 منصوبوں سے 1277 میگاواٹ بجلی حاصل ہوگی اور آئی پی پیز کے یہ منصوبے رواں سال کے آخر تک مکمل ہوجائیں گے۔

July 23, 2010

Fri

All Day

China Mobile To Invest Additional \$300M In Pakistan -- APP

China Mobile To Invest Additional \$300M In Pakistan

Friday 2010-07-23 16:56

July 23 -- China Mobile (0941.HK) will further invest \$300 million in Pakistan this year, an investment which will be the largest in the country's telecommunications industry in 2010, reports Yicai.com, citing Pakistani media reports.

China Mobile has to date invested a total of 1.66 billion yuan into Pakistan.

Telecom services provided by China Mobile cover more than 10,000 towns and villages. The company has approximately six million users in Pakistan.

Since entering the Pakistani market in 2007, China Mobile has grown to become the fifth largest mobile telecom operator.

All Day

Pakistan to expand maritime ties with China -- Indo-Asian News Service

Pakistan to expand maritime ties with China

Indo-Asian News Service

Beijing, July 23, 2010

First Published: 11:19 IST(23/7/2010)

Last Updated: 11:21 IST(23/7/2010)

Pakistan is "very satisfied" with the performance of the frigates it bought from China and hopes to further strategic maritime cooperation with the nation, a top Pakistani official said. "We are very happy with the performance, and some technology is as good as in Western countries," Admiral Noman Bashir, Pakistan's chief of naval staff, was quoted as saying by China Daily.

Two of the four F-22P frigates Pakistan ordered from China are already in service its navy, with the third one scheduled to be commissioned in September this year.

Pakistan also hopes to buy bigger ships with more firepower from China, he said.

It also proposed to develop strategic maritime cooperation with China in both military and commercial sectors, such as fishery and cargo, he said.

"The friendship between China and Pakistan is greater than the Himalayas and deeper than the ocean. We already made progress in air force and other areas, now we should expand cooperation in navy," he said.

"We can provide facilities, ports, logistics, maintenance among other things (to the Chinese navy)," another Pakistan navy official said.

Daily -- دوستی اب جامع سٹریٹجک پارٹنرشپ میں بدل چکی ، صدر آصف علی زرداری Jang

دوستی اب جامع سٹریٹجک پارٹنرشپ میں بدل چکی ہے، دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان دوطرفہ تجارتی، دفاعی اور معاشی روابط کو نئی بلندیوں تک پہنچانا ہو گا، صدر آصف علی زرداری، بھارتی انٹیلی جنس ایجنسیاں پاکستان میں دہشت گردی کی پشت پناہی کر رہی ہیں، وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی صدر آصف زرداری اور وزیراعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی سے چینی وزیردفاع جنرل لیانگ گوانگ آئیے کی ملاقاتیں، پاک چین دوستی اب جامع سٹریٹجک پارٹنرشپ میں بدل چکی ہے، دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان دوطرفہ تجارتی، دفاعی اور معاشی روابط کو نئی بلندیوں تک پہنچانا ہو گا جبکہ وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی نے دو چینی کمپنیوں کی جانب سے پاکستانی مسلح افواج کو دفاعی آلات کی خریداری کیلئے قرضے کی سہولت فراہم کرنے کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ بھارتی انٹیلی جنس ایجنسیاں پاکستان میں افغانستان کے راستے دہشت گردی اور عسکریت پسندی کی پشت پناہی کر رہی ہیں، مشرقی اور جنوبی افغانستان میں امریکی و نیٹو افواج کی تعداد میں اضافے سے بلوچستان میں مسائل پیدا ہو رہے ہیں۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے پاکستان کے دورے پر آنے ہوئے چینی وزیر دفاع جنرل لیانگ گوانگ آئیے سے الگ الگ ملاقاتوں میں کیا۔ چینی سفیر لاؤ زاؤ ہوئی اور 11 رکنی چینی دفاعی وفد بھی جنرل لیانگ گوانگ آئیے کے ہمراہ تھا۔ اس موقع پر وزیر دفاع چوہدری احمد مختار، وزیر دفاعی پیداوار عبدالقیوم جتوئی، وزیر مملکت برائے امور خارجہ نوابزادہ ملک عماد خان، ایوان صدر کے سیکرٹری جنرل سلمان فاروقی، دفاع، دفاعی پیداوار اور خارجہ امور کے سیکرٹریز بھی موجود تھے۔ ان ملاقاتوں میں پاک چین تعلقات، دفاعی تعاون، علاقائی معاملات اور انتہاپسندی و عسکریت پسندی کیخلاف پاکستان کی جنگ سے متعلق امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ صدر آصف علی زرداری نے کہا کہ چین کے ساتھ تمام شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانا اور اسے مضبوط کرنا پاکستان کی خارجہ پالیسی کا ایک کلیدی اصول ہے، پاکستان چین کی ترقی کے معجزے سے سیکھنا چاہتا ہے اور دفاع، توانائی، صنعت، زراعت، مواصلات، تجارت و معیشت کے شعبوں میں اس کی مہارت سے فائدہ اٹھانا چاہتا ہے، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان اس وقت دوطرفہ تجارت کا حجم کم ہے جس کو 2011ء تک 15 ارب ڈالر کی سطح پر لایا جانا چاہیے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک چین دوستی آزمائشوں پر پوری اتری ہے اور مشترکہ سٹریٹجک مفادات، اعلیٰ درجے کے باہمی اعتماد، ایک دوسرے کی خوشحالی و ترقی اور خطے میں امن و سلامتی کے فروغ پر مبنی ہے۔ پاکستان اپنی سماجی و معاشی ترقی اور سٹریٹجک استحکام میں متحرک کردار ادا کرنے پر چینی حکومت اور قیادت کا شکر گزار ہے، پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی میں چین کے شہریوں، انجینئروں اور کارکنوں کا کردار قابل تحسین ہے اور پاکستانی حکومت اپنے ہاں موجود چینی شہریوں کی سلامتی کو اعلیٰ ترین ترجیح دیتی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہمارے خطے کو انتہاپسندی، عسکریت پسندی اور دہشت گردی کا مشترکہ چیلنج درپیش ہے، موجودہ جمہوری حکومت اس لعنت کے ہر قیمت پر خاتمے کیلئے پرعزم ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین خطے میں استحکام کے ایک عنصر کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے اور پاکستان اس کے ساتھ مل کر عالمی امن اور سلامتی کے فروغ کیلئے کوششیں جاری رکھے گا۔ صدر نے چینی صوبے کنگھائی میں حالیہ زلزلے کے نتیجے میں قیمتی انسانی جانوں اور املاک کے نقصان پر تعزیت کا اظہار کیا۔ اس موقع پر جنرل لیانگ گوانگ آئیے نے دہشت گردی اور پرتشدد انتہاپسندی کیخلاف پاکستانی عوام، حکومت اور سیکورٹی فورسز کی جدوجہد کو خراج تحسین پیش کرتے ہوئے یقین دہانی کرائی کہ چین دفاعی تعاون سمیت تمام شعبوں میں پاکستان کی حمایت جاری رکھے گا۔ دریں اثناء وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی نے جنرل لیانگ گوانگ آئیے سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان ہر آزمائش پر پورے اترنے والے خصوصی روابط تعلقات قائم ہیں، وقت گزرنے کیساتھ ساتھ دونوں ملکوں کی دوستی اور جامع پارٹنرشپ تعاون پر مبنی کثیر الجہتی سٹریٹجک پارٹنرشپ میں تبدیل ہو چکی ہے جو خطے کے امن اور سلامتی کیلئے انتہائی اہمیت کی حامل ہے۔

انہوں نے پاک فضائیہ کیلئے چین کے تعاون سے تیار کئے جانے والے جے ایف 17 تھنڈر طیاروں اور پاک بحریہ کیلئے چین سے حاصل کی جانے والی ایف 22 پی فریگٹس کے منصوبوں پر پیش رفت کو اطمینان بخش قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاک بحریہ میں پی این ایس ذوالفقار کی صورت میں پہلی ایف 22 پی فریگٹ اور پی این ایس شمشیر کی شمولیت سے اس کی پیشہ وارانہ صلاحیتوں میں اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ انہوں نے پاک فوج اور چین کی پیپلز لبریشن آرمی کے درمیان رابطوں کو سراہتے ہوئے چین کی دو کمپنیوں چائینہ نارٹھ انڈسٹریز کارپوریشن اور چائینہ نیشنل الیکٹرانک امپورٹ اینڈ ایکسپورٹ کارپوریشن کی جانب سے پاکستانی مسلح افواج کو دفاعی آلات کی خریداری کیلئے قرضے کی سہولت دینے کا بھی خیر مقدم کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستانی افواج کو عسکریت پسندوں کیخلاف موثر کارروائیوں کیلئے بلی کاپٹروں اور رات کو دیکھنے والے آلات کی فوری ضرورت ہے ہمیں انسداد دہشت گردی کیخلاف اپنی استعداد کار بڑھانے کیلئے چین کی حمایت درکار ہے۔ انہوں نے جنوری میں پنزہ کے مقام پر لینڈ سلائڈنگ کے بعد خنجراب پاس کھولنے کی اجازت دینے پر بھی چینی حکومت کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ وزیراعظم نے چینی وزیر دفاع کو یقین دہانی کرائی کہ حکومت پاکستان اپنے ہاں موجود چینی شہریوں کی سلامتی کو اعلیٰ ترین ترجیح دیتی ہے اور وہ اس سلسلے میں چینی سفیر کے ساتھ مسلسل رابطے میں ہیں۔

All Day

پاکستان کو گیس کی فراہمی ، ایران میں پائپ لائن کا افتتاح کل ہوگا

ایران میں پائپ لائن کا افتتاح کل ہوگا ، پاکستان کو گیس کی فراہمی

تہران (جنگ نیوز) ایران کی 7 ویں قومی گیس پائپ لائن کا افتتاح کل ہوگا۔ 902 کلومیٹر طویل گیس پائپ لائن ایران کی جنوب مغربی علاقے سے جنوب مشرقی ایران شہرنامی شہر تک لائی جائے گی جہاں سے بعدازاں پاکستان آئے گی۔ ایرانی خبر رساں ادارے کے مطابق ایرانی صدر محمود احمد نژاد کا اس افتتاحی تقریب میں شرکت کا امکان ہے۔ واضح رہے کہ ایران کے پاس 1000 ٹریلین کیوسک فٹ گیس ذخائر ہیں۔

July 26, 2010

Mon

All Day

-- کوئٹہ...آغاز حقوق بلوچستان کے تحت 4885 گریجویٹس افراد کو ملازمتیں مل گئیں

Jang

آغاز حقوق بلوچستان کے تحت 4885 گریجویٹس افراد کو ملازمتیں مل گئیں ہیں۔ 115 گریجویٹس کی...کوئٹہ
ڈگریاں جعلی ثابت ہوئیں۔

All Day

مزائل دینے ہیں جو ریڈار میں آئے بغیر ہدف کو BVR امریکہ نے پاکستان کو پہلی بار نشانہ بنا سکتے ہیں۔
مزائل دینے ہیں جو ریڈار میں آئے بغیر ہدف کو نشانہ بنا سکتے ہیں۔ BVR امریکہ نے پاکستان کو پہلی بار

All Day

Chinese electronics firm plans Rs1bn assembling plant -- Daily Jang

Chinese electronics firm plans Rs1bn assembling plant

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

By Salman Siddiqui

KARACHI: The second largest state-owned electronics manufacturer of China, Zhongshan Changhong Electric Co., Ltd is in talks with the government of Sindh to set up an assembling plant in the province with an investment of one billion rupees, sources said on Monday.

“Provincial Minister for Industries Rauf Siddiqui has assured the Company’s delegation, which called on him recently, to provide land for the plant in Export Promotion Zone in Bin Qasim, Karachi,” said spokesman of the ministry.

Humayun Aslam, Director of HNC Corporation, said that the Chinese company would make investment here in collaboration with his company, which itself deals in electronic appliances. “Earlier, the same Chinese company was considering investing in the country in collaboration with Haier - a well known Chinese company in Pakistan.”

Established in 1958, Changhong Changhong has established overseas branches and representative offices in U.S.A, Europe, Australia, Russia, Southeast Asia and Middle East and is continuing setting up branches and offices in other markets. It has more than 20,000 Sales and Service outlets available worldwide with over 30,000 employees, he said.

“The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the investment may be signed sometime next month,” he said. As per talks, the Company would manufacture 10,000-15,000 units of split air conditioners, 3,000-4,000 units of refrigerators and 2-2.5 million units of televisions in first year of its commissioning, he said.

The project will be on a very large scale and was expected to provide employment to approximately 2,000 people in the country. Chinese engineers will also train the local labor in the operations process and provide technical support, he added.

The members of the Chinese firm’s delegations, who called on minister, were included Senior Vice President Frank Teng; Manager Overseas market Ms Susie; and Company Engineer Li Shenglin.

All Day

Rs 9 billion being spent on road projects linking Gwadar: NHA Chairman -- Daily Jang

Rs 9 billion being spent on road projects linking Gwadar: NHA Chairman

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the National Highway Authority (NHA) Altaf

Chaudhry told the National Assembly’s Standing Committee on Ports and Shipping that Rs 9 billion have been allocated for 18 road building projects.

The committee meeting held under the chairmanship of MNA Rana Mehmoodul Hassan at the NHA Headquarters. He told the meeting that Rs 3 billion would be spent on construction of Gwadar-Rattoder road alone. Some members of the committee belonging to Balochistan expressed their concerns over delay in operationalization of the port. They said that this port can become a source of economic progress of the country, if we can prove required road links.

Members of the committee in their recommendations said that the Gwadar port can prove a backbone in development of the Balochistan. They demanded that immediate steps should be taken early start of infrastructure projects. The meeting was attended by Syed Nasir Ali, Sher Muhammad Baloch, Nazir Boghio, Sardar Yusuf Khosa, Sardar Mansab Ali Dogar, Nausheen Saeed, Khawaja Sohail Mansoor, Shaukatullah Khan, Maulvi Agha Muhammad, Haji Roz Din, Sardar Israr Tarin, Maulvi Asmatullah, Mir Changaz Jamali, Usman Advocate, Abdul Qadir

Baloch, Dr Zil-e-Huma and Asia Nasir.

All Day

US announces special projects for Balochistan -- Daily Jang

US announces special projects for Balochistan

QUETTA: US Consul General to Karachi William J Martin on Monday announced the launch of special projects in Balochistan besides the opening of a US consulate in the provincial metropolis. He was addressing a ceremony held in connection with the 234th Independence Day of America at a local hotel in Quetta. The ceremony was attended by Balochistan Assembly Speaker Muhammad Aslam Bhootani, provincial ministers, MPAs and several journalists. Martin said the US was committed to working alongside Pakistan to help improve the country's health, education and energy sectors. "The US is mulling opening a consulate in Quetta," he added. He announced several new assistance programmes worth millions of dollars for Balochistan. Many of these projects will directly benefit the people of Balochistan, he added. He said, "During the meetings, the government and people have told us the most important need in the province is water. In addition to a national high-efficiency irrigation project that will include Balochistan, we are working with the provincial government to provide the people with potable water." He said, "The programme will enhance irrigation and distribution capacity, energy is also a concern in Balochistan. We already have a programme with the Quetta Electricity Supply Company to help them improve services to the public and reduce losses and increase efficiency." "The US geological survey will provide assistance in identifying natural gas resources in Balochistan and to further their development. We will also provide assistance to help the country improve its regulatory and fiscal regimes in order to attract more investment," he said. app

All Day

Urdu Point -- پاکستان پر طالبان کی حمایت کا الزام لگانا غلط ہے، امریکہ

پاکستان پر طالبان کی حمایت کا الزام لگانا غلط ہے، امریکہ

واشنگٹن (اُردو پوائنٹ اخبار تازہ ترین۔ 27 جولائی۔ 2010ء) امریکی سینیٹر نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان پر طالبان کی حمایت کا الزام لگانا غلط ہے۔ واشنگٹن سے جاری بیان میں امریکی آرمڈ کمیٹی کے چیئرمین انیکے اسکیلٹن نے کہا کہ افغان جنگ سے متعلق جاری ہونیوالی خفیہ رپورٹ میں پاکستان پر طالبان کی حمایت کا الزام لگایا گیا ہے جو کہ نامناسب ہے۔ انکا کہنا تھا کہ طالبان کے خلاف آپریشن میں شدت آئی ہے۔ اس میں کوئی شک نہیں کہ مجموعی طور پر پاکستان کے شدت پسندی کے خلاف اقدامات تسلی بخش ہیں۔

All Day

پاکستان دہشتگردوں کیخلاف جارحانہ کارروائیاں کر رہا ہے، سوات اور جنوبی وزیرستان**Urdu Point -- واضح ثبوت ہیں، امریکہ**

پاکستان دہشتگردوں کیخلاف جارحانہ کارروائیاں کر رہا ہے، سوات اور جنوبی وزیرستان واضح ثبوت ہیں، امریکہ:

واشنگٹن (اُردو پوائنٹ اخبار تازہ ترین۔ 27 جولائی۔ 2010ء) امریکی محکمہ خارجہ کے ترجمان فلپ جے کراؤلی نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اپنی سرحدوں کے اندر سرگرم دہشت گردوں کیخلاف جارحانہ اقدامات اٹھا رہا ہے اور سوات اور جنوبی وزیرستان میں فوجی آپریشنز اس بات کے واضح ثبوت ہیں، مشترکہ چیلنج سے نمٹنے کیلئے پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر کام جاری رکھیں گے، افغان جنگ سے متعلق ویب سائٹ پر جاری خفیہ معلومات سالوں پرانی ہیں اور ان کے منظر عام پر آنے سے ملکی سلامتی کو دہشت گردی کے بارے میں ہمارے خدشات تبدیل نہیں ہونے، پاکستان بھارت کو دہشت گردی کیخلاف اپنے عزم پر قائل کر نے کیلئے مبینی حملوں کے ذمہ داروں کو انصاف کے کٹہرے میں لانے۔ گزشتہ روز یہاں معمول کی پریس بریفنگ کے دوران فلپ جے کراؤلی پر افغان جنگ سے متعلق جاری ہونے والی اہم خفیہ معلومات مبنی "ویکی لیکس" نے کہا کہ ہم ویب سائٹ رپورٹ کی مذمت کرتے ہیں حقیقت یہ ہے کہ بہت سے معاملات سے متعلق یہ معلومات سالوں پرانی ہیں تاہم ان معلومات کے اجراء کی تحقیقات کرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ اور ہماری سلامتی پر ان کے اثرات کاجائزہ بھی لیاجارہا ہے خفیہ معلومات کے اجراء کے کیا اثرات مرتب ہوں گے؟ فوری طور پر اس حوالے سے کچھ کہنا قبل از وقت ہوگا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ القاعدہ اور دیگر دہشت گرد گروہوں کو شکست دینے کیلئے ہم پاکستان اور افغانستان کے ساتھ مل کر کام جاری رکھیں گے اور ان دونوں ممالک کو سولین اور فوجی دونوں شعبوں میں وسائل فراہم کرنے کیلئے پر عزم ہیں سولین امداد کے طور پر دہشت گردی کے خلاف صلاحیت بڑھانے میں ان کی مدد کرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ دونوں ممالک کے عوام کا اعتماد بھی حاصل کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم نے پاکستان اور افغانستان کے ساتھ اپنے تعلقات میں بنیادی تبدیلی کیلئے سخت جدوجہد کی ہے اور گزشتہ ہفتے وزیر خارجہ ہیلری کلنٹن کی پاکستانی اور افغان رہنماؤں کے ساتھ براہ راست اور تعمیری بات چیت کی ان تعلقات میں مثبت پیشرفت کی عکاسی ہے تاہم ان ملاقاتوں کے دوران ہیلری کلنٹن نے عوامی اور نجی طور پر دونوں ممالک کے ساتھ اپنے تحفظات اٹھاتے ہیں مثال کے طور پر انہوں نے پاکستان پر دہشت گرد گروہوں کے خلاف اسٹریٹجک تبدیلی جاری رکھنے اور انتہاء پسندوں گروہوں کی حمایت روکنے کو یقینی بنانے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا جبکہ افغانستان میں انہوں نے کریپشن کے خاتمے کی بات کی۔ ترجمان نے کہا کہ دہشت گردی مشترکہ چیلنج ہے اور ہم اس چیلنج سے نمٹنے کیلئے پاکستان اور افغانستان کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرتے رہیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان افغانستان کے ساتھ نئے سرے سے تعلقات اور اس کے ساتھ مختلف قسم کے رابطے قائم کر رہا ہے اس حوالے سے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ معاہدہ بہت اہمیت رکھتا ہے یہ تاریخی معاہدہ نہ صرف پاکستان اور افغانستان بلکہ

خطے کے دوسرے ممالک کیلئے بھی نیک شگون ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور افغانستان کو اپنی سرحد کے دونوں اطراف دہشت گردی سے نمٹنے کیلئے مزید کام کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ فلپ جے کراولی نے کہا کہ پاکستان نے دہشت گردی کے خلاف اہم اقدامات اٹھائے ہیں سوات اور جنوبی وزیرستان میں فوجی کارروائیاں اس بات کی واضح دلیل ہیں کہ پاکستان یہ سمجھنے لگا ہے کہ اس کی سرحدوں کے اندر سرگرم دہشت گرد گروپس نہ صرف امریکہ اور افغانستان بلکہ خود اس کیلئے بھی خطرہ ہے چنانچہ دہشت گردی کے خلاف پاکستان کی پالیسی میں بنیادی تبدیلی آئی ہے جبکہ عسکریت پسندوں نے پاکستان کے اندر توجہ مرکوز رکھی ہوئی ہے وہ مارکیٹوں اور عام شہریوں کو نشانہ بنارہے ہیں اور دہشت گردی کے خلاف ■ سرکاری عمارات ■ مساجد پاکستان کی پالیسی میں بنیادی تبدیلی کا ثبوت عسکریت پسندوں کی ایسی کارروائیاں ہیں جو ایک چیلنج بھی ہیں اور پاکستانی حکومت اور فوج اس چیلنج سے نمٹ رہی ہے دہشت گردی کا معاملہ ہمارے لئے بھی تشویش کا باعث ہے اور اس سلسلے میں ہم پاکستان اور افغانستان کی مدد جاری رکھیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستانی قیادت دہشت گردوں اور ان کی محفوظ پناہ گاہوں کو جڑ سے اکھاڑ پھینکنے کیلئے پر عزم ہے اور وہ ایسا کر بھی رہی ہے۔ محکمہ خارجہ کے ترجمان نے کہا کہ اگرچہ امریکہ نے پاکستان کو دہشت گردی کے خلاف بڑے پیمانے پر فوجی امداد دی ہے لیکن حقیقت یہ ہے کہ پاکستان اپنے تحفظ کیلئے نہ صرف اپنا لہو بلکہ خزانہ بھی لگا رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان، بھارت اور افغانستان کے ساتھ ہمارے تعلقات میں اہم عنصر دہشت گردی سے ہے بھارت بھی واضح طور پر چاہتا ہے کہ پاکستان ان عناصر کو انصاف کے کٹہرے میں لائے جو پڑوسی ممالک کیلئے خطرہ ہیں ہم نے کئی مرتبہ کہا ہے کہ اگر پاکستان دہشت گردی کیخلاف اپنے عزم پر بھارت قائل کرنا چاہتا ہے تو وہ ممبئی حملوں کے ذمہ داروں کو انصاف کے کٹہرے میں لائے جو اس حوالے سے تعمیری اور اہم قدم ہوگا۔

All Day

Pakistan, China can jointly tap huge ship market in Gulf -- Pakistan News

Pakistan, China can jointly tap huge ship market in Gulf
Wed, Jul 28, 2010

World

Pakistan's Karachi Shipyard hopes to deepen cooperation with the Chinese shipbuilding industry to facilitate China's international trade and further explore the huge market in the Gulf, said Managing Director Vice Admiral Iftikhar Rao. "We hope to establish a long-term and permanent relationship with China and close partnership at various levels," the China Daily quoted Admiral Rao.

He pointed out that the cheap labor force in Pakistan, the long time friendship between the two countries, and the shipyard's favorable geographical location mean that cooperation with China can make full use of the market potential in the Gulf, an important oil route.

The shipyard, which includes commercial and military sectors, can provide a wide range of services, such as logistics supply, maintenance and repair. It will be a win-win situation for Pakistan and China, the director said.

The shipyard has recently signed a contract with China Shipbuilding & Offshore Company (CSOC) for construction of 500 T Fast Attack Craft for the Pakistan Navy.

There are 55 Chinese ship engineers now working and residing at the shipyard, and they receive the best security protection, according to Rao.

"We are currently building a new accommodation building for Chinese workers, and we are very satisfied with their performance." The new building is expected to be completed by April next year.

All Day

بلوچستان پیکج کا دوسرا مرحلہ، انٹرن شپ کے تحت 10 ہزار، وفاقی محکموں میں 5959 -- Daily Jang

بلوچستان پیکج کا دوسرا مرحلہ، انٹرن شپ کے تحت 10 ہزار، وفاقی محکموں میں 5959 اسامیوں پر بھرتی ہوگی

کوئٹہ (نمائندہ جنگ) حکومت بلوچستان کے اعلامیہ کے مطابق آغاز حقوق بلوچستان پیکج کے تحت دوسرے مرحلے میں نیشنل انٹرن شپ پروگرام کے تحت 10 ہزار انٹرن شپ اور وفاقی محکموں میں پانچ ہزار 5959 ملازمتوں میں بھرتی ہوگی اور تمام امیدواروں کی فہرستیں جنہوں نے بلوچستان پیکج کے تحت درخواستیں دی تھیں وفاقی محکموں کو کارروائی کیلئے بھجوا دی گئی ہیں۔ وفاقی سطح پر ہونے والے فیصلے کے مطابق تمام وفاقی محکمے بلوچستان پیکج کے تحت بھرتی کا عمل سرانجام دیں گے جس کیلئے وہ وسیع پیمانے پر اخبارات میں اشتہارات کے ذریعے امیدواروں کو مطلع کریں گے۔ خصوصی طور پر بلوچستان میں زیادہ پڑھے جانے والے اخبارات میں اشتہارات کیلئے حکومت بلوچستان نے وفاقی محکموں کو مطلع کیا ہے، تمام اہل امیدواران تمام وفاقی محکموں کی ویب سائٹ اور اخبارات کا مسلسل مطالعہ کرتے رہیں تاکہ انہیں بروقت معلومات سے آگاہی رہے تاہم تمام امیدواروں کو ہدایت کی جاتی ہے کہ وہ اس سلسلے میں ایس اینٹجی اے ڈی سے رابطہ کرنے کی زحمت نہ کریں چونکہ متعلقہ معلومات صرف وفاقی محکموں کو ہے اور وہ پرنٹ و الیکٹرانک میڈیا کے ذریعے امیدواروں کو آگاہ کرنے کے پابندیوں جبکہ بلوچستان پیکج کے تحت تمام امیدواروں کی فہرستیں وفاقی محکموں کے پاس دستیاب ہیں جن پر ضروری کارروائی کے بعد وفاقی محکمے

All Day

!جوہری ہتھیار پاکستان کے تاج میں جڑے نگینے -- Daily Jang

!جوہری ہتھیار پاکستان کے تاج میں جڑے نگینے!

پاکستان اور امریکہ کے درمیان جوہری ہتھیار کا تنازعہ پاکستان کی فوجی اور معاشی امداد میں رکاوٹ رہا ہے کیونکہ امریکہ پاکستان کے ایٹمی پروگرام پر شاکہاں رہا ہے، لیکن اب امریکا نے اس بات کا اعتراف کیا ہے کہ نیوکلیر ڈیٹیرنس پاکستان کی ضرورت ہے اور اس کا ایٹمی پروگرام ایران اور شمالی کوریا سے مختلف ہے، امریکی جوائنٹ چیفس آف اسٹاف کے چیئرمین ایڈمرل مائیک مولن کا کہنا کہ پاکستان کے پاس موجود ہتھیاروں کے ذخیرے میں ایٹمی ہتھیار سب سے زیادہ اہم ہیں اور پاکستانی قیادت بھی اس بات کو سمجھتی ہے اور اس نے اپنے ایٹمی ہتھیاروں کے تحفظ کے لیے غیر معمولی کوششیں اور اقدامات بھی کیے ہیں۔ امریکی فوج کے سربراہ کا کہنا تھا کہ جوہری ہتھیار پاکستان کے تاج میں جڑے نگینے ہیں۔ ایڈمرل مائیک مولن نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے ایٹمی پروگرام کے برعکس ایران اور شمالی کوریا کے ایٹمی پروگرام پر بھروسہ نہیں کیا جا سکتا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا

کہ پاکستان کا ایٹمی پروگرام بھارت سے درپیش خطرے سے مزاحمت کے مقصد سے شرع کیا گیا تھا اور
پاکستانی اسے اپنی قومی سلامتی کا اہم جز تصور کرتے ہیں۔ انہوں

All Day

Build Pakistan, Don't Buy Pakistan -- America

Build Pakistan, Don't Buy Pakistan

On her recent trip to Pakistan, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton unveiled over \$500 million in civilian projects as part of the \$7.5 billion aid package the U.S. has promised Pakistan over the next five years. The purpose, according to Secretary Clinton, is to leave behind an era of mistrust and launch a new period of cooperation. Is there evidence that this will work?

Let's look at the figures. From 2001 to 2009, Pakistan received over \$11 billion in aid. The result? A whopping 68% of Pakistanis have an "unfavorable" view of the United States. This is not to say that aid to Pakistan has no benefits, indeed aid projects should continue to play a part in a comprehensive solution. However, if the past 9 years has taught the U.S. anything, it is that throwing money alone at the problem won't solve it.

What else can the U.S. do? Push for closer trade ties with Pakistan. The U.S. is already Pakistan's single largest trading partner and effective trade legislation will therefore help build Pakistan's domestic industry, create employment opportunities, and provide sustainable development. It will also demonstrate to Pakistanis that the U.S. is serious about its long-term engagement with Pakistan and the region.

Unfortunately, not only has the administration done very little on this front, but its only initiative is simply off the mark. The current legislation pending before Congress seeks to create trade preference zones in Pakistan's conflict ridden and destitute Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA). Ideally, it would create legitimate jobs and long-term prosperity in a region widely regarded as an al-Qa`ida safehaven. It is a noble idea, but is flawed for three critical reasons.

First, this bill aims to spur textile and apparel production in FATA. Strangely, however, it excludes critical products from this duty-free eligibility, namely cotton knit tops and cotton trousers, which make up 25% of the total value of U.S. imports from Pakistan. As the Association of Textile Importers points out, excluding these products is an obvious disincentive for new investment in apparel in Pakistan's border regions.

Second, Pakistan is able to compete against China in the textile-processing arena due to its quick turnaround time on orders and not because of lower costs. Not only is the FATA region geographically isolated from ports and the cotton producing regions of Pakistan, but it also lacks secure rail or road links to the rest of the country. Simply put, apparel produced in the ROZ would cost more and take longer to arrive at the intended destination--eliminating Pakistan's comparative advantage. And third, prior experience with special economic zones has demonstrated that governments consistently need to provide higher levels of infrastructure and security than the domestic norm in order attract foreign investors. Given that the FATA region remains embroiled in conflict and any further expenditure in the region would strain an already fragile government budget, the prospects for a successful ROZ are limited.

Congress must rethink this legislation to ensure that it has real benefits for the Pakistani population.

First, trade benefits should build on existing capacities and not create new industries. FATA boasts vast, untapped mineral resources including marble and semi-precious stones whose extraction is limited due to a lack of equipment, infrastructure and investment. However, despite these challenges and constant violence, there is a committed group of entrepreneurs who have continued their business operations in this arena. Focusing trade preferences on products indigenous to FATA would bring more sustainable employment opportunities as well as direct economic benefits to the region.

Second, the U.S. government should make a concerted effort to pair aid programs with trade preference programs. For example, the State Department recently announced a \$2 million grant to provide modern machinery for marble mining in some parts of FATA. Aid which is targeted at entrepreneurs and developing the private sector would help complement the trade benefits and would enable FATA to develop a business sector that is competitive on national and international levels. Finally, the U.S. should cut tariffs on top Pakistani textile exports. As of now, the average tariff rate on the top ten Pakistani exports to the US is 11%--an obscenely high figure for a country which continues to spend its money and shed its blood in the war on terror. Cutting tariffs will increase Pakistan's competitiveness, create jobs, reduce instability, and have a positive effect on perceptions of the U.S. in

Pakistan.

If Secretary Clinton is serious about resetting America's relationship with Pakistan, it is imperative that the administration uses all the tools at its disposal. Simply throwing more money at the problem will not solve the critical issues facing Pakistan. As a Pakistani trade advisor said recently to an American audience: "We are not interested in aid; we are interested in trade."

All Day

China carries Benazir Bhutto's dream – by Antoaneta Becker -- Asia Times

China carries Benazir Bhutto's dream – by Antoaneta Becker

Source: Asia Times

BEIJING – When President Asif Ali Zardari appeared at a Pakistan-China renewable energy forum in Shanghai on July 10, he rekindled a vision of his assassinated wife and former prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, who had envisaged gas pipelines, railway tracks and highways connecting China and Pakistan. Zardari said that he, as the first businessman president of Pakistan, was going to work to make that dream a reality.

Zardari's five-day trip to China, his fifth since coming to power in 2008, was deemed so successful by Chinese and wary Indian observers that Beijing felt the need to defend its growing investment and trade links with Pakistan.

"New Delhi does not need to fidget each time it sees signs of intimacy between Beijing and Islamabad," said a commentary in the China Daily, the state-run English-language newspaper. "Instead, it should look to the larger picture of the India-China relationship and deepen its political trust with Beijing."

Chinese analysts have noted that New Delhi dispatched National Security Adviser Shiv Shankar Menon, a man from a family of diplomats with Chinese links, just a day before the president of Pakistan arrived in Beijing.

"Sending Menon, whom we regard as an 'old China friend', means that New Delhi was hoping to achieve as much as possible," Han Hua, a South Asia expert at Beijing University, told the 21st Century Business Herald newspaper. "India has all along been very uneasy about Pakistan and China exchanges in the nuclear energy field."

Yet the prospect of expanded nuclear cooperation between China and India's arch-rival is only one of the factors to have caused disquiet in New Delhi this time.

Zardari and Chinese leaders reportedly discussed investment opportunities in numerous sectors, including port development, hydropower, roads, railways, mining and others.

Zardari said in Beijing that Pakistan could be a "force multiplier" for China's development. "We want to learn and recreate your success," he stated.

As the United States and European Union hesitate over allowing trade concessions to Pakistan, China has moved aggressively, promising liberalization of trade and offering soft loans along with investment. Beijing is quickly becoming Pakistan's main trading partner and has ambitions of doubling bilateral trade from the current annual US\$7 billion to \$15 billion in the next couple of years.

"The US sees India as a counterweight to contain Chinese influence, while China wants Pakistan to emerge as a power to counter India's ambitions for regional hegemony," says Syed Fazl-e-Haider, a development analyst in Pakistan. "Whether it is the issue of transferring nuclear technology or Iran gas pipeline project, China has always supported Pakistan against US and India."

To Indian observers, the prospect of snowballing Chinese investment and an increased Chinese presence in Pakistan reinforces a suspicion that China is using soft power and cash to embed itself on India's borders.

China is already the biggest investor and the largest aid donor in terms of commitment in Sri Lanka. There, as in Pakistan, China has challenged traditional trade partners like the EU and the United States, choosing not to ask questions or impose conditions over human rights and labor concerns.

In Chinese eyes, both countries provide ready markets for Chinese consumer goods, services and labor. As Beijing tries to rebalance the country's economy moving away from being dependent on exports to recession-hit markets like the United States and the EU, developing countries in the region are becoming more important by the day.

These countries are also seen as launchpads for China's ambitions in strategic

industries like the nuclear sector and railway infrastructure. China's aspirations of becoming a global player in the nuclear energy sector have underpinned Beijing's decision to deploy nuclear know-how and investment to energy-starved Pakistan. Indian concerns are not likely to stand in the way of agreements between Islamabad and Beijing to proceed with plans to add another two nuclear reactors to Pakistan's modest fleet of modern reactors, Chashma 1 and Chashma 2, also designed and built with China's help in the province of Punjab.

Although China is a member of the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG) and thus subject to rules that forbid the sale and export of nuclear technology to Pakistan, Beijing has insisted that the new deal is an "extension" of the old cooperation over Chashma 1 and Chashma 2, which has been under safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Chinese leaders can argue they have their own domestic reasons for pursuing accelerated economic development in the region. Beijing has just announced a new multi-billion US dollar investment package to boost the development of its laggard western regions. The decision comes in the wake of violent unrest in the restive minority areas.

The \$100 billion package includes railways, roads, airports and hydropower projects and shows Beijing is intent on pursuing stability by infrastructure investment in both Buddhist Tibet and Muslim Xinjiang.

Kashgar – the southern hub of Xinjiang – long eclipsed by the more developed and resource-rich cities in the region's north, is being given a new lease of life as an important center to spread China's influence in Central and South Asia.

Among the projects discussed between Beijing and Islamabad is a proposed railway to link Kashgar to the southern Pakistan port of Gwadar. If realized, it would give China direct access to the Arabian Sea and provide an alternative route should a naval blockade cut oil supplies from the Middle East. The problem for Beijing is that the proposed line is to pass through Gilgit-Baltistan – an area seen by both India and Pakistan as part of the larger Jammu and Kashmir issue, which has not yet been resolved.

"All Chinese plans for gaining access to resource-rich Central Asia and building energy pipelines pass through Gilgit-Baltistan," said Syed. "Gilgit, the northern areas capital, has acquired the status of gateway to Central Asia after Pakistan-China barter trade agreement and accords with Central Asian States."

It is easy to read China's actions as intent on infuriating India, but Gao Heng, researcher with the Institute of World Economics and Politics of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), said this is misleading.

"One should not view everything China does in the region through ideology or geopolitics," he says. "A lot is driven by the market. The country's national interests are those that dictate the direction of China's relations with countries in South Asia." Antoinette Becker has more than 10 years of field reporting in China, writing for Inter Press Service, USA Today, The Economist Intelligence Unit, Outlook Magazine and others. Fluent in Mandarin, Antoinette has travelled extensively in greater China.

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All Day

Military aid to Pakistan not a threat to India: US -- PTI

Military aid to Pakistan not a threat to India: US

Published: Wednesday, Jul 28, 2010, 15:26 IST

Place: Washington, DC | Agency: PTI

Washington, DC: Days after India voiced concern over the misuse of the massive US military aid by Pakistan, the Obama administration has said that the security assistance to Islamabad, including the supply of sophisticated F-16 jets, should not be seen as a threat to New Delhi.

"In giving military assistance to Pakistan, we have systems of accountability to be sure that it is being employed in accordance with the agreements that we have with Pakistan," state department spokesman PJ Crowley said at his daily news briefing last evening.

"Where we have questions about the nature of Pakistani employment of US assistance, we raise those questions directly with the Pakistani government. We have in the past and we will continue to do that," he said.

So, building up the capability of Pakistan to deal with the threat within its own

borders "should not be seen as a threat to India," Crowley said.

He argued that a stable Pakistan is not a threat to India and a stable India does not need to be a threat to Pakistan.

His remarks came five days after India expressed concern over the misuse of US military aid by Pakistan and asked America to set up a monitoring mechanism as a remedial measure.

During the visit of US joint chiefs of staff committee chairman Admiral Mike Mullen to New Delhi on July 23, defence minister AK Antony told him about India's worries that Pakistan was diverting the American military assistance to building capacities against India.

Antony said that the arms aid to Pakistan, worth billions of dollars annually, was "disproportionate to the war on terror" for which it was intended and the US should ensure it was used only for the purpose meant for.

Pakistan has also recently acquired sophisticated air-to-air missiles from the US for its newly inducted F-16 fighter jets.

Crowley also strongly recommended Indo-Pak peace talks, while underlining that Islamabad should address New Delhi's concern with regard to 26/11.

"It is important for Pakistan and India to have a stable relationship. They, likewise, will have to have a relationship going forward, and if it is stable, then the world, including the US, benefits,"

Responding to a question, Crowley said that there are concerns about making sure that Pakistan bring to justice those responsible for the Mumbai attacks.

"We've had that conversation with Pakistan and India many, many times. Our concerns about elements within Pakistan and connections that those elements have with the Pakistani government, we've had that conversation with Pakistan many times," he said.

All Day

Pakistan Could Bid for BP Assets -- Singapore

Pakistan Could Bid for BP Assets

SINGAPORE—Pakistan's government could make a bid for BP PLC's assets in the country if the oil major decides to sell them as part of its global campaign to raise money to clean up the Gulf of Mexico oil spill and pay for damages, the head of the country's upstream regulator said Friday.

The U.K. oil company, which has spent about \$4 billion on the spill and has agreed to pay \$20 billion for a cleanup and compensation fund, has informally told the government of Pakistan of a possible sale of its assets in the country, but has yet to seek a formal approval from the government, Naeem Malik, head of the Directorate-General of Petroleum Concessions, told Dow Jones Newswires.

BP, which has a substantial presence in Pakistan's oil and gas sector including budding offshore exploration, has yet to decide whether it wants to sell its stakes in individual assets or the entire business as a whole, Mr. Malik said.

"Instead of these assets going to others, we think, 'why not the government or our public sector companies buy them?' Of course, we have to see the financial costs first."

It isn't clear what BP's business in the country is worth. The company produces about 250 million cubic feet of gas a day and 14,000 barrels a day of crude oil. The government could buy BP's assets via its state-run oil companies, Mr. Malik said.

BP earlier agreed to sell its oil and gas assets in North America and Egypt for \$7 billion to Apache Corp., and had decided to sell its stake in the Argentine unit Pan American Energy, which could be worth \$9 billion, and is also in talks with Bridas Corp., Dow Jones Newswires said Friday.

Mr. Malik said the oil ministry would take up the proposal to acquire the company's assets if and when BP decides to seek formal approval. The completion of negotiations and final sale could take as long as a year.

"The government of Pakistan can exercise its pre-emptive right to buy out BP's interests, but we have to see how much are they asking. They told us about the possible asset sale only a few days ago, so it will still take us some time to start due diligence."

Mr. Malik said the government would prefer for a prominent oil major like BP to stay invested in the country but understands that the company is going through a difficult phase and has expressed its intentions to evaluate its option to sell the assets.

All Day

پاک بھارت مذاکرات پوری دنیا کے مفاد میں ہیں، پاکستان کے بغیر افغان مسئلے کا حل ممکن Daily Jang -- نہیں، امریکا
پاک بھارت مذاکرات پوری دنیا کے مفاد میں ہیں، پاکستان کے بغیر افغان مسئلے کا حل ممکن نہیں، امریکا

واشنگٹن (ایجنسیاں) امریکہ نے واضح کیا ہے کہ پاکستان کو دی جانے والی امداد کے شفاف استعمال کو دوطرفہ معاہدوں کے تحت یقینی بنایا جا رہا ہے جبکہ ماضی میں نظر رکھی اور مستقبل میں بھی یقینی بنائیں گے کہ یہ بھارت کے خلاف استعمال نہ ہو۔ امریکہ نے پاک

All Day

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All Day

Daily Jang -- قادرپور میں 226 میگاواٹ کے گیس پاور پلانٹ کا افتتاح آئندہ ماہ ہو گا
قادرپور میں 226 میگاواٹ کے گیس پاور پلانٹ کا افتتاح آئندہ ماہ ہو گا

قادر پور (جنگ نیوز) قادر پور میں 226 میگا واٹ کے پاور پلانٹ کا افتتاح آئندہ ماہ کیا جائے گا۔ وزارت پانی و بجلی کے ذرائع نے بتایا کہ وزیر اعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی اس پلانٹ کا افتتاح کریں گے۔ اینگرو انرجی لمیٹڈ نے اس منصوبے پر 20 کروڑ ڈالر سے زائد کی سرمایہ کاری کی ہے۔ یہ پاور پلانٹ 75 ایم ایم بی ٹی یو گیس سے چلایا جائے گا۔

All Day

UK 'not to turn its back on Pakistan' -- The News
UK 'not to turn its back on Pakistan'

Friday, July 30, 2010
By Our correspondent
Islamabad

British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Adam Thomson, who joined Youth Parliament here on the first regular session after the tragedy of the death of 6 Members of Youth Parliament, offered his condolences and observed a minute of silence on the sad and tragic death of Members Youth Parliament (MYPs).

"UK will never turn its back on Pakistan," said Thomson while addressing the Youth Parliament on the topic of UK's Foreign Policy towards Pakistan. "Pakistan has lost more soldiers in the fight against militancy than Britain has lost in many wars and the sacrifices Pakistani citizens are huge," he said.

British High Commissioner, who discussed in detail the support UK has committed to provide to Pakistan, despite cuts in every government department back home, said that education, population and democracy are three key areas that youth of Pakistan may like to focus on. He said that the societal discourse on these three key areas needs to be accelerated.

"UK's policy towards Pakistan has to focus on Youth, as Pakistan is a very young country in terms of demographics. This is both a unique opportunity and a challenge for Pakistan as well," he said adding that democracy in Pakistan will succeed only when one democratically elected government precedes another. Thomson said that UK's policy towards Pakistan focuses on trade, youth, education, and skills building.

Answering a question about what is the role UK is playing in resolving Kashmir and the water disputes, he said that Britain wishes to see friendly relations between Pakistan and India, but the issues between the two nations need to be resolved between the two. He believed that while Pakistanis look for ways to resolve water issues, water conservation should also be one of the major strategies adopted.

All Day

Govt gears up for market access to EU, US: commerce secretary -- APP
Govt gears up for market access to EU, US: commerce secretary
Staff Report

KARACHI: Ministry of Commerce (MoC) has actively taken up the issue of market access to EU and US markets by negotiating the bilateral trade agreements with them.

"There is a ready market of our products in these two regions especially for the textile goods, whose market access is of prime importance," said the Secretary Ministry of commerce, Zafar Mahmood, during a visit to All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA), Karachi on Friday.

Secretary Commerce informed the meeting that a delegation of textile importers from United States is expected to visit Pakistan in September-October, 2010, and said that China is considering facilitating Pakistan by providing concession in exports as well as concessionary arrangements for participating in a number of exhibitions taking place over there.

In reply to a query, he said that he strongly believes in free market mechanism and advocated against any ban or restriction on a sub sector of a value chain as it is against the rules of WTO Agreement.

Earlier, Chairman APTMA, Shahzad Ahmed, commended Secretary Commerce for his efforts in helping APTMA to achieve the restoration of the free market mechanism in the textile trade and has allowed the regulatory duty on yarn exports to lapse. He informed Secretary Commerce that the industry has to import about 3.5 million bales i.e. 25 percent of our consumption but have never demanded any ban

or restriction on export of cotton.

Shahzad Ahmed informed Secretary Commerce that APTMA, on various occasions, has pointed out that the spinning industry has a serious shortage of both its primary raw materials - cotton and polyester, and as a result a number of trade restrictions have been imposed on PSF, usage of synthetic fibre is only 18 percent of Pakistan's raw material mix as compared to 60 percent prevalent in the world.

He said that currently, there is a serious tariff anomaly whereby PSF blended yarn has 0 percent import duty but the import of PSF as raw material is subjected to a punitive regime of 6.0 percent import duty. Due to closure of Dewan Salman Fiber's, difference between local Pakistani PSF and international PSF prices has ballooned to a staggering figure of almost 30 percent, making our exports uncompetitive.

He appealed to the Government that if Pakistan has to reach an export target of \$25 billion by 2014 all restrictions and tariffs on import of raw materials of limited availability in Pakistan have to be removed and also to allow import of PSF from India to meet its shortage through all entry points including Wagha and Khokhrapar etc.

The meeting was also attend by Chairman APTMA Sindh Balochistan Region, M Yasin Siddik, Former Chairman APTMA, Nadeem Maqbool, and others, including, Nadeem Abdullah, Imran Maqbool, Zahid Mazhar Puri.

All Day

ICBC to open branches in Pakistan -- The News

ICBC to open branches in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), the largest Bank in the world, would soon open its branches in Pakistan and acquire equities in Pakistani banks to pave the way for increased trade and investment ties between the two countries.

Prime Minister, Yousaf Raza Gilani, has called for joint concerted efforts to make the economic relations between Pakistan and China commensurating with the level of political ties between the two sides. The Prime Minister expressed hope that Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) would soon open its branches in Pakistan. The Prime Minister was talking to Madam Lili Wang, Senior Executive Vice President of the ICBC who called on him at the Prime Minister's Secretariat, this morning.

The Prime Minister underlined that while bilateral ties had flourished in multi-faceted fields, cooperation in finance and banking sectors needs to be focused upon in larger interest of long-term strong economic relations between Pakistan and China.

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that meetings of Senior Executive Vice President of ICBC, during her visit to Pakistan, with the Governor, State Bank and other concerned senior officials would be constructive and fruitful in making progress on both these counts.

Madam Lili Wang commended the Government of Pakistan for making progress in the economic sector despite enormous challenges that it is faced with and noted that Pakistan had registered GDP growth of more than four percent in the first six months of 2010. She also expressed satisfaction over the volume of bilateral trade between the two sides, which had crossed \$4 billion mark in the same period and was likely to touch \$10 billion by the end of this year. She assured the Prime Minister of her bank's proactive efforts to expedite the process for opening its branches in Pakistan and for considering equity participation in Pakistan's Finance and Banking Sectors. staff report

All Day

ICCI welcomes 10-year 'energy plan' -- APP

ICCI welcomes 10-year 'energy plan'

ISLAMABAD: Business community on Friday welcomed the government's ten-year energy roadmap - unveiled by the Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani while

inaugurating 225 megawatts (MW) orient power plant at Balloki recently. In a meeting at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), business community termed it as a positive initiative that has given a ray of hope for a better energy future.

They said it envisages doubling the country's power generation capacity with a minimum addition of 20,000 MW by 2020.

The rising energy crisis has badly affected almost all sectors of the economy. Therefore, top most priority should be given to improving this area and to save the economy from further damage.

Chairing the meeting, President ICCI, Zahid Maqbool said that the unveiled energy roadmap is certainly an ambitious plan. He urged the government to ensure high-level of implementation capacity and the required funding to turn it into a reality.

He said on assuming power, the present government has shown great resolve to take urgent measures to overcome energy crisis. app

All Day

Warehouse facility in SA for Pakistan's products: HC -- APP

Warehouse facility in SA for Pakistan's products: HC

Lahore—High Commission of Pakistan in South Africa has decided to set up warehouse facility in South Africa to show-case Pakistan's products. Zaighamuddin Azam, High Commissioner of Pakistan, stated this while addressing a ceremony held for visiting Pakistani delegation of 39 businessmen representing 22 companies.

The delegation participated in SAITEX exhibition held at Gallagher Estate, Midrand, South Africa. The exhibition was organized by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) in collaboration with the High Commission of Pakistan. According to a hand out, the reception was attended by South African business community, Pakistani exhibitors, officers of the High Commission Pakistan and the city elite.

Zaighamuddin emphasized that South Africa is an emerging global economic hub with a lot of potential for Pakistani goods. "Pakistani exporters, with their quality products, can act as powerful diplomats of Pakistan", he added. Dr. Moinuddin Wani, Commercial Secretary, Trade Commission of Pakistan informed about the areas in which the two countries can enhance bilateral trade and investment.

He apprised the South African businessmen about the vast potential and range of opportunities that South African entrepreneurs can benefit from Pakistani terms of trade, and the areas where Pakistan can utilize the expertise of South African businessmen through FDI. He also highlighted the keen interest of Pakistani businessmen to develop trade relationship with their South African counterparts. Which is depicted by the fifth visit of Pakistani businessmen to South Africa in 2010 despite difficult times in the world economy. The Pakistani exhibitors included businessmen from different sectors including textiles, garments, sports & leather goods, handicrafts, stationery, kitchen-ware, carpets, jewellery and confectioneries. It may be added here that SAITEX exhibition has traditionally been the only multi-sectoral trade fair of its size and kind in the African Continent which annually hosts hundreds of exhibitors who showcase products, technologies and opportunities from all over the world. Thousands of visitors and prospective buyers visited Pakistani stalls and showed keen interest in Pakistan products. First two days of the exhibition were restricted to buyers from different trading sectors whereas on the last day, the exhibition was opened to general public, stated the hand out.—APP

All Day

-- اپنی فوجیں پاکستان میں داخل نہیں کریں گے“ امریکہ نے کرزئی کا مطالبہ مسترد کر دیا“

Jang

امریکہ نے کرزئی کا مطالبہ مسترد کر دیا“ اپنی فوجیں پاکستان میں داخل نہیں کریں گے“ واشنگٹن (اے این این) امریکی محکمہ خارجہ کے ترجمان فلپ جے کراوولی نے پاکستان میں دہشت گردوں کی پناہ گاہوں پر حملے کے متعلق افغان صدر کرزئی کا مطالبہ مسترد کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ پاک فوج دہشت گردی کیخلاف موثر کارروائی کر رہی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے ساتھ تعلقات میں اعتماد کا فقدان دور کرنے کے لئے کوششیں جاری ہیں تاہم یہ کام راتوں رات ممکن نہیں۔ وزیر خارجہ ہلیری کلنٹن نے اپنے حالیہ دورے کے دوران پاکستان کے لئے توانائی، صحت اور تعلیم سمیت متعدد منصوبوں کا اعلان کیا اور توقع ہے کہ اس کے مفید نتائج برآمد ہوں گے۔ گزشتہ روز واشنگٹن میں معمول کی پریس بریفنگ کے دوران امریکی تحقیقاتی ادارے پیوریسرچ کے حالیہ سروے کے مطابق پاکستانی عوام کی اکثریت امریکہ کو اپنا دشمن سمجھتی ہے کے حوالے سے ترجمان نے کہا کہ انہوں نے اس سروے کو نہیں دیکھا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وزیر خارجہ ہلیری کلنٹن کے حالیہ اور گزشتہ اکتوبر کے دورہ پاکستان کے دوران محسوس کیا گیا تھا کہ ہمارے باہمی تعلقات میں اعتماد کا فقدان پایا جاتا ہے اور پاکستان میں یہ سمجھا جا رہا ہے کہ امریکہ اور عالمی برادری انہیں بیس سال پہلے کی طرح پھر چھوڑ جائے گی۔ حالیہ مہینوں میں ہم نے اس اعتماد کے فقدان کو دور کرنے کے لئے سخت جدوجہد کی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم نہ صرف پاکستانی حکومت بلکہ عوام کے ساتھ براہ راست رابطے کرنے کی کوششیں کر رہے ہیں تاکہ انہیں بتایا جاسکے کہ امریکہ پاکستان کے مستقبل کے حوالے سے پرعزم ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستانی عوام امریکہ اور پاکستان کی شراکت داری کا ٹھکانہ دیکھنا چاہتے ہیں جس پر حیرانگی نہیں ہونی چاہیے۔ ہم سمجھتے ہیں کہ پاکستان امریکہ طویل المدتی شراکت داری ناگزیر ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ امریکہ پاکستان میں اپنے فوجی دستے نہیں بھیجے گا۔ کراوولی نے کہا کہ ہم دہشت گردوں کی محفوظ پناہ گاہوں کے خاتمے کے لئے پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر کام کر رہے ہیں انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک فوج نے دہشت گردوں کے خلاف موثر کارروائی کر رہی ہے جس کا اندازہ سوات اور جنوبی وزیرستان کے فوجی آپریشنز سے لگایا جاسکتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور بھارت کے درمیان امن بات چیت امریکہ کے بھی مفاد میں ہے اس لئے ہم دونوں ممالک کو مذاکرات کی ترغیب دیتے رہیں گے۔ ترجمان نے کہا کہ پاکستانی خفیہ ایجنسی کے طالبان کے ساتھ روابط پرانے اور سویت دور سے ہیں اس سلسلے میں بھارت کی تشویش نئی بات نہیں ہے۔ انہوں نے امید ظاہر کی کہ سعودی فرمان رواں شاہ عبداللہ اور شام کے صدر بشار الاسد کی ملاقات میں مشرق وسطیٰ میں قیام امن کے لیے فلسطین اسرائیل مذاکرات کی حمایت کی جائے گی۔

All Day

Pakistan coal deposit richer than ME oil reserves -- APP

Pakistan coal deposit richer than ME oil reserves

Published: July 31, 2010

ISLAMABAD (APP) - Member Science and Technology of Planning Commission of Pakistan Dr Samar Mubarakmand said Friday that the magnitude of Pakistan's coal deposit is several times more than total oil reserves of Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran and Iraq. "We can generate 100 million barrels of diesel and 30,000 MW of electricity from our coal deposits for 500 years," he said addressing the participants of 21st Convocation of National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, (FAST-NU) here.

"The country endowed with the second largest deposit of coal in the world at Tharparkar, confirmed deposit of copper and Gold at Reko-Diq valued at 1.2 trillion dollars and third biggest asset of the country is extremely intelligent and well trained human resource" he said. He said power to be generated from coal will cost 4 cents per unit, make industry produce cheap output for exports, cheap fertilizer and power for agriculture to make country's oil bill zero.

Power stations based on underground coal gas in Uzbekistan (Angren), Italy (Sardinia), Australia (Chinchilla) are generating electricity costing 3.5 to 5 cents.

"We have been mining copper and gold in Saindak since 2001. The deposits at Reko Diq are 40 times larger.", he added.

Mubarakmand said the youthful human resource of the country needs to appreciate its role in the development of these extremely valuable resources of the country.

All Day

Jang -- میگاواٹ بجلی کی پیداوار کیلئے دو ٹربائنز کراچی پہنچ گئے

میگاواٹ بجلی کی پیداوار کیلئے دو ٹربائنز کراچی پہنچ گئے

کراچی . . . کراچی میں 560 میگاواٹ بجلی کی پیداوار کیلئے 45 کروڑ ڈالر کے دو ٹربائنز پہنچ گئے کے ای ایس سی اعلامیہ کے مطابق 45 کروڑ 20 لاکھ ڈالر کی لاگت سے یہ دونوں ٹربائنز فرانس سے منگوائے گئے ہیں۔ ان ٹربائن کی تنصیب کا کام آئندہ ماہ سے شروع ہو گا۔ اعلامیہ کے مطابق اس منصوبے میں مجموعی طور پر 4 ٹربائن کی تنصیب ہونی ہے جس میں تین گیس ٹربائنز اور ایک اسٹیم ٹربائن ہو گا، کمپنی کا کہنا ہے کہ ان ٹربائنز میں سے تین اگلے سال جون تا اگست پیداوار کا آغاز کریں گے جبکہ اسٹیم ٹربائن مارچ 2012 میں پیداوار شروع کرے گا۔

All Day

President Zardari to discuss economy in Paris -- APP

President Zardari to discuss economy in Paris

PARIS, Aug 1 (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari is arriving here on Sunday on a three-day visit to discuss a deeper and broader bilateral political, economic and defence relationship with French leaders, besides ways to jointly fighting terrorism. "The visit will provide an opportunity to address the issues relating to security and the fight against terrorism, the regional situation, as well as our economic cooperation," French Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

President Zardari, who last visited France in May 2009 will review the progress made so far and will discuss ways to have a long term strategic relationship with France that occupies an important place in the 27-member European Union, when he meets French President Nicholas Sarkozy and Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner.

The statement by the French Foreign Office said France would like to strengthen its bilateral relationship with Pakistan "which is of key importance given the challenges associated with it, and wants to develop cooperation in many areas," as has been reflected by the number of high-level meetings between the French and Pakistani authorities.

France which is lending its support to Pakistan in the water and energy sectors and has pledged to implement projects worth 300 million Euros over three years will be implementing new projects in 2010 and 2011.

The French Ministry also announced that the visit of President Asif Ali Zardari will be followed by the official visit to Paris by Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani in October.

Pakistan will be urging France, that is an important member of P-5, G-8, to support its bid for greater access to the EU markets.

, to compensate it for the heavy losses that the country has to bear owing to its front-state role in the war against terror and to lure away those on the fringes of extremism, by providing them better health, education and economic opportunities.

President Zardari will also apprise his counterpart about the ongoing operations against the militants in its tribal belt along the border with Afghanistan.

President Zardari will also discuss ways to raise the level of bilateral trade that hovers around US \$ 1.1 billion during 2009 and will be urging increased interaction between the private sectors for the mutual benefit of the two peoples.

Cooperation in the energy sector will also be high on agenda as Pakistan continues to face a shortfall of around 2000 MW to 4000 MW, that is negatively impacting its industrial and agriculture sectors.

The two countries also have a history in defence cooperation, including exchange and transfer of expertise related to the counter-insurgency.

France that has been supportive of the democratic dispensation in Pakistan, has also extended full cooperation to Pakistan in helping it fight the scourge of terrorism.

All Day

Pakistan eyes \$10b Chinese investment -- APP

Pakistan eyes \$10b Chinese investment

Staff Reporter

Islamabad—Government is expecting \$10 billion Chinese investment to ease its ongoing energy crunch. According to plans unveiled by a dozen Chinese power-related companies, the proposed investment in energy generation, ranging from hydro to nuclear and wind power, can surpass this amount. In addition, other Chinese companies have indicated investing in projects varying from highways to housing. Boosting Pakistan-China trade is yet another area, agreed between the Chinese leadership and President Asif Ali Zardari during his recent visit to China.

Two highways are to be built in Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan area, including 165 kilometre long Skardu-Jaglot, and 135-kilometre long Thakot-Sazin. Out of the total cost of Rs45 billion, or \$530 million of two highways, China will provide 85 and Pakistan 15 per cent.

The Presidents and CEOs of a dozen leading corporations specialising in defence production, petroleum, banking, industrial units, construction, civilian nuclear cooperation, agriculture, health, energy, mining, petroleum, and telecommunications discussed their investment plans with Mr Zardari.

The business leaders showed interest in investing in these other sectors. Pakistan plans to launch a mega housing project to build high-rise apartments in all cities for government employees. These will be joint project between consortia of Chinese and Pakistani private companies. The government will provide land and some essential inputs. The Corporations which participated in the discussions

included:

EXIM Bank of China,
The Three Gorges Dam Project Corporation,
China Northern Railways Corporation,
China Northern Industries Corporation,
China Petrochemical Corporation,
Sinotruk,
Tebian Electric & Apparatus Stock Co.,
Sinohydro Corporation,
and Industrial & Commercial Bank of China.

A Chinese company plans to generate 500 megawatts of wind power. It will set wind turbines along the coastal areas of the southern Sindh province, alongside the Arabian Sea. It will cost \$1 billion.

Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao said China attaches a great importance to its trade with Pakistan which not only benefits the people of the two countries but also had a strategic significance.

The Chinese Minister for Trade estimates, the present two-way volume of trade with Pakistan can be doubled to \$15 billion by 2015, under FTA and other plans. President Hu Jintao said China has become Pakistan's second largest trading partner.

All Day

Pak keen for a civil nuke cooperation with France: Zardari -- Press Trust Of India

Pak keen for a civil nuke cooperation with France: Zardari

Press Trust Of India

Islamabad, August 03, 2010

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Pakistan is keen on a "serious and substantive engagement" with France in civil nuclear cooperation, President Asif Ali Zardari said on Tuesday. Zardari, currently on an official visit to France, made the remarks during a meeting with his French counterpart Nicolas Sarkozy, an official statement said.

Zardari also called for the early establishment of a framework for a strategic dialogue between the two sides.

Pakistan has stepped up efforts to gain access to civil nuclear technology since its rival India concluded a landmark deal with the US a few years ago.

It has urged the world community to adopt a "non-discriminatory" approach in civil nuclear cooperation.

Zardari is on his second visit to France in 14 months and had raised the issue of civil nuclear cooperation during his last visit too.

During his talks with Sarkozy, Zardari sought the establishment of a ministerial-level Joint Economic Commission, aggressive support for preferential access to EU markets and parliamentary exchanges to deepen political understanding between the two countries.

The President also called for "massive international assistance" to help Pakistan cope with the situation arising out of floods that had washed away hundreds of villages and killed hundreds of people in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province.

Presidential spokesman Farhatullah Babar quoted Zardari as saying that Pakistan attached great importance to ongoing defence cooperation with France, including the upgrade of Agosta submarines.

Zardari also stressed the need to further strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries.

Referring to Pakistan's campaign against militancy, Zardari said his government "had built political consensus and given ownership to the war against terror" even as the country paid a "huge cost in terms of human and material losses".

It was "unfortunate if some people continued to express doubts and misgivings about our will and determination to fight the militants to the finish", he said.

"Such misgivings will only undermine the international effort against militants and extremists," he said.

Pakistan's efforts and contributions have not been matched by international support, he added.

The meeting was also attended by Zardari's son and Pakistan People's Party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Defence Minister Chaudhry Ahmad Mukhtar and Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir.

Zardari will meet Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner tomorrow before leaving France on Tuesday evening for a four-day visit to Britain, during which he will meet Prime Minister David Cameron.

All Day

Pakistan has bigger nuke arsenal than India: Report -- IND

Pakistan has bigger nuke arsenal than India: Report

2010-08-02 20:00:00

Racing to beat India in the nuclear race, Pakistan has already stockpiled more nuclear warheads than India and has produced enough fissile material to double its nuclear arsenal, according to a new report.

While India is estimated to have assembled 60-80 warheads and produced enough fissile material for 60-105 nuclear warheads, Pakistan is estimated to have assembled 70-90 warheads and produced fissile material for as many as 90

warheads, it says.

The disclosures posing a new headache for New Delhi are made in a report on 'Global Nuclear Weapons Inventories, 1945-2010' by top US nuclear experts and researchers Robert S. Norris and Hans M. Kristensen for the prestigious Bulletin of Atomic Scientists.

India and Pakistan are both increasing their nuclear forces and building new plutonium production reactors, which could add to their fissile material stocks, Norris of the Natural Resources Defence Council and Kristensen of the Federation of American Scientists said.

However, the stockpiles of the four nations not recognized as nuclear weapon states under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty - Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea -are minuscule in comparison with those of Russia and the United States.

For instance, 'India and Pakistan have a combined total of approximately 150 nuclear warheads, just a few more than what is carried on a single US Trident submarine,' the report noted.

As Russia and the United States continue to reduce their Cold War arsenals, global inventories of nuclear weapons will continue to decline, the report said.

'Yet eight of the nine nuclear weapon states continue to produce new or modernised nuclear weapons, and all nine insist that nuclear weapons are essential for their national security.'

Russia and the United States have recommitted to maintaining a triad of nuclear strategic forces and China is seeking to build a triad, and France and Britain have pledged to keep their nuclear weapons, the report said.

'Whether Israel's nuclear arsenal remains opaque probably will depend on Iran, which appears to be as few as four and as many as 10 years away from joining the nuclear club, depending upon different estimates,' it said.

The total world nuclear stockpile dropped to about 23,300 last year as a result of reduction agreements by the US and Russia. Nonetheless, those two countries still have 95 percent of all nuclear weapons in the world.

Russia topped the list with 12,000 warheads, followed by the US (9,400), France (300), China (240), and the UK (225).

(Arun Kumar can be contacted at arun.kumar@ians.in)

All Day

France, Pak to set up Joint Commission -- Paris

France, Pak to set up Joint Commission

Paris—France and Pakistan Tuesday agreed to set up Joint Commission to undertake cooperative projects in areas of food and agriculture, economic development, security and training of nurses on a large scale for export to European and Middle Eastern countries.

The meeting of the Joint Commission comprising of four representatives from each country from different areas will be held alternately in Islamabad and Paris with the first meeting to be held in Islamabad by October this year. France also agreed to expedite release of assistance committed under the Friends of Democratic Pakistan (FoDP) initiative to help Pakistan in the relief and rehabilitation works in the wake of massive devastating floods in Pakistan.

The decisions were taken when the French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner called on President Asif Ali Zardari in his hotel suite in Paris. Those who attended the meeting included France ambassador in Islamabad and other senior French officials. From the Pakistan side those who attended the meeting included Defence Minister Chaudhry Ahmad Mukhtar, Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir, Ambassador Shafkat Saeed, Secretary to the President and other senior officials.

Spokesperson Farhatullah Babar said that the President opened the conversation by reminding the French Foreign Minister of the promise France had made at the FoDP meeting and said that now that Pakistan had been hit hard by floods there was an urgent need to release the promised assistance. We need to rebuild the damaged infrastructure that has been destroyed first by the war against militancy and now further by the torrential rains, the President said.

More than 1400 people have been killed in the Khyber Puktoonkhwah province alone and hundreds of villages swept aside in rains and the subsequent floods. The President informed the French Foreign Minister that billions had been lost and infrastructure massively destroyed that needed to be rebuilt on an urgent basis.

The President said that there was need for regular bilateral coordination between the foreign ministries of the two countries on important multilateral issues and called for assistance in flood relief and rehabilitation, setting up income generating projects, improving health and education in the tribal areas of Pakistan as well as opening of branches of French banks in Pakistan.

The President said that tribal areas of Pakistan were under-developed and parts of it were known to have sheltered the militants. There was an urgent need to embark upon a massive economic development program in these areas to create job opportunities for the jobless and frustrated youth and thereby wean them away from falling prey to the lures offered by militants, Farhatullah Babar quoted the President as saying.

The President said that one of the most practical ways of doing it was to create economic opportunity zones in the tribal areas and allow its manufactures exported freely to the markets of EU countries. This will create self-generating employment opportunities for the youth, he said.

President said that being a signatory to important international human rights covenants and having lately also ratified the Convention Against Torture (CAT) on the one hand and having suffered huge material and human losses during the war against terror Pakistan on the other Pakistan more than qualified to be allowed market access by the EU countries. He urged France to take the lead in pleading with the EU greater market access to it.

President Zardari also reiterated Pakistan's interest in a serious and substantive engagement in civil nuclear cooperation under the IAEA safeguards with France. Pakistan was faced with a serious energy crisis and it needed to explore and exploit all sources of energy including hydro, thermal, solar, wind and nuclear, the President said.

The President also called for setting up a research fund to facilitate scientific cooperation between the science institutions of the two countries and proposed enhancement of cultural exchanges between the two countries. In this context the President appreciated the holding of Gandhara Exhibition at the Guimet museum in Paris and a month of “Pakistan in Paris” covering a vast number of cultural activities and thanked the French government for its support.

Proposing deeper engagement in economic and trade fields the President asked the French Foreign Minister to explore possibility of a debt swap arrangement. Bilateral debt to France totaling 2.3 billion dollars includes 845 million dollars ODA and 1.49 billion dollars of non-ODA assistance, the spokesperson said.

The President also raised the issue of travel advisories to French business representatives and said that the advisories and visa restriction impacted on Pakistani businesses and called for their review and relaxation.

Issues relating to the regional situation and Afghanistan also came under discussion during the meeting. The President underlined the need for greater cooperation in intelligence sharing between the two countries in the fight against militancy.

The President called for setting up of French bank branches in Pakistan to further boost trade and commerce.

The French Foreign Minister said that France deeply appreciated Pakistan’s role in the fight against militancy and that France will continue to support it in security and economic development areas. He said that France was keen to hold the first meeting of the Joint Commission before October this year and work out a practicable plan for assistance in various areas of economic development issues and security.—Online

August 5, 2010

Thu

All Day

Gwadar Port rail link with other cities soon: Bilour -- APP

Gwadar Port rail link with other cities soon: Bilour

Thursday, August 05, 2010

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Railways Haji Ghulam Ahmed Bilour on Wednesday informed the Senate that the government was working on a project to link Gwadar Port with other parts of the country through rail.

Replying to supplementary questions in the House, he said PC-1 of the project was being finalised and the feasibility of the Chaman-Kandahar Railway Project was also being prepared.

Bilour informed the House that a project worth Rs 3.434 billion was in progress at Railways Carriage Factory, Islamabad for 400 passenger coaches.

To a question, he said 241 coaches had been rehabilitated and put in service. He said a contract agreement had been signed with a Chinese firm for the procurement of 202 passenger coaches at a cost of over \$134 million.

Of these, 52 will be received completely built and the remaining 150 as completely knocked down for assembly at the carriage factory in Islamabad. Bilour said there was an estimated shortage of 220 coaches.

All Day

Innovative China eyes seas -- IND

Innovative China eyes seas

Ninety per cent of India's commerce is by sea. At present, 60 per cent of our seaborne trade moves (and comes from) Westwards to Africa, Europe and the US, while 40 per cent moves Eastwards (and comes from) across the Asia-Pacific region. Hence, maritime developments impacting seaborne trade (e.g. Gulf of Aden piracy or the rising maritime tensions in the Asia-Pacific region) need to be monitored closely, and counter measures taken to safeguard our national interests, keeping in mind that sea power takes generations to build up and is directly linked to our national prosperity and security.

The recent spate of events in the seas bordering China and its neighbours (US-South Korea Navy exercises in the Sea of Japan, and the Chinese Navy weapon firing exercises in the South China Sea) have once again highlighted the importance of sea power in the Asia-Pacific region. A few weeks earlier, the US Navy conducted large-scale exercises with other Asia-Pacific regions, and US secretary of state Hillary Clinton sought to internationalise the South China Sea territorial disputes because global commerce flows through it.

Conventional wisdom lists seven "essentials" for a nation to become a great sea power. These are, large size of country, large population, geographic location to dominate sea trade routes, at least two coasts, science-technology-industry, seafaring tradition, and political will of the government to exploit sea power in the national interest.

China does not meet three of the seven "essentials" for sea power, but is striving to overcome these handicaps. Firstly, China has historically not been a seafaring nation, but is learning fast and today its sailors are sailing the world's oceans on merchantmen, fishing trawlers and warships.

Secondly, though sea commerce flows through the China and Yellow seas, China cannot completely dominate the sea trade routes due to the presence of other modern littoral states.

Thirdly, China has just one coast facing Eastwards, and its exit to the Pacific Ocean "can be blocked" by South Korea, Japan, Taiwan and the Philippines. Its exit southwards towards the Indian Ocean requires it to pass close to Vietnam, and then through the choke points of the straits of Singapore-Malacca, Sunda and Lombok. Almost 90 per cent of China's oil requirements are imported from West Asia and Angola, and these move by ship through the Indian Ocean choke points which can be blocked in the event of war.

But China has taken the following measures in an attempt to become a global sea power:

w A combination of technology and innovation is being used by China in an ongoing experiment to detect and target "enemy" warships at sea, at long ranges using the 1,800-km range land-based DF-21 ballistic missile, with terminal homing. If the DF-21 experiment succeeds, the concept of sea power will change globally since a similar experiment can later be attempted with the 8,000-km range DF-31 and the 14,000-km range DF-41. The target data for the missiles could be provided by a combination of long range "over the horizon radars" using high frequency "sky waves" along with indigenous satellites for surveillance, communications and navigation data.

w Ongoing attempts to make the South and East China seas its territorial waters, and thus attempt to control international shipping movement, while exploiting the mineral, oil and fishing wealth. On May 16, 2009, China imposed a "summer fishing ban" in the South China Sea and sent ships to enforce this ban, overriding Vietnamese protests about traditional fishing rights. On January 5, 2010, China announced tourism packages to some disputed and uninhabited islands in the South China Sea. On February 9, 2010, China announced new oil and gas fields in the South China Sea, while its similar "finds" in the East China Sea led to Japan appealing to an international maritime court. On April 13, 2010, a flotilla of 10 Chinese warships and submarines passed between the international waters of Japanese islands of Miyako and Okinawa to exercise in the South East Pacific (On July 4, 2010, two Chinese warships repeated this deployment). On June 30, 2010, China announced a six-day live ammunition firing exercise by its Navy in the East China Sea.

w China has financially, militarily and technologically supported two nuclear armed

nations (Pakistan and North Korea) to act as its proxies which will, respectively, “distract and engage” India, Japan and South Korea.

w After the failure of half-a-century of coercive diplomacy, China has set out to woo Taiwan. The recent June 29, 2010, ECFA (Economic Co-operation Framework Agreement) to reduce or eliminate tariffs on 539 Chinese items and 267 Taiwanese items, is financially advantageous to Taiwan, but if China eventually achieves reunification with Taiwan, then it removes one strategic geographical obstacle for its Eastwards move to the Pacific Ocean.

w Flush with over \$2.5 trillion foreign exchange reserves, China has invested in South Asian and African littoral states so as to secure its sea lanes of commerce and to avoid sending its oil ships through the straits of Malacca, Sunda and Lombok. In pursuance of its “strings of pearls policy”, China not only gifted and built the Gwadar Port for Pakistan (which will unload West Asia oil, to be moved by Chinese-gifted roads and pipelines to China through the proposed Karakoram highway), but is now building ports in three countries which are India’s neighbours. In Sri Lanka the Chinese are funding and building the \$9 billion Hambantota seaport (three times larger than Colombo) and the nearby Mattala International Airport, both to be ready by 2015. In Bangladesh the Chinese are funding and building two deep water terminals at Chittagong and a brand new seaport nearby. Both these terminals and the new port will be linked by road and oil pipelines to Kunming in China, and will pass through Burma. Similarly Sittwe deep water port in Burma is being funded and built by China, and will also be connected to Kunming by road and oil pipelines. China has also invested in similar facilities in Tanzania and Angola.

w In 2009, Chinese think tanks suggested that once China gets its own aircraft carrier by about 2015, the US Navy should “look after” the sea area east of Hawaii, while the Chinese Navy would “look after” the rest of the Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. Chinese investment in nuclear submarines too, will aid a “two ocean deployment capability” in the future.

Strategically-located peninsular India, with 1,197 islands, meets six of the seven requirements of sea power. It only needs to augment its sea power and display palpable political will power to use that sea power in its national interest.

Vice-Admiral Arun Kumar Singh retired as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command, Visakhapatnam

All Day

**Govt to succeed in pulling country out of challenges: President --
BIRMINGHAM**

Govt to succeed in pulling country out of challenges: President

BIRMINGHAM, Aug 7 (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari said on Saturday that with determination and resolve of the people of Pakistan, the present democratic government will succeed in pulling the country out of its present problems and challenges. Addressing a big community meeting here at International Convention Centre, he said it was a dream of both Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed to see Pakistan as a progressive and democratic country and the government was working hard to achieve those objectives.

The President said that democracy in Pakistan has been faced with various challenges throughout its history and the government is taking steps to put democracy on sound footings.

He said that party was pursuing the policy of reconciliation and mentioned the passage of 18th constitutional amendment, NFC award, autonomy to Gilgit Baltistan, Balochistan package and women empowerment bill as some of the steps taken by the government to strengthen democracy.

The President appealed to the international community and political parties at home to come together to help thousands of people who have become homeless in floods and are in distress.

He cautioned against playing politics over calamity of floods and urged the nation to stand united as it did during the earthquake of 2005.

Pakistan faced its worst floods in the past as well but nations come cross such difficult times and face adversity with courage, he added.

The President said without looking at what the polls say, the government took tough decisions.

Agreement with IMF, price hike, rising energy prices were difficult for people but the government did not go for popular politics, he said adding the future generation would not have forgiven them for not waging fight against the terrorist mindset and for not ensuring food security.

He said Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto made Pakistan a nuclear power and Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed gave it missile technology and made the country secure so that it could talk with its enemies on basis of equality.

He said he was meeting the world leaders to put across the country's viewpoint and tell them that Pakistan wanted to become self-reliant with opportunities of trade instead of aid.

President Zardari said Pakistan could not make enough progress in the past as it put more focus on its security but now they would create a new Pakistan as dreamed by the martyred leaders of PPP.

He vowed to take forward the philosophy of Shaheed Zulfikar Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and said his job as the leader of PPP was to take the nation to its destination.

He said democracy was moving forward with the support of all political forces.

PPP could have formed governments on its own but it took along Awami National Party in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, formed government in Punjab with PML-N and made every party part of government in Sindh, the President recalled.

He said the nation has to move forward as it has no chance to repeat the mistakes which were made in the past.

President Zardari said he was planning for the next 30 years as Pakistan's population would rise to 250 million in the next 15 years.

President said history of PPP was replete with sacrifices for the cause of democracy and for the rights of people.

He said after the martyrdom of Benazir Bhutto, the ruler of that time postponed the polls to take advantage of the political vacuum but he took the right decision to contest elections and persuaded Nawaz Sharif to do the same.

He was thankful that Nawaz Sharif agreed with him and now his party was in corridors of power. He said the PPP and PML-N were political opponents but holding different viewpoints was essence of democracy.

He said despite what was being said on television and reported in newspapers about popularity of PPP, its candidates had won some recent elections.

PPP had been contesting elections with its leaders and workers in jails and getting martyred and offering sacrifices which was not reflective of its true mandate, he added.

President Zardari said the PPP is not a mere political party, but it is a philosophy pursued by all its leaders and workers right from Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who did not bow before the forces of tyranny and sacrificed his life for the country and nation.

He recalled the saying of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto that he would like to die at the hands of a dictator rather to die in history and said "we are taking forward this thinking".

The President said after the martyrdom of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed, angry youth in Sindh raised the slogans of "Pakistan Na Khappay", adding, but he rejected that view and came up with the slogan of "Pakistan Khappay".

He said Pakistan was facing various challenges at this point in time which required positive approach and unity.

President Zardari said the PPP's policy of reconciliation was aimed at strengthening democracy in the country. He said after the assassination of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, dictator (Gen. Musharraf) offered the party the government of Pakistan and then the federal government, adding, but he at that time, only followed the vision of party's Shaheed leaders.

The President said Defence Minister Ahmad Mukhtar, despite his hesitation and reservations, accompanied ex-president Musharraf in his visit to China, and the decision reflected that PPP was following the philosophy of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed.

He hailed the PPP followers, workers and democracy-loving people across the world including those in UK, whose struggle, support and conviction ultimately led to the removal of a dictator (Gen. Musharraf) in Pakistan.

President Zardari said, "you people supported Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed and now supporting Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who today launched a fund-raising campaign in London for the flood affected people in Pakistan and within half an hour 70,000 pounds were collected."

Similarly, the President said Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari has launched a fund-raising campaign in Pakistan and "I announce Rs 5 million donation including Rs. 2 million for Bilawal campaign, Rs. 2 million for Bakhtawar campaign and Rs 1 million for the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund".

President Zardari said the government, the PPP and country were fighting against a mind-set, that martyred our leaders and workers including Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed, Shah Nawaz Bhutto, Murtaza Bhutto and workers like Munawar, Khalid Shehenshah and Tauqeer Kaira.

"We are fighting that mind-set and following the vision and philosophy of our Shaheed leaders, who sacrificed their lives for the country and nation and for the right of people", he stressed.

President Zardari said when he visits various countries and talks to the world leaders, he does not care of what would be published in newspapers and what the political actors would say, he only has in his mind the country's interests.

"If anyone thinks that Pakistanis or the PPP were weak, then they are mistaken. We are brave nation. We know how to live and our leaders have also taught us even to give the life," he remarked.

The President also congratulated the new Pakistani-origin Members of Parliament in UK and hailed their efforts in promoting and strengthening the bilateral ties between Pakistan and UK.

He said Pakistan, which was a front-line state in the war against terrorism, was facing various challenges which need to be tackled effectively, otherwise the coming generations would complain us what we did for the welfare of country.

President Zardari said despite the fact that PPP leaders were martyred he chose to make his only son Bilawal Bhutto Zardari the chairman of party to serve the country and nation.

"I see the graves of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed, Shah Nawaz Bhutto, Murtaza Bhutto and others in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh. But despite this I say that I also have to get buried here", he remarked.

President Zardari said the PPP leaders had great vision. He recalled a speech of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto wh

All Day**Pakistan in Chinese fighter jet deal -- Farhan Bokhari, Islamabad**

Pakistan in Chinese fighter jet deal

Farhan Bokhari, Islamabad

China has agreed to sell Pakistan at least 36 advanced fighter jets in a deal worth as much as \$1.4bn, according to Pakistani and western officials. Beijing will supply two squadrons of the J-10 fighter jet in a preliminary agreement that could lead to more sales, said a Pakistani official. The official said Pakistan might buy "larger numbers" of the multi-role aircraft in the future, but dismissed reports that Islamabad had signed a deal to purchase as many as 150 of the fighter jets.

Defence experts described the agreement with China as a landmark event in Pakistan's defence relationship with the military power. China's transition from a manufacturer of low-fighters to more advanced jets comparable to some western models is seen as evidence of Beijing's increasing strategic clout in Asia.

"China is developing a real capacity to produce and export its arms. At one point, the Chinese were dependent on imported Russian technology, but obviously China has advanced significantly beyond those days," said Marika Vicziany, Professor of Asian studies at Monash University in Melbourne.

"This agreement should not simply be seen in the narrow context of Pakistan's relations with China," said Abdul Qayyum, a retired Pakistani general.

"There is a wider dimension. By sharing its advanced technology with Pakistan, China is ... also saying to the world that its defence capability is growing rapidly."

China has supplied Pakistan with fighter jets for more than three decades. But Beijing has seldom supplied Pakistan's air force with advanced fighter aircraft. Islamabad turned to France for Mirage fighter jets in the 1970s and to the US for F-16s in the 1980s.

Pakistan has a fleet of 45 F-16s built by Lockheed Martin. The Pakistani air force is using the fighter jet in its campaign against militants in South Waziristan.

The US has agreed to sell Islamabad another 18 new F-16s and Pakistani officials also expected the US to supply about a dozen older versions of the aircraft.

Over the past decade, China and Pakistan have collaborated on building their first jointly produced advanced fighter jet, known as the JF-17, or "Thunder". Pakistan is expected to roll out the first domestically built version of the Thunder within weeks. Pakistan's air force plans to purchase at least 250 of the Thunder fighters over the next four to five years.

Experts see the new Pakistani focus on China as evidence that Beijing is trying to expand its military power.

"Countries like Iran and possibly some of the Middle Eastern countries would be keen to deal with China if they can find technology which is comparable to the west," said one western official in Islamabad.

"Pakistan will work as the laboratory to try out Chinese aircraft. If they work well with the Pakistani air force, others will follow."

All Day**US offers 'unarmed' UAV's to Pak to help in fight against terror -- APP**

US offers 'unarmed' UAV's to Pak to help in fight against terror

2010-08-07 17:20:00

The United States has said that it is ready to provide a couple of intelligence gathering equipments to Pakistan to help in its anti-terror efforts, however, it would not be available for free.

Talking to media persons at the US Embassy here, visiting US Under Secretary of Defence for Policy, Michele Fluornoy said that the Obama administration has offered Islamabad two intelligence systems- unmanned and unarmed aerial vehicle (UAV) and Scan Eagles, and that a final decision to make a choice rests with the country's military.

The visiting official said the US has given details of both the equipments and the

cost to the Pakistan military.

"We have offered them two. One is called Shadow and the other is called Scan Eagles. One is typical UAV system which will provide intelligence to Pakistan security operations in their operations," The News quoted Fluornoy, as saying. The Scan Eagle system is designed for autonomous field operation. It carries a payload of 6 kilograms, and can be operated from a height of 5,000 metres. It can be launched and retrieved over any terrain, and can also be used for naval operations.

The Shadow drones, which fly at a low altitude and are basically used for reconnaissance and intelligence gathering, are used by the US forces for training operations of bigger and armed drones such as Reaper and Predator.

Responding to a question, Fluornoy strongly refuted observations that the US forces were losing the war against the Taliban and Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan.

"No sir, you are badly mistaken. Neither are we losing nor is July 2011 set for the forces to pack their bags. We are not going anywhere. Rather, this is just the beginning of a process to evaluate our strategy in Afghanistan. We remain committed to this region and will stick to Pakistan and Afghanistan," she said. (ANI)

August 8, 2010

Sun

All Day

India seeks Pak help to trace 33 soldiers -- INP

India seeks Pak help to trace 33 soldiers

Srinagar—Thirty three Indian soldiers including three JCOs, deployed along the Line of Control near Siachen glacier, are feared to have been washed away to Azad Kashmir in flash floods in Ladakh and help of Pakistan has been sought to trace them.

A senior Indian army officer said on Monday that the jawans, who were manning a post near Turtok along the Line of Control (LoC), still remained untraced after they faced the fury of a swollen Shyok river on the same day when Leh was hit by flash floods following a devastating cloudburst on Friday last.

The Army has now sought the help of Pakistani authorities to help rescue the 33 personnel of 15 Bihar infantry regiment as it fears that they may have been swept away towards Pakistan Kashmir in the deluge, the officer said. —INP

All Day

Pakistan, Russia to establish HBF -- APP

Pakistan, Russia to establish HBF

Karachi —Pakistan and Russia will establish Pak-Russia Horticulture Business Forum (HBF) to cooperate horticulture trade and technical assistance between two countries which will provide stalls in exhibition free of cost, agriculture technology, warehouses, cold storages, exchange of delegation and establishment of offices in major cities of Russia.

After the arriving from representing the high level delegation to Russia, Abdul Wahid Patron in Chief of Pakistan Fruit and vegetables Exporters and Importers and merchant Association has said that the Russia is ready to help in stabilising Pakistan economy, he stated that during the visit they met with the ministry of commerce, ministry of finance, Russian chamber of commerce, high officials of different provinces and business associations.

During the visit Russian Trade and Business personnel showed their interest in horticulture products along with Pakistani rice, which opens an opportunity to become the biggest market compared to Europe. Russia will become high pay market for Pakistan horticulture products. Witness selling mangoes @ US \$22/Per 2 Kg Box.

It is encouraging that exporters will not face cosmetic problems which they faced in European market he added, Abdul Wahid said that as compared to China, Russia is fulfilling their agriculture needs by import.

He said that the decision of establishment of Pak-Russia Horticulture Business Forum has been taken and will be established soon, witnessing interest of Russia in Pakistani agriculture products and to see the market potential and will sign the MoU soon with the concerned authorities which will help to expand bilateral trade.

Abdul Wahid said that next year an exhibition will be conducted under the banner of said forum with association, displaying the Pakistani horticulture products and also make efforts to open a Horticulture Products Section in Pakistan Embassy Russia.—Agencies

All Day

TAPI Pipeline back on the agenda -- Turkmenistan

TAPI Pipeline back on the agenda

Tue, 10 August 2010

Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has said that an increase in Turkmenistan's gas export potential has bolstered the prospects of the Turkmenistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan – India (TAPI) Pipeline.

His comments came after the 5th meeting of the technical working group of the TAPI Pipeline closed in Ashgabat last week.

During the meeting, experts and specialists from Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and the Asian Development Bank discussed the critical technical issues related to acceleration of construction of the gas pipeline that would ensure long-term supplies of natural gas from Turkmenistan to the largest countries of the Southern Asian region.

Unocal proposed a similar pipeline route in the 1990s, but pulled out in 1998 after deciding the political situation in Afghanistan was too unstable.

The Turkmen President acknowledged that the project was complex but said that there was concrete evidence of the pipeline's relevance and viability.

Article continues below...

The \$US3.2 billion project includes the construction of a 1,460 km pipeline running from Turkmenistan's Dauletabad-Donmez gas fields, through Afghanistan, to Multan in Pakistan.

The pipeline will be extended to the port city of Gwadar, in Pakistan, where a gas-liquefaction plant would allow gas to be supplied to international destinations.

In April 2008, Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Afghanistan and India signed the framework agreement on construction of the TAPI gas pipeline.

The project received a new impetus to develop in May 2010 during the state visit of Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to India, where the Turkmen leader held the successful talks with President of India Pratibha Devisingh Patil and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Image caption: Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov meets with Indian President Pratibha Patil to discuss the TAPI Pipeline in May 2010.

All Day

US, Pak defence teams agree to boost cooperation -- APP

US, Pak defence teams agree to boost cooperation

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Defence strategists from the US and Pakistan agreed to strengthen the existing cooperation between the two countries to achieve the mutually agreed goals of peace, development and stability in the region at a two-day meeting, which concluded at the General Headquarters on Friday.

The 19th Defence Consultative Group (DCG) meeting was held in Rawalpindi from August 5 to 6. The Pakistani delegation was led by Secretary of Defence, Lt Gen (r) Syed Athar Ali, while the US delegation was headed by the Under Secretary of Defence for Policy, Michele A Flournoy. The DCG plenary session reviewed the Exchanges on Defence Planning (EDP), which took place in June and July 2010 and identified Pakistan's immediate and long-term defence needs. Both sides emphasised the importance of such exchanges in defining the mutual opportunities and challenges associated with multi-year cooperation between Pakistan and the US, and the value of prioritising and integrating Pakistan's security and defence capability requirements. The meeting decided to continue the EDP process.

The Pakistani side also gave a briefing on counterinsurgency and counterterrorism. The US side acknowledged the extraordinary sacrifices given by the people and military of Pakistan in its efforts to defeat violent extremists. The Pakistani side also discussed the significant burden that increased military operations have placed on its forces and economy. The two sides also discussed prospects for peace and security in the region. The delegations also acknowledged the improvement in coordination of activities along the border with Afghanistan.

It also discussed ways to assist Pakistan in transitioning across the counterinsurgency phases of clear, hold, and build.

August 12, 2010

Thu

All Day

China Three Gorges to Invest \$100,000 Million for Two Hydro Power Projects in Pakistan -- New Energy

China Three Gorges to Invest \$100,000 Million for Two Hydro Power Projects in Pakistan

2010-08-12 02:31:31 - New Energy

The China Three Gorges Corporation announced a \$100,000 million agreement with Pakistan. The investment will be utilized to develop two hydro power projects to be located in Pakistan. On completion, the projects will add 8,200 MW of capacity to the county.

All Day

**China flood aid may help test China-Pak border roads, fight ultras --
Times of India**

China flood aid may help test China-Pak border roads, fight ultras

Read more: China flood aid may help test China-Pak border roads, fight ultras -
China - World - The Times of India

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/china/China-flood-aid-may-help-test-China-Pak-border-roads-fight-ultras/articleshow/6443610.cms#ixzz0y88A3sKS>

BEIJING: Nearly half of the members of a medical team sent by China to assist flood hit victims in Pakistan are women doctors. They were "specially to offer medical aid for female Muslim Pakistani patients," Zhang Liyan, head of the medical group, said.

An interesting aspect of relief operations is the use of land route to the Sust dry port near the Pakistan-China border for supplies from Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

"The use of border roads for relief supplies has a strategic dimension. It will help test the roads from the point of logistics as well as improve China's ability to conduct anti-terrorism operations in the area," Srikant Kondapalli, professor of Chinese affairs at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, told TNN. China is keen to enhance its influence in the border areas of Pakistan to protect its investments and also to ensure that Islamic fundamentalism do not spill over to its territory.

China's People's Liberation Army has also dispatched urgently-needed materials including tents, power generators and sludge-cleaning equipment to the Pakistani armed forces will arrive in Pakistan's Islamabad, according to the foreign ministry in Beijing.

Beijing's swift and enthusiastic response to the need for support in relief and rescue has resulted in several statements from Pakistani officials and politicians expressing deep appreciation. But it has a significant strategic dimension.

Several Chinese operating in China including one involved in establishing nuclear energy facilities have joined the Chinese government in the relief efforts. The latest move involves sending a 55-member rescue delegation comprising 36 medical workers including 14 female doctors.

Supplies from Xinjing might also help win over Pakistanis, who have been unhappy over the condition of Muslims in this border province during recent riots.

Pakistani Ambassador to China Masood Khan made a statement to the official media suggesting that questions are being raised about the purpose of Beijing's aid.

"It is not fair for any country or person to make oblique references to China's relief assistance to Pakistan or to urge it to do more," Khan said. "China was one of the first countries to respond to our relief needs when the worst floods in 81 years came. China moved with speed," he said.

Read more: China flood aid may help test China-Pak border roads, fight ultras -
China - World - The Times of India

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/china/China-flood-aid-may-help-test-China-Pak-border-roads-fight-ultras/articleshow/6443610.cms#ixzz0y87zbD7Q>

پاکستان گلگت بلتستان کانٹرول چین کے حوالے کرنے کی تیاری کر رہا ہے: امریکی اخبار --

امریکی اخبار

پاکستان گلگت بلتستان کانٹرول چین کے حوالے کرنے کی تیاری کر رہا ہے: امریکی اخبار

واشنگٹن (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک): امریکی اخبار نیویارک ٹائمز نے انکشاف کیا ہے کہ پاکستان دفاعی لحاظ سے اہم ترین خطہ گلگت بلتستان کانٹرول چین کے سپرد کرنے میں مصروف عمل ہے۔ اخبار نے متعدد غیر ملکی اینٹلی جنس ذرائع، صحافیوں اور انسانی حقوق کے کارکنوں کے حوالے سے دعویٰ کیا ہے کہ گلگت بلتستان میں دو اہم ترین نئے واقعات رونما ہونے جارہے ہیں، اول یہاں پاکستان کے خلاف مزاحمت زور پکڑ رہا ہے اور دوم 7 ہزار سے 11 ہزار کے درمیان چینی فوجی گلگت بلتستان منتقلی کیے جارہے ہیں۔ اخبار کے کالم نگار سیلگ ایس ہیریسن نے لکھا ہے کہ چین کی گلگت بلتستان میں خصوصی دلچسپی کی وجوہات یہ ہیں کہ وہ گلگت بلتستان کے راستے تیز ترین ریلوے ٹریک اور سڑک کے ذریعے تیل سے مالا مال خلیجی ممالک تک رسائی چاہتا ہے۔ اس صورت میں چینی گارگو ٹرانسپورٹ مشرقی چین سے سامان لے کر 48 گھنٹوں میں گوادر، پسنی اور اورماٹو میں چین کے تعمیر کردہ پاکستانی نیول بیسز پہنچ سکیں گے جبکہ اس وقت یہ مسافت 16 سے 25 دن میں طے ہوتی ہے۔ اگرچہ گلگت بلتستان آنے والے بیشتر چینی فوجی سڑکوں، ریلوے ٹریک، ڈیم اور دیگر پروجیکٹس پر کام کریں گے تاہم کچھ خفیہ مقامات پر ان 22 ٹنلز کی تعمیر سے متعلق پراسراریت موجود رہے گی جہاں عام پاکستانیوں کا جانا ممنوع ہے۔ یہ ٹنلز گلگت کے راستے چین تک ایرانی گیس کی منتقلی کے لیے ضروری ہیں لیکن انہیں میزائل اسٹوریج کے لیے بھی استعمال کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ اخبار نے لکھا ہے کہ حالیہ دنوں تک چینی فوج کا تعمیراتی عملہ عارضی رہائش گاہوں میں قیام پذیر تھا تاہم اب بڑے رہائشی مکانات تعمیر کیے جارہے ہیں جس سے اندازہ ہوتا ہے کہ چین کا ارادہ مستقل قیام کا ہے۔ خطے میں رونما ہونے والے واقعات واشنگٹن کے لیے اس لحاظ سے باعث تشویش ہو سکتے ہیں کہ اول چین کو سہولتیں بہم پہنچا کر پاکستان امریکی اتحاد سے باہر نکل سکتا ہے اور دوم گلگت بلتستان میں حکومت مخالف مزاحمت خود مختار خطے پر منتج ہو سکتی ہے جو کہ کنٹرول لائن کے دونوں اطراف کشمیریوں کی ایک دیرینہ خواہش ہے۔ اخبار کے کالم نگار نے امریکہ کو مشورہ دیا ہے کہ وہ کشمیر کے معاملے میں ثالثی کے لیے اپنے اثر و رسوخ استعمال کرے اور کشمیری علیحدگی پسندوں سے مذاکرات کے لیے نئی دہلی پر دباؤ ڈالے۔ اس صورت میں پاکستان بھی اپنے مقبوضہ علاقوں (آزاد کشمیر اور گلگت بلتستان) کو خود مختاری دینے پر مجبور ہوگا ساتھ ہی امریکہ کو یہ یقینی بنانا ہوگا کہ پاکستان کشمیر میں دراندازی اور بھارت گلگت بلتستان پر قبضہ کرنے سے باز رہیں گے۔

August 29, 2010

Sun

All Day

Kashmir: the China connection -- The Economist

Kashmir: the China connection

Aug 29th 2010, 11:58 by Banyan

AN ODD row has broken out over the failed attempt of an Indian general, B. S. Jaswal, who heads the army's Northern Command, to visit China. General Jaswal was refused a visa, apparently because of his work in Kashmir.

This is not entirely surprising. China has been irritating India for about a year now with its unwillingness to issue normal visas to residents of the Indian state of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).

One interpretation of its rejection of General Jaswal is that it is engaged in simple tit-for-tat diplomacy, following India's refusal to allow a Chinese diplomat to visit its troubled north-eastern state of Manipur to give a talk.

There is probably more to it than that, however. For B. Raman, a former head of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), India's main spy agency, China's policy is consistent with a change in its stance on Indian-held Kashmir: "it has diluted its past acceptance of J&K as a de facto part of India."

As Mr Raman notes, this must delight Pakistan, which will see it as tacit support for its claim to all of Kashmir. He points out it might also be seen as a way of bolstering China's position in possible future negotiations over Indian-claimed territory it now occupies.

In the context of the long-running and largely suppressed strategic tension between the two giant neighbours, China's hints of sympathy for Pakistan over Kashmir, and for secessionists in the territory itself, are extremely unwelcome for India.

It will also have noticed and been concerned by China's increased activity in Pakistan's "Northern Areas" (which were recently renamed as Gilgit-Baltistan), the north-western part of the old J&K kingdom. Chinese soldiers there are working on road, railway and other infrastructure projects. This will provide a fast route into western China from the port it is building at Gwadar, on Pakistan's shore of the Arabian Sea.

According to Selig Harrison, an American analyst, writing in the New York Times, the Chinese influence is greater than had been known and Pakistan "is handing over de facto control" of Gilgit-Baltistan, which is suffering a simmering revolt against Pakistani rule. He says between 7,000 and 11,000 Chinese troops are there.

Curiously, Mr Harrison equates this "collusion" by Pakistan with China with the support of parts of its establishment for the Taliban, as evidence it is not an American ally. Surely, to be "with" America, a country doesn't yet have to be "against" China?

All Day

PBC and China Radio International sign statement of collaboration -- Daily Times

PBC and China Radio International sign statement of collaboration

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: To implement an MOU signed during the visit of President Asif Ali Zardari to China in July this year, Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) and China Radio International (CRI) has signed a statement of collaboration here on Saturday for cooperation between the two organizations.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Qamar Zaman Kaira, member National Assembly Farahnaz Ispahani and Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Luo Zhaohui graced the occasion.

Under the statement of collaboration, the two organizations agreed on exchange of staff boost their relationship and enhance their professional capabilities.

Speaking on the occasion, Federal Minister For Information and Broadcasting, Qamar Zaman Kaira said Pakistan-China relationship had long history and his Pakistan Peoples Party, being the architect of these ties, considers this relationship as a great asset. He said relationship between the two countries is not confined to few fields only but Pakistan and China assisted each other in every hour of need.

The Information Minister expressed joy over the signing of the statement saying it will benefit the professionals of the two organizations. He said PBC has rich history while CRI is fast emerging organization. The collaboration between the two will strengthen people to people contact and relationship between Islamabad and Beijing.

He said time would soon be given on FM channels of Radio Pakistan to Radio China.

The Information Minister congratulated the management of Radio Pakistan and team of National Broadcasting Service for completing two years service of round the clock programmes aimed at sensitizing the masses to critical issues faced by the country.

He said he himself participated in Naiy Ufaq programme of the NBS every week while the prime minister addresses the nation by the radio on first Friday of every month.

In his remarks, the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Luo Zhaohui said signing of statement of collaboration between PBC and CRI is reflective of growing relationship between Pakistan and China.

He termed the visit of President Zardari to China in July this year as highly successful and said the signing of statement of collaboration between PBC and CRI is follow-up of that visit. He was of the view that it would enhance cooperation between two organizations.

In his welcome address, Director General, PBC, Murtaza Solangi said close cooperation between PBC and CRI would go a long way in bringing the people of the two countries together and the two organizations have a long history of collaboration.

The CRI Deputy Chief Editor hoped that the agreement would bring the professionals of the two countries together and their mutual interaction would provide them opportunity to enhance their professional capabilities. He urged the media of two countries to play a role in further consolidating and strengthening close relationship between Pakistan and China.

He told China has keen desire for enhancing collaboration between the media of the two countries.

Director General PBC, Murtaza Solangi and Deputy Chief Editor of Radio China International signed the statement of collaboration.

Source:

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C08%5C29%5Cstory_29-8-2010_pg11_8

All Day

TCC to invest \$3.3bn in gold and copper mining -- APP

TCC to invest \$3.3bn in gold and copper mining

By Mohammad Zafar

QUETTA: Tethyan Copper Company Pakistan (Pvt) Limited (TCC) has submitted its feasibility study report to the Provincial Government with a view of getting a mining license to exploit copper and gold resources.

The project cost is estimated at \$3.3 billion. It will be the biggest foreign financed project in the history of Pakistan. Such a huge foreign investment is unparalleled in the economic history.

Estimated payable metal production over about 56 years of mine life is 22 billion pounds of copper (10,000,000 tones) and 13 million ounces of gold.

The Feasibility study report had been submitted to the Department of Mines and Mineral Development, which is representing the interests of the Government of Balochistan. Earlier, it was with the Balochistan Development Authority and later on Department of Mines and Mineral Development was given the assignment and Dr Saeed Baloch had been appointed as the focal person.

"We are very happy that the Project has reached this important milestone. Based on extensive world class engineering, technical and financial studies by TCC, the viability of Reko Diq project has been established and we are looking forward to work with our partner, the Government of Balochistan on taking this project towards the construction stage," said TCC CEO, Gerhard Von Borries.

"A feasibility study of a mining project determines whether the proven mineral resource is technically and financially viable and is considered an important landmark in mining project development phase," he said

According to the feasibility report, the initial mine development investment for Reko Diq project is estimated at \$3.3 billion (approximately PKR 272 billion) which includes development of basic infrastructure like power, water and concentrate pipelines, roads, and port development.

The project will create 10,000 construction jobs and 2500 permanent jobs when the commercial operations start. Significant opportunities will also be created for local suppliers and contractors for providing services and goods to support mine operations. The project offers state of the art transfer of mining and beneficiation technology to Balochistan in addition to generating significant revenues in form of taxes, royalties and profit sharing.

Gerhard Von Borries also confirmed that the Environment and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the Reko Diq project is being finalised and will be soon presented to the competent authority. "We are committed to this project and the way it has been designed, it will be a catalyst of social and economic development for Balochistan," he added.

TCC's vision is to operate a world-class copper-gold mine at Reko Diq, Balochistan in a safe and socially responsible way. TCC reports its resources and reserves on two international Minerals Reporting Standards, JORC (Australia) and CIM (Canada). Total mineral resource at Reko Diq is 5.9 billion tones. Mineral reserve i.e. economically mineable ore at Reko Diq is 2.22 billion tones at an average grade of 0.5 percent copper and 0.3 grams gold per tones.

Estimated payable metal production over about 56 years of mine life is 22 billion pounds of copper (10,000,000 tones) and 13 million ounces of gold.

It may be recalled that the Government of Balochistan intended to operate the Reko Diq in the public sector denying mining rights to the TCC. The Chief Minister, more than once, had stated his stand. The Government plans to merge with the Siandak

Project and Reko Dik into a single metal mining company and operating it under the Government control.

However, the TCC claimed that it had conducted the exploration and it is the right of the company to exploit the mineral wealth. The Government job is only to collect taxes and royalties, implement the laws protecting environment and enforce law and order. Since the Government had not undertaken the exploration for years, it had no right to mine the wealth under the international law, it is opined.

Source:

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C08%5C31%5Cstory_31-8-2010_pg5_8

All Day

Deepening investments in Pakistan - China -- Beijing

Deepening investments in Pakistan

But while the forces behind the mega infrastructure projects in the region remain unclear, few dispute the fact that China has in recent years moved to shore up investments in neighboring Pakistan and boost traditionally warm ties.

As part of its strategy to develop alternative trade routes to the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf, China has helped Pakistan develop a deep-sea port at the naval base at Gwadar in the province of Baluchistan on the Arabian Sea.

Beijing is also working to extend the strategic Karakoram Highway, built to link China's Sinkiang province with Pakistan and other projects such as dams and rail networks.

Harrison estimates that once high-speed rail and road links through Gilgit and Baltistan are completed, China will manage to transport its oil tankers and cargo to the Persian Gulf within 48 hours - a maneuver, he says, currently takes 16 to 25 days.

All Day

No troops in Pakistan: China -- Daily Times

No troops in Pakistan: China

BEIJING: China on Thursday dismissed reports, which stated that troops of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) were in a disputed area of Pakistan. The International Herald Tribune ran an opinion piece last week that said upto 11,000 soldiers of the PLA were in Gilgit. "The story that China has deployed some military in Pakistan is totally groundless," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said. "People are making fabrications to destroy relations between China, Pakistan and India. They will not be successful," she said. ap

All Day

'Iranian nation will support Pakistan' -- Daily Times

'Iranian nation will support Pakistan'

KARACHI: A 15-member Iranian delegation, led by Iranian Interior Minister Mostafa Najjar, called on Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari at the Bilawal House on Saturday, a statement said.

They discussed bilateral relations between the two countries, and the situation Pakistan is faced with because of the recent floods.

The delegation informed the president that the Iranian nation would support the Pakistanis in their hour of need.

Iran has pledged to provide \$10 million, around \$1.3 million of which has already been delivered, the delegation said. The delegation, which arrived in the city from Islamabad, was also given an aerial view of the flood-affected areas of Thatta district.

Representatives of the Iranian supreme leader - Hujatul Islam Rahimian and Ansarian - Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Fatollahi, Iranian Red Crescent Society Head Dr Faghi, Iranian Disaster Management Organisation Head Bagheri and Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Mashallah Shakri were the part of the delegation.

Interior Minister Rehman Malik later told reporters that the delegation was in the city on behalf of the Iranian president and the Iranian supreme leader to evaluate the magnitude of the disaster and determine how the Pakistanis could be helped.

The current requirements include tents and clean drinking water, the provision of which is being managed, he added.

Najjar said the people and the government of Iran were mobilised from day one of the floods in Pakistan. The Iranian president is keen to visit Pakistan, he added. app

All Day

Indonesia-Pakistan Business Forum to be launched this month -- Regional Times

Indonesia-Pakistan Business Forum to be launched this month

KARACHI: The Embassy of Republic of Indonesia has decided to formally launch the proposed Indonesia-Pakistan Business Forum during the current month. Mr. Ishak Latuconsina, Ambassador of Indonesia has nominate Abdul Majid Haji Muhammad, President, Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) as the Chairman of Indonesia-Pakistan Business Forum keeping in view his immense experience of trading with Indonesia and regional countries, particularly in palm oil trade with Indonesia. Mr. Ishak Latuconsina anticipated that Abdul Majid as the Chairman of Indonesia-Pakistan Business Forum will play a vital role in further enhancing and strengthening of the mutually beneficial trade ties between the business community of two brother countries. Abdul Majid stated on Thursday that appointing as the founding Chairman of Indonesia-Pakistan Business Forum is indeed an honour for him. He said that Pakistan and Indonesia are enjoying brotherly and friendly relations since last many decades. The diplomatic relations between two countries were established in 1949. Together Indonesia and Pakistan form over 400 million of Muslim population which is over 1/3 of the entire Muslim population of the world, he said. Abdul Majid said that Pakistan and Indonesia bilateral trade could escalate upto US Dollar 2 Billion incoming year from the current figure of around 800 Million US Dollars following the conclusion of the undergoing PTA (Preferential Trade Agreement).

Abdul Majid said that he believes that the signing of Preferential Trade Agreement PTA will bring closure the business communities of both countries and will give a strong boost to the bilateral trade ties and he will make his best efforts to inspire governments of both countries for signing PTA. The signing of PTA, Majid said, would allow both countries to boost their own exports which will InshaAllah lead to FTA. Indonesia would be able to increase its export of crude palm oil to Pakistan whereas Pakistan can export to Indonesia its value added textiles, carpets, fabrics, leather and export goods, chemicals, surgical etc., he concluded.—Agency

All Day

EU set to agree trade breaks for Pakistan -- BRUSSELS (Reuters)

EU set to agree trade breaks for Pakistan

Fri Sep 10, 2010 4:45pm GMT

Print | Single Page[-] Text [+]

1 of 1Full SizeBy David Brunnstrom

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The European Union appears likely to grant trade concessions worth hundreds of millions of euros to flood-hit Pakistan as part of an effort to maintain stability in the country, diplomats said on Friday.

EU foreign ministers meeting in Brussels asked EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht to draw up a plan for approval by EU leaders at a summit on Thursday that would seek a World Trade Organisation waiver worth at least 230 million euros (190 million pounds) for Pakistan, the EU diplomats said.

Pakistan would also benefit from a review under way of the EU's Generalised System of Preferences-Plus (GSP+) -- a trade support mechanism -- due to be completed in January, which would also cover economies of similar size to Pakistan, they said.

"It's a strategic situation, potentially the most dangerous situation in the world -- there was a feeling we needed to do something," one diplomat said.

The waiver -- a unilateral suspension of tariffs on certain goods -- would be granted under the so-called "9/11" clause used to grant Pakistan trade breaks after the September 11 attacks. Those breaks were in recognition of Pakistan's position as a frontline ally in the battle against Islamist militancy.

Any waiver is likely to trigger a dispute at the WTO from Pakistan's trade competitors, but diplomats said bringing a case in the world trade body can take up to a year, which would be enough time for the EU measures to have an impact and

then be shut down before the complex litigation begins.

By that time Pakistan should also feel the benefits of GSP+ status, they said.

Some diplomats also think it is unlikely that India and Sri Lanka, two countries that could challenge the waiver, would do so at such a politically sensitive time for Pakistan.

All Day

EU needs a 'comprehensive approach' to help Pakistan -- BRUSSELS:

EU needs a 'comprehensive approach' to help Pakistan

* European Union foreign policy chief says alliance considering ways to support Pakistan

BRUSSELS: Ahead of a key European Union meeting over Pakistan, EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton has said that the bloc needed a "comprehensive approach" that includes not only humanitarian aid, but also helping Pakistan fight terrorism and boost trade.

Ashton met Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Thursday ahead of the informal two-day foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels that would discuss the flood crisis in Pakistan.

The EU already has committed \$89 million to help Pakistan recover from the devastation, and now is looking for a long-term aid strategy to help the country get back on its feet.

"What we're trying to do now is link together all the different ways we support Pakistan... it's very, very important," she said, as ministers headed into the talks in Brussels. "They need help to develop civilian police forces, the potential to tackle terrorism before it turns into actions by terrorists and, of course, the capacity to develop their economic platform," she said.

The EU now is attempting to help Pakistan feed flood victims and fight terrorism. German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said he is pushing to open European markets to Pakistan exports.

"Whoever wants to stabilise Pakistan and prevent it from drifting toward extremism and fundamentalism must ensure that the economic consequences of this natural disaster will be absorbed," he said.

Pakistan has been urging the EU to grant it enhanced access to its markets in order to boost its struggling economy, as well as provide more aid to Pakistan to help it fight terrorists.

Pakistani Ambassador to the US Hussain Haqqani recently warned that flooding had stretched thin the Pakistani military and would hamper its fight against terrorists.

"The military's resources, particularly its limited supply of helicopters, are busy with flood relief," Haqqani had said, adding that going after terrorists in North Waziristan or other terrorist havens would depend on the military's continuing capabilities. ap

All Day

Trade-linked aid to Pakistan tops Europe talks -- (AFP)

Trade-linked aid to Pakistan tops Europe talks

(AFP) – Sep 11, 2010

BRUSSELS — Europe is likely to offer trade-linked aid to help Pakistan battle flood devastation and fears of rising Islamist extremism at an EU summit next week, diplomatic sources said Saturday.

Hosting a two-day informal parley of foreign ministers from the 27-nation bloc, EU diplomatic supremo Catherine Ashton said Pakistan needed wide support -- ranging through aid, institution-building, anti-terror assistance, reconstruction and trade.

"Everyone agrees we have to think comprehensively," Ashton said.

"If we want to stabilise Pakistan, so that it doesn't degenerate into extremism and

fundamentalism, we have to address the economic consequences of this natural catastrophe," said German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle.

After the floods turned some 21 million lives upside down and left 1,760 dead, Ashton suggested special exemptions from trade tariffs.

"It is in the vital strategic interest of the European Union to help Pakistan in the longterm with trade," said British Foreign Secretary William Hague as the talks wound down.

"I hope there will be agreement on it" at the September 16 summit, he added. "There has been really strong support from the foreign ministers for some decisive action to be taken."

EU leaders will have three options to ease Pakistani goods into Europe -- offering duty-free access on some goods, deciding a unilateral waiver with WTO agreement, or lowering Most Favoured Nation tariff on some products.

Most EU nations favoured a waiver for a limited list of products, diplomatic sources said.

The European Commission, which polices EU trade matters, asked ministers to consider ditching tariff barriers on 13 types of textile product, in an effort to kick-start an economic fightback.

"We cannot stand on the sidelines," said Belgian Foreign Minister Steven Vanackere, after the issue of "how we'll do it" was passed up from trade to foreign ministers.

The idea of preferential treatment caused consternation within the industry.

A European association of textile producers (Euratex) articulated fierce resistance.

Euratex told EU trade commissioner Karel De Gucht last week that the "Pakistani government is (repeatedly) using all sorts of excuses to demand free access to the EU market," citing the "fight against terrorism, economic crisis and now the floods".

It said Pakistan is "already a major world player" on a par with India or China, and warned that unilateral EU moves "will certainly be attacked" in the WTO and could "seriously jeopardise" negotiations on a free-trade deal with New Delhi.

According to an EU source, though, the list of product areas qualifying for exemptions was drawn up with likely objections in mind, and aimed at providing some 25 million euros of annual benefits to Pakistan.

Europe has also been criticised by humanitarian organisations for struggling to produce a coherent, collective position on Pakistan.

All Day

Europe preparing to grant Pakistan extraordinary trade concessions -- Daily Times

Europe preparing to grant Pakistan extraordinary trade concessions

BRUSSELS: Following a two-day meeting of European Union foreign ministers in Brussels Friday and Saturday, Europe is preparing to grant extraordinary trade concessions to Pakistan. The move is intended to bolster the flood-devastated nation and help Islamabad tackle extremism.

The foreign ministers have reportedly opted for an option that would entail a World Trade Organisation (WTO) waiver for key Pakistani exports, primarily textiles. This would allow Brussels to temporarily grant Pakistan a tariff reduction.

Earlier, trade officials had spoken against this move anticipating resistance from India and lengthy litigation at the WTO. A previous tariff exemption granted to Pakistan after 9/11 attacks on World Trade Centre ostensibly in recognition of the country's drug enforcement measures, but widely seen as a reward for its role as an ally in war in Afghanistan had in fact led to a WTO case initiated by India. The EU had lost and been forced to withdraw the concessions.

However, thinking in Brussels at present seems to be that since bringing a case at WTO can take up to a year, there would be enough time for EU measures to have an impact and then be shut down before litigation begins. The waiver being contemplated would bring benefits of at least Euro 230 million for Pakistan. Another proposal that sought to eliminate tariffs on 13 specific textile and clothing products on a most favoured nation (MFN) basis was shot down since such a move would benefit India, China and other countries in addition to Pakistan.

Pakistan may also improve its chances of gaining GSP+ status - a European trade incentive mechanism, from which Islamabad has until now been excluded, for amongst other reasons, having an economy that is too large to be eligible. However, a review is now under way of the criteria for GSP+ qualification, which may allow economies of similar size to Pakistan to also qualify. The review is due to be completed in January.

Following foreign minister's meeting, EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht has been asked to carry out a feasibility study, including estimates on the economic cost of the concession. The findings will be presented at an EU leader's summit on September 16, during which the green light for the move may be given. ppi

All Day

German economic delegation to visit Pakistan -- Daily Times

German economic delegation to visit Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: A 21-member German economic delegation is visiting Pakistan from September 14-17.

Claus Baron von Fersen, an expert representing German Oil and Gas Industry and Renewable Energy sector is leading the delegation that includes representatives of German business community as well as officials from Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology and Near and Middle East Association (NUMOV).

During the visit, German delegation would have meetings with the Karachi Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Pakistan German Business Forum in Karachi.

In Islamabad, the delegation would meet representatives of Islamabad Chambers of Commerce and Industry, officials of Board of Investment and Alternative Energy Development Board. The delegation would also visit the Ministry of Commerce.

Delegation members would also meet representatives of German companies that are doing business in Pakistan.

The visit would provide the German business community an opportunity to explore possibility of enhancing trade and investment ties with companies in Pakistan. app

All Day

David Cameron to push EU to ease Pakistan trade terms PM wants to give Pakistan 'enhanced access' to EU markets, -- Guardian News and Media Limited

David Cameron to push EU to ease Pakistan trade terms PM wants to give Pakistan 'enhanced access' to EU markets, but is likely to find opposition from more protectionist countries

(6) Tweet this (20) Ian Traynor in Brussels and Nicholas Watt guardian.co.uk, Wednesday 15 September 2010 20.49 BST Article history

David Cameron wants to ease EU trade terms with Pakistan to help alleviate the damage done by flooding in the country. Photograph: Carl Court/AFP/Getty Images

David Cameron is pressing the European Union to agree a new regime of trade concessions to Pakistan to alleviate the country's plight in the medium term, but has run into formidable opposition among more protectionist EU countries.

David Cameron comes to Brussels for an EU summit determined to push the Pakistan emergency to the top of the agenda. The summit was to be dominated by foreign policy priorities on the US, Russia, China and India.

Britain is keen to give Pakistan what is described as "enhanced access" to EU markets to help stabilise the country in the wake of the war in neighbouring Afghanistan. Over the summer Cameron reached out to Asif Ali Zardari, the Pakistan president, by saying he would fight hard to give Islamabad preferential access to the EU.

A failure in the EU negotiations may harm Cameron's attempts to soothe relations with Islamabad after he caused great offence by saying that Pakistan was exporting terrorism.

The prime minister has written to Herman Van Rompuy, the president of the European Council chairing tomorrow's summit, to call for "a concrete political commitment from the EU to Pakistan to enhance significantly its access to the EU market in the short term".

In the letter, also sent to other European leaders and obtained by the Guardian, Cameron said: "I am absolutely convinced that we need to agree a significant measure on trade which delivers greater market access in the short term."

Senior British diplomats argued that the scale of the Pakistani crisis meant that it was the most pressing issue for the summit, although Van Rompuy barely mentioned Pakistan in outlining his plans for the meeting.

The British push for trade privileges for Islamabad will be resisted by EU countries with big textile industries that fear having their markets flooded with cheap goods from the region. At least four countries, including Portugal, Italy and France, are reluctant to give trade privileges.

"There are problems getting them on board. Each option is complicated," admitted a senior British diplomat. "There is a risk of raising this as an objective and failing to deliver."

EU foreign ministers discussed British demands last week but failed to conclude an agreement. The concessions to Pakistan could entail reducing tariffs on its exports or the EU suspending the tariffs unilaterally, but, apart from opposition within the EU, this could also run into problems with the World Trade Organisation. The EU has already committed more than €230m (£191m) in emergency aid and flood relief to Pakistan, with the UK the biggest single EU national contributor at around €60m.

According to British government figures, the flooding has affected 20 million Pakistanis or one in eight of the population. "This is a disaster of biblical proportions," said the senior diplomat. "There's a need to deal with the longer-term impact."

Brussels is planning a five-year "engagement plan" with Pakistan, but Cameron insisted that the EU must do more. "We should go beyond [that] to set out an ambitious new partnership on serious economic reform and trade, the benefits of which will be worth more to Pakistan than even a sizeable aid package."

All Day

Pak, Malaysia agree to form FTA review body -- ISLAMABAD

Pak, Malaysia agree to form FTA review body

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Malaysia have agreed to constitute a Joint Committee to review Malaysia Pakistan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (MPCEPA) signed in November 2007 to further enhance and facilitate trade, investment and economic cooperation between the two countries, says a press release issued on Tuesday. The High Commissioner for Pakistan in Malaysia, Masood Khalid said it was an important step forward in promoting the trade, investment and economic cooperation between the two countries. ppi

All Day

Pak-US sign US\$ 482,000 agreement in LPG transport fuel conversion -- APP

Pak-US sign US\$ 482,000 agreement in LPG transport fuel conversion
ISLAMABAD, Sep 15 (APP): Pakistan and United States Wednesday signed an agreement worth US\$ 482,000 for feasibility study in seven districts for Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) Transport Fuel Conversion Project. The agreement was signed by Managing Director National Energy Conservation Centre (ENERCON) Faridullah Khan and Stephen C Engelken, Deputy Chief of Mission US Embassy at the Environment Ministry in presence of the Minister for Environment Hamid Ullah Jan Afridi, Secretary Environment Javed Malik and other officials from the US mission and the Ministry. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister appreciated the US cooperation in the environment sector and informed that the country has already launched a project of running 8000 Green Buses in different cities of the country.

The project shall be executed by the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) and National Energy Conservation Centre (ENERCON).

Afridi highlighted that under the LPG-TFC project, the operational requirements to convert Karachi, Hyderabad, Multan, Lahore, Faisalabad, Peshawar and Islamabad and Rawalpindi bus fleets to LPG will also be assessed in detail.

"A comprehensive analysis will be carried out demonstrating the viability of LPG as an alternative fuel to CNG and diesel and operational requirements needed to adopt LPG fuelled bus operations in these cities," he said.

The minister explained that based on detailed economic and financial analysis, the role of private capital and investment for implementation of the project will be determined to supply a bus fleet with LPG equipment on a commercial versus financial lease basis.

The options shall be discussed with representatives of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and at least one other international financial institution that has made significant investments in Pakistan, before formulating final recommendations, he added.

Stephen C. Engelken, Deputy Chief of Mission expressed commitment of the US Government for cooperation and collaboration with Pakistan in all fields of economy especially in trade and development.

He explained that ENERCON will utilize the grant funds, on behalf of the Pakistan Government to implement a project on LPG Transport Fuel Conversion in the country, which is expected to be completed by December 2011.

It was further elaborated that a detailed and comprehensive feasibility study under this project will produce useful information and data with necessary analysis required to consider adopting liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as a fuel source for land transportation operations in Pakistan.

Supply and demand forecast and assessments, including supply from Persian Gulf, among other sources, shall also be carried out, Stephen said.

The technical and operational specifications required to adopting LPG as a transportation fuel, including any infrastructure requirements, as well as the

economic, financial and legal considerations will be worked out for the implementation of the project, he added.

Secretary Environment, Muhammad Javed Malik pointed out that a preliminary review of the project's anticipated impact on the environment shall be conducted, with reference to all pertinent national, provincial and/or local requirements.

The review shall identify potential negative and positive impacts, discuss the extent to which they can be mitigated, and develop plans for an environmental impact assessment as may be required under the rules and regulations in force in Pakistan, as and when the project moves forward to the implementation stage, he said.

All Day

Aussie team set to extend Pakistan aid Max Blenkin -- Daily Times

Aussie team set to extend Pakistan aid Max Blenkin

AAP

The Australian health team in Pakistan is set to extend its operations out into the countryside to reach more people affected by the devastating floods.

Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd, making a flying visit to Pakistan's Punjab province, said the nation's military, which is providing security for the 180-member Australian Defence Force (ADF) and AusAid health team had given the go-ahead for the outreach program.

So far, the health team has operated from a compound with armed Pakistani soldiers guarding against any insurgent attack.

All Day

China hands over 3rd F-22P Frigate to Pakistan -- Voice of Karachi

Pakistan and China have made yet another landmark achievement in expansion of their long and unwavering bilateral defence cooperation.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Noman Bashir while performing the commissioning of the third F-22P frigate, PNS SAIF here on Wednesday said that it is indeed a proud moment for both Pakistan and China, where like first and second, the third F-22P frigate is also being delivered ahead of schedule. "It is an extra ordinary achievement when looked at the technical complexities of this mega project", said CNS Admiral Noman Bashir while addressing an impressive ceremony that was largely attended including President CSSC, Senior Officers from Pakistan and PLA Navies, Senior Management of SASTIND, CSSC, Hudong Shipyard and CSTC. Congratulating Pakistan and PLA Navies, CSTC and Hudong Shipyard and CNO (China) teams for their successful joint efforts Admiral Bashir also congratulated the Commanding Officer Captain Zubair Shafique and his crew for their contribution. "May Allah bless PNS SAIF and all those who sail in it" he said.

Admiral Noman Bashi said that no doubt, this feat has been achieved through focused approach at all levels of management and total cooperation between PLA (Navy), SASTIND, CSSC, Hudong Shipyard and CSTC. He pointed out that it would not be out of place here to reaffirm that Pak-China relationship is unique and does not draw any parallel in the world.

This relationship, the CNS said over the years has matured in all fields, particularly in defence. "Present geo-political situation demands further strengthening of our relations and I assure you, that Pakistan is deeply committed to achieve our shared objectives", the CNS observed.

Admiral Noman Bashir said that the environment around us warrants Pakistan Navy to be prepared to counter the forces, challenging our sovereignty as well as regional peace and security. "I am confident that induction of these ships will not only supplement our combat potential but will also afford Pakistan Navy the opportunity to distinctly uphold its forward presence in area of interest, contributing to balance the power equation in the region" said Admiral Noman Bashir.

"Let me say that today I feel contented to see the project progressing smoothly" said Admiral Noman Bashir adding that the commissioning of PNS SAIF concludes the construction phase of F-22P ships in China. He expressed the confidence that the construction of 4th F-22P Ship in Pakistan will also be accomplished successfully with full cooperation of Chinese friends.

Meets Political Commissar

Another report says; Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Noman Bashir met Political Commissar of Shanghai Garrison Command, Maj. General Zhu Zhenping at the State Guest House here Wednesday.

At the meeting both sides discussed matters pertaining to military cooperation between Pakistan and China, with particular reference to Navy.

Admiral Noman Bashir told Maj. General Zhenping that the people of Pakistan are grateful to China for its timely relief assistance for the flood affected people and apprised him of the current flood situation in his country. Maj General Zhu Zhenping reiterated the commitment of the Chinese government towards providing full support to the country during the floods as well as in meeting the requirements of Pakistan Navy.

All Day

EU Cuts Tariffs to Aid Pakistan .Article Comments (1) more in World ».[Email](#)[Print](#)[Save This](#) ↓ [More.](#) -- By JOHN W. MILLER

EU Cuts Tariffs to Aid Pakistan .By JOHN W. MILLER

BRUSSELS—European Union governments agreed to suspend some tariffs on imports from Pakistan in an effort to help it recover from this summer's brutal flooding.

The cuts, however, will be less than hoped for by many activists, EU officials said, a sign that the recession is limiting what rich countries are willing to do to help those in need. Donor countries are meeting Sunday in New York to discuss ways of raising more money for reconstruction in Pakistan.

U.S. special envoy to Pakistan and Afghanistan Richard Holbrooke said Thursday that the world will be able to fund only a quarter of the tens of billions of dollars needed to rebuild Pakistan, according to the Associated Press.

Pakistan sustained economic damage of around \$15 billion, roughly 10% of its gross domestic product. Flood-relief aid committed to Pakistan so far amounts to \$1.1 billion. Pakistan will have to pay for much of the reconstruction, especially by improving its meager tax-collection record, Mr. Holbrooke said. "I don't want to withhold money they need, but I think we have to be clear that the Congress is going to be reluctant to give money if the money is filling in a gap because people are not paying taxes," he said.

With aid budgets limited, diplomats have turned to trade, where Pakistan has ample room to grow. With 170 million people, Pakistan is the sixth most populous nation. Yet its exports totaled only \$13.1 billion last year, roughly the same as Ecuador, population 13.4 million. The EU imported only \$4.6 billion in goods from Pakistan last year, ranking Pakistan 46th among all of the EU's trading partners. Pakistani exports to the U.S. amounted to \$3.2 billion.

Pakistani textile firms, under pressure from Chinese competition, have taken the lead in lobbying for better market access in the U.S. and EU. They are finding some allies. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce wrote to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk last month to advise tariff cuts.

The U.S., which has donated more to the Pakistan relief efforts than any other country, has so far declined to offer tariff cuts due to pressure from American textile producers.

"The United States already provides considerable long term assistance and preferential market access for exports from Pakistan," said a USTR spokeswoman. "We currently are considering how best to structure continuing U.S. assistance in view of the changed circumstances presented by the flood," she said.

On Thursday, EU leaders offered "the immediate and time-limited reduction of duties on key imports." Pakistan will also be allowed to join a low-tariff scheme known as GSP-plus by 2014. EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht will administer the specific cuts.

In the end, the cuts will be about \$400 million a year, EU officials said. The officials expect the commissioner to limit the cuts to around that amount to protect manufacturers in textile-producing nations such as Italy, Spain and France, which say they fear being drowned out by Pakistani imports. There are also some reservations in the EU's trade office that Pakistan might take away too much market share from other "vulnerable" countries, such as Tunisia, Turkey and Mexico, an EU

official said.

Aid agencies praised the move. "Europe today stood out from the crowd and showed the political resolve that is needed when major humanitarian emergencies emerge, like the one currently affecting over 20 million people in Pakistan," said Elise Ford, head of Oxfam's Brussels office.

Pakistani officials also lauded the plan. A similar plan had been enacted for a few years after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the U.S.

"Preferential access for Pakistani textiles in the EU market would strengthen Pakistan's hands in fighting terrorists by creating jobs and prosperity," said Farahnaz Ispahani, a spokesman for President Asif Ali Zardari. "President Zardari has consistently argued that enabling Pakistan to realize its full economic potential will lead to our expanding trade and eliminating need for aid."

—Tom Wright

All Day

Italian MPs team to visit Pakistan in near future -- The Nation

Italian MPs team to visit Pakistan in near future

ISLAMABAD – To support the flood victims and economy of Pakistan members of Italian Parliament will visit Pakistan in near future.

This was stated by Federal Minister for Minorities Shahbaz Bhatti while talking to TheNation on telephone from Rome on Wednesday. He said his meeting with the parliamentarians remained very successful. He added that all the members have shown solidarity with the flood affectees in Pakistan.

The president of Italy-Pakistan Friendship Association has assured that Italy would support its level best to the people of Pakistan in such a testing moments, he said. Bhatti said that parliamentarians have assured him that they will mobilise business community of Italy to support Pakistan's economic revival. He said that his visit to Italy remained very successful and it was in the best interest of the people of Pakistan. The pledged aid by Italy would help to overcome the problems of the victims, he added.

To a question, he said that all the Christian charity organisations would especially play their role in the relief and rehabilitation of the flood victim citizens across the Pakistan.

To another question, he said that he would attend the peace prize ceremony held at ancient university of the Naples city. The ceremony is about minority human rights, he added.

All Day

Pak-US grant agreement - US to provide \$0.482m for LPG TFC project -- Daily Times

Pak-US grant agreement

US to provide \$0.482m for LPG TFC project

ISLAMABAD: United States has decided to provide Pakistan grant assistance worth \$0.482 million for Liquefied Petroleum Gas Transport Fuel Conversion (LPG TFC) project.

A detailed and comprehensive feasibility study under this project will produce useful information and data with necessary analysis required to consider adopting liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as a fuel source for land transportation operations in Pakistan.

In this regard, a grant agreement signing ceremony was held in the Ministry of Environment between Government of the United States of America, acting through the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) and National Energy Conservation Centre, Ministry of Environment for "Liquefied Petroleum Gas Transport Fuel Conversion (LPG TFC) Project" in Islamabad Wednesday.

The ceremony was held in the presence of Hameed Ullah Jan Afridi, Federal Minister for Environment, Muhammad Javed Malik, Secretary Environment. Whereas the grant agreement was executed and signed by Stephen C. Engelken, Deputy Chief of Mission and Mr Faridullah Khan, Managing Director (ENERCON) on behalf of the governments of USA and Pakistan, respectively.

At the time of serious energy crisis prevailing in Pakistan, government of the United States of America has agreed to provide a grant of \$0.482 million to ENERCON, the National Energy Conservation Centre under the Ministry of Environment for the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Transport Fuel Conversion (LPG TFC) project. Stephen C. Engelken, Deputy Chief of Mission in the ceremony expressed commitment of the government of USA for cooperation and collaboration with the government of Pakistan in all fields of economy especially in trade and development. He explained that ENERCON would utilise the grant funds on behalf of the government of Pakistan to implement a project on LPG TFC in the country, which is expected to complete by December 2011.

It was further elaborated that a detailed and comprehensive feasibility study under this project will produce useful information and data with necessary analysis required to consider adopting LPG as a fuel source for land transportation operations in Pakistan. Supply and demand forecast and assessments, including supply from Persian Gulf, among other sources will also be carried out.

Technical and operational specifications required to adopt LPG as a transportation fuel, including any infrastructure requirements, as well as the economic, financial and legal considerations will be worked out for the implementation of the project. staff report

All Day

The strategically situated port at Gwadar in Balochistan is all set to be handed over to China

The strategically situated port at Gwadar in Balochistan is all set to be handed over to China.

Having been constructed by Pakistan's "all-weather ally", the port's control may just have slipped from Singapore's clutches due to financial issues.

The News reported on September 16: "It will mean much more than the transfer of power at the Gwadar port. The Chinese will build Gwadar as a tax-free industrial hub... and a network of roads and railways... to China through the ancient Silk Route. An ambitious deal to build railways along the Khunjab Pass has already been signed between Pakistan and China. The Chinese are more suited to develop the port and the network of rail and roads in Balochistan as they have experience and the muscle to work in the troublesome part of Pakistan."

An editorial in the newspaper the next day welcomed the development: "There are a number of points which would suggest that the Chinese may be more profitable partners for us at Gwadar. Not the least of these is the vast tonnage of shipping that they could bring in, the oil and gas termini they could develop and the potential for infrastructure development that would follow along. We have already inked an agreement with the Chinese for a feasibility study of a rail link roughly parallel to the Karakoram Highway. It is no stretch of the imagination to see that link running from Kashgar to Gwadar in the next 10 to 15 years. They are already working with us in Gilgit-Baltistan on the upgrading of the Karakoram Highway to an all-weather highway, they are resilient people and able to work in the sometimes difficult environment we present."

All Day

-- عرب امارات سے 320 میگاواٹ کے پاور پلانٹ کی پہلی کھیپ پاکستان پہنچ گئی

Nawaiwaqt

عرب امارات سے 320 میگاواٹ کے پاور پلانٹ کی پہلی کھیپ پاکستان پہنچ گئی

لاہور (نیوز رپورٹر) پاکستان میں بجلی کی لوڈشیڈنگ کو کم کرنے کے لیے گئے متحدہ عرب امارات کے 320 میگاواٹ پاور پلانٹ کی پہلی کھیپ پاکستان پہنچ گئی۔ مکمل پلانٹ 3 کھیپوں میں پہنچے گا۔ 4 فروری

2009ء کو پیپکو اور متحدہ عرب امارات میں مفاہمتی یادداشت پر 320 میگاواٹ کا ایک بجلی گھر پاکستان کو تحفے میں دئیے جانے پر دستخط ہوئے تھے۔ راجہ پرویز اشرف اور دیاب بن زید سلطان النہیان نے اس معاہدے پر دستخط کئے تھے۔ پیپکو نے مذکورہ بجلی گھر ٹربائن سٹیشن فیصل آباد لگانے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ پیپکو اس بجلی گھر کے ساتھ 120 میگاواٹ کا ایک اور کمبائنڈ سائیکل پاور پلانٹ لگایا جائے گا جس سے 440 میگاواٹ بجلی کی پیداوار 2011ء کے آخر تک شروع ہو جائے گی۔

All Day

Pakistan receives first shipment of power plant donated by UAE -- Daily Times

Pakistan receives first shipment of power plant donated by UAE

Sep 17, 2010 - 03:31 -

WAM Islamabad, Sep 17th, 2010 (WAM)--Pakistan yesterday received the first parts of the electric power station, which was earlier donated by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan to help the Pakistani government to address shortage in the electric power.

It is scheduled that all parts of the power plant with a capacity of 320MW, would reach Pakistan in three stages, of which the last will be in the end of October.

The Pakistani Geo TV channel said the kind gesture came from His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, during the visit of President Asif Ali Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Abu Dhabi, referring to the memorandum of understanding signed by His Highness Sheikh Diab bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Authority with Raja Pervez Ashraf, Pakistani Minister of Water and Energy in February of 2009 to deliver the power station, which operates on natural gas, to Pakistan.

The newspaper "Daily Times", said the delivery of the power station by the United Arab Emirates reflects the depth of the friendly relations between the two countries. Meanwhile, the Pakistani President said that the station is dedicated to the people of Pakistan and will greatly assist in meeting the immediate needs of power, stressing that people will never forget this noble gesture, which he described as a symbol of love and fidelity.

The newspaper quoted a spokesman for the Pakistan Electric Power Company "Bebeko" as saying that the station consists of five units each with a capacity of 16 MW and eight other units each generates 30 megawatts.

All Day

گواہر پورٹ چین کو دینے کا امکان؛ دور رس اثرات مرتب ہونگے

دور رس اثرات مرتب ہونگے، گواہر پورٹ چین کو دینے کا امکان

گواہر گواہر پورٹ کو سنگا پور پورٹ اتھارٹی (پی ایس اے) سے واپس لیکر چین کو دینے جانے کے امکان والی خبر کے اثرات اس سفید ریت والے ساحلوں سے آگے بہت دور تک ہوسکتے ہیں۔ اعلیٰ سطح پر اس حوالے سے مفاہمت پہلے ہی ہو چکی ہے لیکن ”سرکاری ذرائع نے اس بات کی تصدیق کی کہ اس پر عملدرآمد قانونی اور انتظامی رکاوٹوں کے خاتمے کے بعد ہوگا۔

سب سے بڑی رکاوٹ تو پی ایس اے کے ساتھ کیا گیا معاہدہ ہے جس میں اسے 40 سال تک پورٹ کا انتظام چلانے کی اجازت دی گئی ہے۔ تاہم سرکاری ذرائع پر اعتماد ہیں کہ پی ایس اے انہیں معاہدے کی تنسیخ کیلئے خاطر خواہ بنیادیں فراہم کر دی ہیں۔ ایک بھی کمرشل جہاز گواہر پورٹ پر لانے میں ناکامی کے علاوہ

پی ایس اے نے 52.5 کروڑ ڈالر کی اس رقم کا معمولی کے حصہ کے برابر بھی سرمایہ کاری نہیں کی پورٹ ”جس کا اس نے 5 سال میں لانے کا وعدہ کیا تھا۔ بلوچ قوم پرست رہنما رؤف ساسولی نے کہا کہ

”چینیوں کو دی جانی چاہئے کیونکہ انہوں نے اس کا زیادہ تر حصہ اپنے وسائل سے تعمیر کیا۔ انہوں نے پرویز مشرف پر الزام عائد کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ انہوں نے یہ پورٹ پی ایس اے کو اپنے امریکی اقارب

یہ پاکستان کیلئے آسان نہیں ہوگا کیونکہ اس اقدام سے علاقے کی جغرافیائی ”کو خوش کرنے کیلئے دی۔ سیاست میں طوفان آجائے گا۔ تجزیہ نگار فرمان کاکڑ کے نزدیک توانائی کے معاملے پر یہ نئی یوریشین

گریٹ گیم میں بنیادی تبدیلی ہوگی۔ اس سے ایران، پاکستان، انڈیا اور ترکمانستان، پاکستان، بھارت کے درمیان

تیل کی دوحریف پائپ لائنوں کے درمیان قبل ازیں دیکھی گئی پائپ لائن جنگ میں ایک نئے منظر کا اضافہ ہوتا ہے۔

گزشتہ دو دہائیوں میں افغانستان اور اس کے آس پاس ہونے والے بہت سے اقدامات کی اصل/بنیادی وجہ یہی جیوسٹریٹجک رقابت خیال کی جاتی ہے۔ دیگر چیزوں کے علاوہ گواہر کو چین کے حوالے کرنے کا اقدام آئی

پی آئی (ایران، پاکستان، انڈیا) پائپ لائن کو نئی حقیقت آئی پی سی (ایران، پاکستان، چین) میں بدلنے کی طرف پہلا قدم ہوسکتا ہے۔ یہ سرنامیہ (آئی پی آئی) ایران پاکستان گیس معاہدے سے بھارت کے نکل جانے کے بعد

پہلے ہی ختم کرچکا ہے۔ یہ گواہر پورٹ پر اختیارات کی منتقلی سے کہیں بڑھ کر اقدام ہوگا۔ چین گواہر ٹیکس

فری صنعتی زون قائم کرے گا جس میں ریفرنریاں بھی ہوسکتی ہیں اور قدیم شاہراہ ریشم پر گواہر سے چین تک سڑکوں اور ریلویز کا نیٹ ورک بھی تعمیر کرے گا۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان خنجراب پاس کے ساتھ ساتھ

ریلوے لائن کی تعمیر کا ایک انتہائی پرامید معاہدے کیلئے بھی دستخط ہوچکے ہیں۔ گواہر پورٹ کی ترقی اور

بلوچستان میں سڑک اور ریل نیٹ ورک کی تعمیر کیلئے چین زیادہ مناسب ہے کیونکہ ان کے پاس پاکستان کے

شورش زدہ وہ سینٹک میں پہلے ہی ”علاقوں میں کام کرنے کا تجربہ اور حوصلہ ہے۔ ایک صحافی بہرام بلوچ نے کہا کہ

”کام کر رہے ہیں اور اپنے ملازمین پر مسلسل حملوں اور اغوا کے باوجود انہوں نے گواہر پورٹ مکمل کی۔ چین کے پاس نہ ”چین ہی واحد ملک ہے جو بلوچستان کے سخت حالات میں کام کرسکتا ہے۔“ انہوں نے کہا کہ

صرف گوادری پورٹ کو قابل استعمال بنانے کی صلاحیت ہے بلکہ اس کے توسیعی منصوبے کو مکمل کرسکتے ہیں جس میں 2014ء تک اس کی موجودہ 3 برتھوں کو 18 تک بڑھانا شامل ہے۔ چینی تجارت کا حجم اس قدر زیادہ ہے کہ اگر چین تجارتی لحاظ سے تیزی کے ساتھ ترقی کرنے والے مغربی علاقوں کی تجارت کا صرف ایک حصہ بھی قراقرم کے ذریعے کرے تو گوادری پورٹ دینی جیسی بڑی علاقائی مراکز کو مات دے سکتی ہے۔ یہ گوادری کیلئے ان شہروں کی لیگ میں داخلے کا نقیب ہوسکتا ہے جس کا وہ ہمیشہ سے حق دار رہا مگر تاریخ کی موجوں نے ایسا نہ ہونے دیا۔ اس میں وہ تمام لوازمات ہوں گے جو اسے 21 ویں صدی کا ایک منفرد شہر بنا دیں گے۔ اس میں گہرے پانی کی بندر گاہ، ریل اور سڑکوں کا جال، ٹیکس فری صنعتی زون، آئل اور قدرتی گیس کی پائپ لائنیں ج شمال میں چین تک اور دوسری طرف مستحکم افغانستان سے ہوتی ہوئی وسطی ایشیاء تک پھیلی ہوں گی۔ گوادری ہائیڈرو کاربن سے بھرپور لیکن لینڈلاک وسطی ایشیاء کیلئے گیٹ وے بن سکتا ہے جو کہ زمینی اور بحری دونوں طرح کی نئی شاہراہ ریشم کا مرکز ہوگا اور جو ٹرانس شپنگ کیلئے علاقائی مرکز ہوگا جو کہ پاکستان کی روایتی جنوبی ایشیائی جھگڑوں سے ہٹ کر وسطی ایشیاء کی طرف رخ موڑنے کا نقیب ہوگا۔ اس کو جس چیز کی کمی کا سامنا ہے وہ سیاسی استحکام ہے جو کہ کسی بھی بڑے ایجنڈے پر عملدرآمد کیلئے لازمی ہوتا ہے۔ یہ کمزور ترین رابطہ ہوسکتا ہے جو ان تمام طاقتوں کی طرف سے مشکلات کی دعوت دیتا ہے جن کے مفادات گوادری میں متاثر ہوئے ہیں۔

پس ہمارے پاس پراکسی وار کا تھیٹر ہے جہاں سی آئی اے، موساد، را، خاد اور ایم آئی فائیو سمیت ہر کوئی ہمارے گھر کے پچھواڑے میں مشکلات پیدا کرنے میں ملوث ہوسکتا ہے۔ خواب کی سی اپنی تمام خوبیوں کے ساتھ گوادری میں نہ صرف مقامی تصور جھلکتا ہے بلکہ یہ دنیا بھر میں ارتعاش پیدا کئے ہوئے ہے۔ اس منصوبے پر ہمارے مشرقی ہمسائے ملک بھارت اور ہمارے دائیں جانب نیٹو فورسز یعنی امریکا کو بہت زیادہ اعتراضات ہوں گے۔ چین نے بھارت کے نقصان کا فائدہ اٹھایا۔ بیجنگ اور اسلام آباد کے درمیان معاہدہ ہوچکا جس کے تحت چین بھارت کی چھوڑی جانے والی زیادہ تر ایرانی گیس درآمد نہ کرے گا۔ اسلام آباد کو سالانہ ٹرانزٹ فیس کی مد میں ایک ارب ڈالر آمدنی کی توقع ہے خلیج فارس اور ایران سے تیل اور گیس کی درآمد کیلئے گوادری چین کیلئے آئیڈیل ٹرانزٹ کوریڈور ہے۔ یہ آبائے ملاکا جو امریکا کے زیر اثر ہے اور جہاں بیجنگ کو قزاقی کے مسائل کا سامنا ہے کی نسبت زیادہ سستا اور محفوظ متبادل روٹ ہے۔ تجزیہ نگاروں کا یہاں تک کہنا ہے کہ روسیوں کو بھی ایران پاکستان چین منصوبے سے کوئی مسئلہ نہیں۔ ایرانی گیس ساؤتھ ایشیاء کی طرف آنے سے روس کی گیز پرام کا یورپی مارکیٹ کیلئے ایک متحارب کم ہے۔ برسلز نبوسی پائپ لائن پر انحصار کر رہا تھا جو روسی گیس پر انحصار کم کرنے کیلئے روس کو بانی پاس کرتی ہے مگر نیوکو پراجیکٹ کا ایران یا ترکمانستان سے آنے والی گیس پر انحصار ہے۔ ترکمانستان کی ڈسٹری بیوشن کو روس کنٹرول کرتا ہے۔ ایران پاکستان چائنا منصوبہ نیوکو پراجیکٹ کو دوسرے بڑے ذریعہ سے محروم کرسکتا ہے۔ یہ واشنگٹن کیلئے ڈراؤنا خواب ہے۔ یہاں تک کہ پائپ لائن اگر افغانستان میں صورتحال امریکا کیلئے بہتر ہوتی ہے (TAPI) ترکمانستان افغانستان پاکستان انڈیا تو یہ ترکمانستان افغانستان پاکستان چائنا میں تبدیل ہوسکتی ہے۔ یہ تمام ان سازشی تھیوریوں کا چھٹکارا ثابت ہوسکتی ہے جس کا ہمیشہ (TAPC) دعویٰ کیا جاتا ہے کہ دہشت گردی کیخلاف امریکی جنگ کی اصل وجہ یہی انرجی گیم تھی۔ یہ بات آئندہ دنوں میں پاکستان اور اصل میں گوادری کو جنگ کے میدان کیلئے انتہائی اہم بناتی ہے۔ یہ بلوچستان کے معاملے کو ہینڈل کرنے کیلئے پاکستان کیلئے بھی بہت اہم ہے کہ وہ عالمی بساط پر بڑے کھیل کیلئے اپنے حصار مضبوط کرے۔ رابرٹ کیلان نے گوادری سے متعلق لکھا کہ اس کی ترقی یا توسیعی ایشیا کی امارت کے دروازے کھول دے گی یا پاکستان کو وحشت میں ڈبو دے گی جس میں سول وار کا مرکز بننے والے عوامل موجود ہیں۔ بلوچستان میں معاملات جس طرف جا رہے ہیں ایسا لگتا ہے ہم دوسرے آپشن کی طرف بڑھ رہے ہیں۔

All Day

Chinese takeaway -- The Dawn

Chinese takeaway

The strategically situated port at Gwadar in Balochistan is all set to be handed over to China. Having been constructed by Pakistan's "all-weather ally", the port's control may just have slipped from Singapore's clutches due to financial issues.

The News reported on September 16: "It will mean much more than the transfer of power at the Gwadar port. The Chinese will build Gwadar as a tax-free industrial hub... and a network of roads and railways... to China through the ancient Silk Route. An ambitious deal to build railways along the Khunjrab Pass has already been signed between Pakistan and China. The Chinese are more suited to develop the port and the network of rail and roads in Balochistan as they have experience and the muscle to work in the troublesome part of Pakistan."

An editorial in the newspaper the next day welcomed the development: "There are a number of points which would suggest that the Chinese may be more profitable partners for us at Gwadar. Not the least of these is the vast tonnage of shipping that they could bring in, the oil and gas termini they could develop and the potential for infrastructure development that would follow along. We have already inked an agreement with the Chinese for a feasibility study of a rail link roughly parallel to the Karakoram Highway. It is no stretch of the imagination to see that link running from Kashgar to Gwadar in the next 10 to 15 years. They are already working with us in Gilgit-Baltistan on the upgrading of the Karakoram Highway to an all-weather highway, they are resilient people and able to work in the sometimes difficult environment we present."

All Day

Japan grants \$407,318 for supporting flood victims -- Daily Times

Japan grants \$407,318 for supporting flood victims

ISLAMABAD: The government of Japan decided to extend financial support of \$ 407,318 to the Al-Khidmat Foundation, a non-government organisation, for the Project for Supporting the Flood Affected People in Charsadda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The agreement for the project was signed on Friday at the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Islamabad between Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Chihiro Atsumi and the president of Al-Khidmat Foundation Naimatullah Khan. The grant would be utilised for flood relief activities in Charsadda. This project would benefit more than 150,000 people that have lost their property, livestock, crop and shelter.

Ambassador Atsumi expressed hope that Japan's emergency relief would further strengthen the existing friendly relations between the people of Japan and Pakistan. The Japanese Disaster Relief Team started its airlift activities by helicopters in Multan and also started its medical support activities in southern Punjab. staff report

All Day

The United Nations and its partners on Friday launched an appeal for over \$2.6 billion -- UNITED NATIONS

UN launches \$2.6 billion appeal for flood-hit Pakistan

* Money will help fund 483 projects

* New appeal includes \$459.7 million requested earlier

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations and its partners on Friday launched an appeal for over \$2.6 billion – the largest ever – to help up to 14 million flood victims for one year.

The money would help fund 483 projects, which are to be carried out by 15 UN bodies, the International Organisation for Migration and 156 national and international non-government organisations (NGOs). The new appeal includes \$459.7 million requested earlier on August 11. A UN press statement said Pakistan's development prospects might be disrupted for many years.

“The damage to economic infrastructure and livelihoods is immense. Irrigation, drainage and storage facilities are badly affected. Farmers who lost their crops and who are not able to plant their fields by November are likely to remain dependent on aid until well into 2012. Hundreds of thousands more lost their shops or other small businesses.”

“We are seeing the equivalent of a new disaster every few days,” said Valerie Amos, the UN under secretary general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator. “Yesterday, new breaches of the embankments of Manchhar Lake flooded more villages. Millions of people have lost everything. Our task is to give people the help they need,” she added. The appeal seeks funding for various sectors, including agriculture; camp coordination and management, community restoration; coordination; education, food, health, logistics, nutrition, protection, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene. From the initial request of \$459 million, 80 percent has been received, leaving a gap of \$1.6 billion.

“The size of the revised appeal reflects the enormous human and geographic scale of the catastrophe, and the necessity of putting into place the right kind of early recovery, including projects in agriculture, community restoration, education, health and shelter,” the statement read. app

All Day

China makes huge inroads in PoK -- TIMES NOW

China makes huge inroads in PoK

TIMES NOW: China's investments in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). China is pumping in billions of dollars, funding 14 mega infrastructure projects in the Gilgit Baltistan region.

General VK Singh, Army Chief said, I think it is more for all type of recce extra that they are doing for making various infrastructure projects in PoK." There are a total of 14 Chinese mega projects in that territory that includes upgrading the Karakoram highway, a bridge over river Jhelum costing over a billion, a 750 kilometre rail link through Khunjerab Pass and funding of 11 billion dollars for the Bhasha Dam.

All Day

Pak China cooperation in building submarines, bigger ships war identified:Admiral Noman -- APP

Pak China cooperation in building submarines, bigger ships war identified:Admiral Noman

BEIJING, Sept 19 (APP): After successful completion of construction of three F-22 P Frigates in China, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Noman Bashir said that Pakistan has identified to China the cooperation in the field of construction of submarine, bigger war ships, acquiring modern weapons and equipments. "We have the history of cooperation in the Navy with China like we have cooperation in all other fields", said Noman Bashir while talking to media here at a reception on Saturday evening in which Ambassador of Pakistan to China Masood Khan was also present.

The CNS said that Pakistan Navy has already taken over three Frigates and the fourth one is being constructed with Chinese cooperation in Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works and hoped that like the three frigates, the construction of fourth ship in Karachi will be completed ahead of schedule.

"We will not stop here and this cooperation will continue", said Admiral Noman Bashir while replying to a question.

He said that during his meetings with Chinese side, he had identified areas including building of submarines, as so far we had not entered into joint construction of submarines.

This is one of areas Pakistan would now like to explore, he noted.

He said that Pakistan also like to go for construction of bigger ships with cooperation of China.

These ships would be bigger than the current F-22 P Frigates, he added.

There is lot of discussion that are taking place, he said adding "obviously we will have the ships and submarines which will be according to our requirements and specifications".

Also, the CNS said that in the areas of weapons and sensors we are going beyond what we had.

On floods in Pakistan and Chinese relief assistance, Admiral Noman Bashir said that we are grateful to the government and the people of China for their timely assistance for the flood affected people.

He said that the Chinese Medical team is doing an excellent job and Pakistan Navy has taken the responsibility to look after them.

He said that before coming here he went to the Chinese Mobile Hospital which was established in Thatta and they were doing remarkable job.

In addition to medical team and hospital, there was lot of flood relief supplies we received from China.

Flood had caused great deal of damage in Pakistan, said Admiral Noman Bashir adding that these unprecedented floods we did not experience in our history.

The floods are not confined to one part of the country, but caused widespread damage from north to south, he added.

All Day

Pakistan confirmed that co-production with China submarines and large warships -- LONDON

Pakistan confirmed that co-production with China submarines and large warships

China, Pakistan built F-22P missile frigate

LONDON September 20 News: Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) 19 日 reported that Pakistan Navy Chief of Staff 诺曼巴希尔 (NomanBashir) General said that following the successful completion of three in the Chinese F-22P frigates production after Pakistan and China have been determined to be larger in the production of submarines and warships, as well as procurement of modern weapons and equipment to cooperate.

18 evening, Bashir said in the media conference: "As we and China in all other areas of cooperation, both countries also cooperate with the history of the Navy." Pakistani Ambassador Masood Khan also attended the meeting.

According to al-Bashir said that Pakistan Navy has already received three frigates, the first four are within a shipyard in Karachi Pakistan joint construction. Palestinians hope that the first four frigates to the same as the other three, completed ahead of schedule. Referring to the performance of F-22P frigates, the al-Bashir will be said: "We are very satisfied with its performance, some of the technology is not inferior to the West."

Bashir will visit to China four times last year, said Pakistan wants to buy from China have more firepower and greater ships, such as the 4,000-ton frigate. It also plans to buy more British and French warships. Pakistan and China had proposed in the military and commercial fields (such as fisheries, economic development zones and goods, etc.) to develop strategic cooperation at sea.

When answering questions, he said: "We will not end, this cooperation will continue." Bashir pointed out that staff met with the Chinese side, he has identified areas of cooperation including the construction of submarines. He said that so far has not co-production between China and Pakistan submarine, and this is Pakistan now want to develop one of the areas.

In addition, al-Bashir said that Pakistan also hopes to build warships, submarines and more large-scale cooperation with the Chinese. He added that these ships may be higher than the current F-22P frigates more. Bashir said the two sides are currently carrying out a lot of discussion on this, "We are obviously in accordance with their requirements and specifications for the construction of warships and submarines Lai." Moreover, al-Bashir said the two countries will deepen the cooperation in the field of weapons and sensors.

Earlier there were reports that Pakistan's strategic organizations and the Beijing government also plans to discuss the training and leasing nuclear submarines. Chinese navy's "summer class" ballistic missile submarine could be a suitable start, Pakistani government has selected a group of Pakistani naval officer, to learn how control of ballistic missile submarines: Xian Li Lun in An Shang study or academic knowledge, then Haishang for operational training, and finally to the strategic deployment.

Referring to Pakistan's flood and disaster relief assistance to China, al-Bashir said that they are very grateful to the Chinese government and people for the people of Pakistan and timely relief in the affected areas. He said members of the Chinese medical team did a great job, Pakistani naval duty to protect them properly.

Bashir said to the venue before he went to the Chinese medical staff in the tower (Thatta), China set up mobile hospitals, he said that the Chinese medical staff done a good job. Bashir also said that, in addition to medical teams and hospitals, Pakistan also received a large number of relief supplies from China.

All Day

Pakistan Navy to build Submarines with China -- The Nation

Pakistan Navy to build Submarines with China

EmailWritten by moinansari on Sep-19-10 3:22pm

From: militarystrat.wordpress.com

After successful completion of construction of three F-22 P Frigates in China, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Noman Bashir said that Pakistan has identified to China the cooperation in the field of construction of submarine, bigger war ships, acquiring modern weapons and equipments.

"We have the history of cooperation in the Navy with China like we have cooperation in all other fields", said Noman Bashir while talking to media here at a reception on Saturday evening in which Ambassador of Pakistan to China Masood Khan was also present.

The CNS said that Pakistan Navy has already taken over three Frigates and the fourth one is being constructed with Chinese cooperation in Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works and hoped that like the three frigates, the construction of fourth ship in Karachi will be completed ahead of schedule.

"We will not stop here and this cooperation will continue", said Admiral Noman Bashir while replying to a question.

He said that during his meetings with Chinese side, he had identified areas including building of submarines, as so far we had not entered into joint construction of submarines.

This is one of areas Pakistan would now like to explore, he noted. He said that Pakistan also like to go for construction of bigger ships with cooperation of China.

These ships would be bigger than the current F-22 P Frigates, he added. There is lot of discussion that are taking place, he said adding "obviously we will have the ships and submarines which will be according to our requirements and specifications".

Also, the CNS said that in the areas of weapons and sensors we are going beyond what we had. The Nation.

All Day

Govt to ink GPFA of TAPI on September 20 -- Daily Times

Govt to ink GPFA of TAPI on September 20

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: The federal government will reportedly ink the Gas Pipeline Framework Agreement (GPFA) of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline on September 20.

Sources informed Daily Times that Federal Minister for Petroleum & Natural Resources Syed Naveed Qamar would ink the GPFA agreement along with the counterpart ministers from Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and India on September 20.

TAPI gas pipeline project is being planned to bring natural gas from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan to Pakistan and India. The Heads of State of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan signed Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) for joint oil and gas pipeline projects between the three countries in 2002.

India joined the project in 2008 and a revised GPFA was initialled for the induction of India, thus changing the project from TAP to TAPI. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) sponsored pre-feasibility study – conducted in 2004, which indicated that the 1680 km pipeline project was economically and financially viable while the estimated cost was \$3.3 billion (revised to \$ 7.6 billion in 2008).

“Pipeline would be designed to carry 3.2 BCFD gas from Turkmenistan, delivering 0.5 BCFD to Afghanistan and 1.35 BCFD each to Pakistan and India. Pakistan would be able to produce 6000 MW electricity using 1.35 BCFD gas,” he added.

Sources maintained that President Asif Ali Zardari has directed Syed Naveed Qamar to expedite concluding various agreements with the target of finalising Gas Sales Purchase Agreement by the end of this year or early next year.

He further added that after the signing of GPFA in Ashgabat next week, rigorous rounds of negotiations would be convened in order to finalise the Gas Sales Purchase Agreement during a proposed TAPI summit in Ashgabat. The renewed attention to this project from the present government would lead to significantly improving energy availability for Pakistan and help resolve the energy crisis.

Turkmenistan and Afghanistan had signed an agreement on construction of the Trans-Afghanistan (TAPI) gas pipeline for the transfer of Turkmen gas to Pakistan and India, on August 31 (Tuesday), however TAPI project, first put forward in 1995, was promoted by the country's late leader, Saparmurat Niyazov, in the early 2000s.

It secured strong support from Washington after a US-led offensive ended the Taliban's five-year rule over Afghanistan in 2001. Turkmen President Kurbanguly Berdymukhamedov and his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai have agreed to discuss the project at the 65th United Nations General Assembly in New York in September.

All Day

India signs deal for Turkmen gas through Afghanistan, Pakistan -- (IANS) India

India signs deal for Turkmen gas through Afghanistan, Pakistan 2010-09-20 22:10:00

New Delhi, Sep 20 (IANS) India, along with Pakistan, Afghanistan and Turkmenistan, Monday signed the gas sales purchase agreement (GSPA) for the trans-national pipeline project, which will transport gas from Turkmenistan to all these countries.

Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Jitin Prasada represented India at the meeting of the steering committee for the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline held at Turkmenistan's capital Ashgabat, a release issued by the petroleum and natural gas ministry here said.

Two documents were signed Monday by the four countries at the meeting. These included the heads of agreements for the proposed Gas Sales Purchase Agreement (GSPA) and initialization of the Gas Pipeline Framework Agreement (GPFA).

'The cabinet has already given in-principle approval to the GPFA. However the final signing would be done only after the Cabinet approves this document,' the press release said.

The meeting was also attended by Turkmenistan Deputy Prime Minister Baymyrat Hojammedov, Turkmenistan Oil and Gas Minister B. Nedirow, Afghan Mining Industry Minister Wahidullah Shahrani and Pakistan's Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Naveed Qamar.

Under the TAPI project, a 1,680-km pipeline will be laid down with a capacity of 90 million metric standard cubic metre per day (mmscmd). India would get a share of 38 mmscmd.

As per the release, Prasada said the project could be successful only if the transit fees for the gas through various countries is kept 'at minimum'. He added that the pricing and the GSPA issues had to be resolved to the full satisfaction of all partner countries.

Further, the security issues had to be 'properly addressed', so that there was complete clarity on institutional mechanisms to address this subject, added Prasada.

All Day**Pak Datacom signs national capacity deal with O3b Networks -- Telecom Paper**

Pak Datacom signs national capacity deal with O3b Networks

Monday 20 September 2010 | 08:55 CET

Pakistani data network operator Pak Datacom has signed a multi-year, multi-million dollar contract with US satellite services provider O3b Networks as O3b's supplier of services into the Pakistan market. The agreement will provide national and international satellite capacity to deploy high-speed internet to all borders of Pakistan. O3b's Medium Earth Orbit satellites provide the company with fibre like capacity and backhaul services for fixed and mobile operators in Pakistan. Pak Datacom has reserved about 1728 Megahertz of raw capacity to provide national coverage.

All Day**Pakistan to sign TAPIs' GPFA -- Islamabad**

Pakistan to sign TAPIs' GPFA

Islamabad—The Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Syed Naveed Qamar will sign the Gas Pipeline Framework Agreement (GPFA) of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan- India (TAPI) gas pipeline in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on September 20.

A press release issued on Friday said that the signing ceremony will attend counterpart of Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Naveed Qamar from Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and India. The minister left for Ashgabat today.

TAPI gas pipeline project is being planned to bring natural gas from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan to Pakistan and India.

The Heads of State of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan signed Inter Government Agreement (IGA) for joint oil and gas pipeline GPFA was initialled for the induction of India, thus changing the project from TAP to TAPI.

The ADB sponsored pre-feasibility study, conducted in 2004, indicated that the 1680 km pipeline project was economically and financially viable and estimated cost was US\$ 3.3 billion (revised to US\$ 7.6 billion in 2008).—APP

All Day**Turkmen and Texan oilmen -- Nicholas Watson in Prague**

Turkmen and Texan oilmen

September 20, 2010

Taking a leaf out of the geopolitical strategy book of neighbouring Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan appears from its latest moves to be following a similar oil and gas development policy that's geared toward balancing the competing claims of Asia, Russia and the West.

The latest move concerns diversifying export routes for the country's natural gas. On September 20, the energy ministers of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India are scheduled to sign an agreement in Ashgabat to build the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline. This southern route for Turkmenistan's gas exports – which currently consists of two pipelines to Iran that sent just 6bn cm of gas in 2009 – offers a third way to the traditional northern route to Russia and the new eastern route to China. The TAPI pipeline would run some 1,700 kilometres south and have a throughput capacity of 30bn cubic metres per year (cm/y). At the same time, Berdymukhamedov is pushing his government to conclude gas supply agreements with Pakistan and India, which have expressed interest in buying up to 70bn cm/y of Turkmen gas.

However, pipelines are a bit like houses in that if one has been on the market for a long time, it usually means there's something wrong with it. The problem for TAPI, which has been on the drawing board since the 1990s, is the chronic instability in Afghanistan, which shows no sign of improving any time soon. "I would say the Turkmen are fairly serious about the pipeline, but the project itself seems to stand little chance of proceeding; pushing for TAPI progress in itself could be beneficial for Turkmenistan, however, in perhaps balancing out China's rising influence in Turkmenistan with a potential counterweight in India," says Andrew Neff of the consultancy IHS Global Insight.

China has been the main beneficiary so far of Turkmenistan's attempts to diversify its export routes, with the building of the Central Asia-China gas pipeline that runs through Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan and a long-term supply agreement struck with China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) that should see Turkmen gas exports eventually reach 30bn cm/y over the next few decades.

On 13 August, Turkmenistan state television reported that during a meeting with his top energy officials, Berdymukhammedov pushed for the finalisation of a \$4.1bn loan from China's state development bank, which would go toward building a "state-of-the-art complex for cleaning gas so its quality meets the highest international standards", as well as development of the South Yolotan gas deposit, which UK-based international advisory firm Gaffney Cline & Associates in 2008 estimated has between at least 4 trillion cm and 14 trillion cm, with its "best" estimate at 6 trillion cm, which would rank it among the world's top five gasfields.

"The Turkmen government has yet to say who, if anyone, it would involve in developing the [South Yolotan] field, but China is light years ahead in the race – not even a real competition at this point," says Neff. "China has the advantage in terms of finances, infrastructure – the Central Asia-China pipeline is now a reality, whereas Nabucco is still more of an idea than anything else and a trans-Caspian pipeline would still be needed after that – and geographic proximity. Plus, CNPC has already clinched a long-term gas purchase and supply deal with Turkmenistan, and South Yolotan gas is likely going to be needed to help fulfil this deal."

Any mention of the European Union-backed Nabucco gas pipeline was notably absent from the state television report, which will be a worry for Brussels. But

perhaps the most surprising omission was reference to the country's traditional energy partner, Russia.

All Day

ADB expands Pakistan trade finance by \$500m -- ISLAMABAD

ADB expands Pakistan trade finance by \$500m

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is expanding its Trade Finance Programme (TFP) in Pakistan by an additional \$500 million, an ADB statement issued stated on Monday.

It said that this could provide around \$1.5 to \$2 billion of trade finance to help the country cope with the immediate needs arising from the recent devastating floods as well as long-term reconstruction requirements.

ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda announced this at a high-level ministerial meeting on the flood emergency in Pakistan, held at the UN building in New York.

The TFP provides loans and guarantees through, and in conjunction with, international and ADB's developing member country banks to support trade transactions in developing countries. By attracting private sector financing, and because the typically short-term trade finance can roll over, the impact of the additional funding had multiplied. In 2009, TFP exposure of \$249 million to Pakistan banks supported \$983 million in trade.

"The widespread flooding has exacted a heavy toll on the people of Pakistan. They will need medicines and food straight away and, later on, capital equipment to get the economy humming again," Kuroda said

All Day

China to build 1GW nuclear power plant in Pakistan -- BEIJING

((China))

China to build 1GW nuclear power plant in Pakistan

BEIJING: China's main nuclear energy corporation is in talks to build a 1GW atomic power plant in Pakistan, a China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) executive said on Monday.

China has already helped Pakistan build its main nuclear power facility at Chashma in Punjab, where one reactor is running and another nearly finished, and it has contracts to build two more there, despite the qualms of other governments. Qiu Jiangang, vice president of the CNNC, told a meeting in Beijing that the company was already looking beyond those deals to an even bigger plant.

"Both sides are in discussions over CNNC exporting a 1GW nuclear plant to Pakistan," he said. Qiu confirmed the two countries had signed contracts to build the No 3 and No 4 reactors of about 300MW each at Chashma. He did not give details about who was involved in discussions for the bigger plant and how far the talks had progressed.

A senior Pakistani government official familiar with discussions between Pakistan and China on nuclear cooperation said, "We are facing acute energy shortages and these nuclear power plants are important for us to overcome these shortages." "We as well as China have said time and again that all this cooperation is under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency and there should not be any worries or concerns about it," said the official, who demanded anonymity. reuters

All Day

ECO agrees on China -Pakistan -Iran-Turkey railway line project -- Online

ECO agrees on China -Pakistan -Iran-Turkey railway line project

ISLAMABAD: The recently convened meeting of ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) has agreed on the CPIT (China-Pakistan-Iran-Turkey) railway line project.

The 4-day meeting of the organization held recently in Islamabad, has reportedly

agreed on starting the Pakistan -Turkey railway services through Iran.

Briefing media after the conclusion of the 4-day meeting, about further issues and agreements as finalized by the council, secretary planning commission, Ghiasuddin Ahmad and secretary general ECO, Khurshid Ahmad Anwar informed that all member countries participated in the meeting which deliberated in such important economic issues like planning infrastructure development, trade and investment, Agriculture and livestock, tourism, industry, and minerals, while member countries also deliberated about establishment of a geological databank.

The meeting also discussed mutual means to promote technical expertise among manpower of member countries in order to fill the required needs.

Close coordination with global organizations like World Bank and Islamic Development Bank was also stressed by members in order to fulfill the financial obligations of such projects like basic health, primary and higher education and development, energy supply and infrastructure.

An increase of 15% in mutual trade, from the current 7% between members in the coming 3- 5 years was also agreed upon, while all the participants, which included Pakistan, Turkey, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Iran expressed their satisfaction over the proceedings which also suggested and agreed to enhance the current trade volume of Rs 38 billion.

A meeting in Turkey has been chalked out for this purpose, which would also focus on issues of problems being faced regarding reduction of tariff, and stressed on speeding work on ongoing feasibility study being prepared by NESPAK and Kyrgyz Technical University regarding ECO power system.

All Day

PR signs MoU with Chinese company -- Islamabad

PR signs MoU with Chinese company

Islamabad—Pakistan Railways on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with China Railway Material Import and Export Company. Under the agreement the Chinese company will provide 25,000 metric ton rails to Pakistan Railway.

Minister for Railways Haji Ghulam Ahmed Bilour and Vice President of the Chinese company Liang Jian Zhong has signed the MOU, GM Chinese company Chneng Xianzhou and PR high officials were also present on the occasion.

The 16000 ton rail material would be utilized on Khanewal and Raiwind track while 9000 ton rail material will be used along Lohdhan and Shahdhan track for improvement of signals up-gradation.

The project would cost US\$ 20.625 million, while Pakistan government will provide Rs. 600 million while for remaining expenses talks in progress with China Exim Bank for loan. The project will be completed within 6 months. Minister for Railways Haji Ghulam Ahmed Bilour talking to media said that Pak-China friendship is time-tested and China is a trustworthy friend of Pakistan.

He said that the government of Pakistan had given a lot of incentives to Chinese investors to invest in Pakistan so that the economic ties between the two countries would be further strengthened.

Vice President of the Chinese company Liang Jian Zhong said that government and the people of China always regard Pakistan as their true friend and hoped that existing relations between the two countries would further strengthen in time to come. He said that China also values its relations with Pakistan and these relations would be further improved.

He further said China and Pakistan are the time tested and hoped that this relation would grow in future.—APP

All Day

The framework agreement on TransAfghan gas pipeline is signed in Ashgabat -- Ferghana.Ru

The framework agreement on TransAfghan gas pipeline is signed in Ashgabat 21.09.2010 12:46 msk

During 11th session of the steering committee for Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) the heads of member-state branch ministers signed the framework agreement in Ashgabat on the construction of the gas pipeline, Turkmenistan.Ru reports. The meeting was also attended by the representatives of Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The heads of the branch companies signed the Protocol of amendment to the agreement chapters on purchase and sale of natural gas. The session participants discussed and approved the draft Agreement between the governments of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India on TAPI gas pipeline project implementation.

Besides, the participants also approved the meeting schedule of technical working groups and TAPI steering committee in October-November that will prepare final version of the agreements. These documents are going to be presented at the summit of member-states leaders, preliminary scheduled to December in Ashgabat.

Turkmen side also presented the report of independent auditor – Gaffney Cline Company – on certification of Yuzhnyi Eloten (Iolotan) field reserves. In the opinion of guests, the reserves of this gigantic field "evidently prove the capacity of Turkmenistan to ensure long term supply of natural gas to the world markets".

The negotiations on TAPI project have been in progress for over 15 years, says ITAR-TASS. The cost of the pipeline is estimated at \$7.6 billion. The length of the pipeline will reach 1680 kilometers, beginning with Dovletabad field in Turkmenistan and ending with Fazilka settlement at the border of India and Pakistan.

All Day

Three-day seminar on Pak-China FTA -- LAHORE

Three-day seminar on Pak-China FTA

LAHORE: A three-day seminar on "Pakistan's Free Trade Agreement with China" has started here on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, economists said exporters and traders got practical working tips for exports from China in social, historical and economic perspective. Pakistan needed a comprehensive trade plan to enhance its trade volume and to sustain its trade footing in the international trading markets.

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Director Lahore Shahzad Hussain Rana highlighted the salient features regarding duty concessions of Pakistan-China FTA. He also highlighted the efforts of TDAP in organising this seminar, which he opined, would help exporters in introducing their export products in the countries who have signed FTA's with Pakistan.

GCU Lahore Economics Department Chairperson Asif Saeed said Pakistan needed to chalk out a comprehensive trade plan to overcome its trade deficits and for gaining economic exposure in order to improve its trade growth with China. He highlighted the basic trends and dynamics of South Asian trade flows.

Brigadier Mohammad Saeed Sharif highlighted the practical working tips for exporters in context of social, historical and economic perspective of China. Other speakers including Siddiq-ur-Rehman Rana, Shahid Mehmood made their deliberations on various issues pertaining to Pak China FTA. staff report

All Day

British Foreign Secretary welcome EU's Pakistan measures -- Daily Times

British Foreign Secretary welcome EU's Pakistan measures

LONDON, Sept 22 (APP): British Foreign Secretary William Hague has welcomed package of measures announced by the European Union to help Pakistan's recovery from the devastating floods. In a statement released by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, he said: "Pakistan needs real help urgently after the appalling damage wreaked by the floods. So the British Government is very pleased that EU leaders were able to agree on measures that will significantly aid Pakistan's recovery. Getting that agreement at the EU summit was a major priority for us".

"It took some serious effort from the Prime Minister, myself and other partners to get the deal done at the talks but in the end we achieved a genuinely good result. Our task now is to make sure that these agreed measures are actually delivered and delivered soon."

The EU Summit at Brussels while pledging additional humanitarian and development aid also agreed as trade measure to boost growth including commitment to make Pakistan eligible for the EU's preferential GSP plus scheme from 2014 subject to certain conditions.

The European Commission will now explore options with WTO partners, with a view to presenting a finalised proposal next month.

All Day

Column: Pakistan is a part of China's westward challenge to the U.S. -- BY XIAOXIONG

Column: Pakistan is a part of China's westward challenge to the U.S.

Buzz up! Twitter Fark! Type Size A A A Beijing is embarking on a new strategy with regard to Islamabad. Pakistan is becoming a key player in China's ambitious westward expansion vis-à-vis the United States in West Asia and the Indian Ocean.

"A quiet geopolitical crisis," writes Selig Harrison, former South Asia Bureau Chief of the Washington Post, "is unfolding in the Himalayan borderlands of northern Pakistan, where Islamabad is handing over de facto control of the strategic Gilgit-Baltistan region in the northern part of disputed Kashmir to China ... and 11,000 Chinese troops have poured into the Pakistani-administered Kashmir."

Indian military sources confirmed a Chinese infantry battalion now is deployed in Gilgit-Baltistan at the Khunjerab Pass to provide security for Chinese workers and railroad soldiers to work on widening the Karakoram highway and building a high-speed railroad.

The control of Pakistani-administered Kashmir will give China a strategic land access to the Gulf through Pakistan. As Harrison points out, "It takes 16 to 25 days for Chinese tankers to reach the Gulf. When high-speed rail and road links through Gilgit-Baltistan are completed, China will be able to transport cargo from Eastern China to the new Chinese-built Pakistani naval bases at Gwadar, Pasni and Ormara, just east of the Gulf, within 48 hours."

Chinese People's Liberation Army soldiers also are constructing 22 tunnels in secret locations in Pakistan. One obvious use of these tunnels is for the projected gas pipeline from Iran to China, but they also can be used for missile storage sites in Pakistan.

Analysts in Southeast and South Asia now see Pakistan as "China's other North Korea." As K. Subrahmanyam, senior defense analyst of Indian Express, summarizes, "major projects in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), large-scale military presence in PoK, plans for a railway line and oil and gas pipelines connecting Xinjiang and the Pakistani port of Gwadar, and the agreement to supply Pakistan with two nuclear reactors, all these taken together indicate that Pakistan is

likely to play the major role in China's West Asia strategy that North Korea does in its East Asia strategy."

China is not only the biggest arms supplier for Pakistan, but Islamabad also depends on Beijing for transfer of technology and military know-how. China has not only modernized Pakistani armed forces, but also established many advanced joint military projects in Pakistan. China has provided Pakistan's military with more than 400 combat aircrafts, 1,600 large tanks, and 40 navy ships.

Pakistan's nuclear and missile projects are backed by China as well. China has consistently provided Pakistan with wide-ranging assistance in helping Pakistan to develop nuclear weapons and a variety of missiles, ranging from short range M-11s to medium range M-9s and intermediate range M-18s, capable of carrying nuclear warheads with an estimated reach of 500-1800 kilometers. "If you subtract China's help from the Pakistani nuclear program," says Gary Milhollin of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, "there is no Pakistani nuclear program."

China's "generous" assistance to Pakistan is not limited to military and nuclear fronts, but includes the economic front as well. More than 60 Chinese state corporations and more than 10,000 Chinese technicians are working on more than 120 projects in Pakistan. Chinese investment in Pakistan's defense, banking, oil exploration and mining sectors was valued at \$10 billion in 2009, a figure estimated to grow to \$15 billion in 2010.

Pakistan is a critical link in the chain of China's new "westward strategy." Beijing's Pakistan policy, together with its support for Tehran's nuclear weapons program and its sale of long-range missiles to Saudi Arabia, all are connected in China's move to take advantage of what Beijing perceives as declining U.S. power in the region.

China is marching westward through Pakistan. Beijing also is making Islamabad increasingly dependent on China. When asked if Islamabad is worried about Chinese state-owned enterprises taking control of some of Pakistan's most important companies, Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari stated, "We don't have any concern, and we don't feel China is a threat." "Pakistan's future lies in East with China," Azam Khan Swati, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Science and Technology, remarked recently.

Although the United States has confirmed the information about the growing Sino-Pakistan nexus, and despite President Barack Obama's repeated declarations that Pakistan is central to American security, Pakistan is a country that remains largely ignored by the United States. Washington has made no effort to counter the rising Beijing-Islamabad military alliance and adopted no tangible policy against the nuclear aid by China. It is time for the U.S. to look seriously at the Sino-Pakistan nexus.

All Day

OIC announces US\$ 1 billion for flood affectees -- Online

OIC announces US\$ 1 billion for flood affectees

KARACHI: Members of OIC (Organization of Islamic Countries) by establishing relief fund for the flood hit people across the country announced US one billion dollars as donation in the concerned fund.

Secretary General OIC, Prof Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu announced this after meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari at CM house here on Tuesday. Both the leaders discussed the devastation of torrent floods and relief operations in details.

President Asif Ali Zardari at the occasion said that the rescue operation for the flood affected people has been completed and then relief and rehabilitation activities would be started. The compensation amount received for the flood hit people would be distributed transparently, the President added.

All Day

TDAP organises seminar on 'FTA with China' -- Business Recorder

TDAP organises seminar on 'FTA with China'

HASSAN ABBAS

LAHORE (September 22, 2010) : Pakistan needs a comprehensive trade plan to enhance its trade volume and to sustain its trade footing in the international trading markets. Experts on international trade stated this while addressing the participants of three days seminar on Pakistan's Free Trade Agreement with China. The three day seminar was organised by Trade Development Authority Of Pakistan (TDAP).

Commercial Attaché of the Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China in Pakistan, Li Sen was also present on the occasion. He also briefed the participants about the possibilities of bilateral trade between the two countries in different sectors.

Participants of the seminar said that the Free Trade Agreement should be beneficial for both the countries and government should help the business men who wants to do business with China. They also said that there is a lot of potential in the trade of livestock sector with China and there is a need to explore the market in China.

The seminar was addressed by Director TDAP Lahore Shehzad Hussain Rana, Chairman Economics Department Government College University Lahore Asif Saeed, Ex-Commercial Counsellor of Beijing Shahid Mahmood Khan, Chairman Pak-China and ASEAN Economic Relations Siddiq-ur-Rehman Rana and Ex-Defence Attaché Beijing Brigadier Muhammad Saeed.

Speaking on the occasion Director Privatisation Commission of Pakistan Kausar Ali Zaidi while explaining the rules of Origin of Pak-China Free Trade Agreement said that claim products be accepted for preferential concession is to be supported by a Certificate of Origin issued by a government authority designated by the exporting Party and notified to the other Party to the Agreement in accordance with the operational certification procedures.

He also said that preservation of exportable products should be ensured. It should be make sure that products should be in good condition during transportation and storage process such as drying, freezing, keeping in brine, ventilation, spreading out, chilling, placing in salt, sulphur dioxide or other aqueous solutions, removal of damaged parts.

Head Research & Analysis Directorate WTO Cell, TDAP Mujeb Khan speaking on the exploring Pakistan's Export Potential to China in the context of Pak-China Free Trade Agreement said that Pakistan's import from China are quite diversified. It imports every thing except petroleum from China.

He said that Except "frozen fish" all items exported to China are not final goods; they are secondary goods or raw material, which is used for further production. He further said that cellular phone sets and network installation equipments are the biggest imports from China and in category - 1 of the FTA. During 2009 Pakistan's import of all kind of telephony appliances including cell phones and its network installation equipment was 66.4 percent of total import of Pakistan.

Pakistan imports almost its entire requirement of; Artificial/Synthetic & Man-made filament yarn, Dredgers, Nitrile-function compounds, from China. However, items like Pesticides/insecticides/herbicides, Electric transformers, Pneumatic tires of rubber, Antibiotics, Oxygen-function amino compounds, Boilers, Plastic made machine parts account for nearly of 50 percent of Pakistan's world imports.

Khan said that for the fiscal year 2009-10 TDAP issued 8058 Certificate of Origin for Pak China FTA, which export value was \$561.178 million. This is over 50 percent higher than last year performance. However, total final figure for this year is yet to be released by FBS, after which detailed analysis can be done.

"Pakistan total export to China during last financial year 2008-09 was US \$684.793 million, however under FTA this export value was 372.153 million, which is 54.34 percent of total export to China. This fact implies that importers of Pakistani

products in China were able to get only half of benefit available under Pak-China FTA," he said.

He further said that 53 non-textiles and non-leather items in which Pakistan's world exports was above \$3 million and Chinese import was more than \$10 million in the year 2009. These items account for only \$ half a million worth of exports to China, whereas; Pakistan's export to the world of these products was \$1,539 million. China's world import of these items were \$14,931 million.

There are 9 items, which are given zero rate market access. Pakistan total export of these items to the world was \$205.5 million. Pakistan could export only 3 items which made \$56 thousand export and remaining 6 items were not exported. It implies that there was a large number of items, which have great potential in Chinese markets, which if utilise properly can generate over \$1 billion export earnings.

About the potential items for the bilateral trade between the two countries he said that Cotton yarn is the only product on export of which Pakistani exporters are availing concession almost 85 percent of total export consignments. There are few items, on export of which Pakistani exporters have availed concessions on a very few consignments, these are Cotton fabrics, Chemicals, Handicraft (Marble), Goat hair, Salt, Copper wire, Plaster of Paris and Razor Blades etc-etc.

All Day

German investors show keen interest in Pakistan

German investors show keen interest in Pakistan
Ashraf Ansari

Islamabad—German investors are keen to invest in Pakistan to take advantage of investment friendly policy of the government here.

Stephen Roken, Charge d'Affairs of German embassy said this while giving details about recently concluded visit of 21-member German business delegation to Pakistan.

Talking to journalists along with Dr. Gregor Schotten, Counsellor Political and Economic Affairs and head of Economic Section, Stephen Roken said, the 21-member delegation went home with positive impression of Pakistan. Stehpen said, "It was one if the most important visits of German investors to Pakistan.

The members of the delegation were German businessmen from various sectors such as energy, construction, engineering, environmental technologies, business consulting and other fields.

He said there is possibility for investment in solar and wind energy development.

Replying to a question, he said, although terrorism is part of the reality, but the 21-member German delegation who visited recently was satisfied with the security arrangements made in Pakistan and convinced that perception of security situation being presented in media was wrong. He said 36 German companies are successfully engaged in business in Pakistan and more would come in near future especially in the sector of renewable energy sector.

Replying to a question on the possibility of German investment in other energy sector, German Charge Affairs said, circular debt of billions of rupees, bad management in energy sector and lack of proper energy policy were the major hurdles in the way of foreign investment in this sector.

He said security of payment for the energy produced in the country, was not certain. There is need to have a comprehensive energy policy to encourage foreign investment in this sector.

The world, he said, is not in favour of increasing power rates for the poor, but the subsidy to the influential who can pay, should not be given concessions. Answering a question he said, German will representatives from agriculture sector would visit Pakistan soon as there is great potential for joint ventures and start new projects in Pakistan with German assistance.

All Day

Pakistan Urging Persian Gulf Loans for Farmers: Islamic Finance -- BLOOMBERG

Pakistan Urging Persian Gulf Loans for Farmers: Islamic Finance

By Khalid Qayum - Sep 23, 2010 1:05 PM GMT+0500

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BuzzPrint Pakistan's central bank, seeking to double Islamic banking assets in three years, is urging lenders from the Persian Gulf to open branches in rural areas.

Albaraka Banking Group, the largest publicly traded Islamic bank in Bahrain, is increasing branches to 80 from 30, Kaleem Iqbal, a senior executive vice president at the local unit, said in a Sept. 21 interview in Islamabad. Meezan Bank, controlled by Kuwait's Noor Financial Investment Co., is opening 25 outlets this year, said Amir Ali, head of investment banking in Karachi.

Gulf banks are looking outside of the region for expansion after lending that complies with Shariah law slumped 46 percent to \$3.3 billion in Europe, the Middle East and Africa this year, compared with \$6 billion in the same period of 2009,

according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Pakistan has six Islamic banks with 668 branches and plans to approve two more as it seeks to boost lending to rural communities, Saleem Ullah, director of Islamic banking at the Karachi-based central bank, said in an e-mail on Sept. 16.

"The State Bank of Pakistan's policy encouraging banks to open branches in rural areas makes it easier to get new licenses," Ali said yesterday in an interview. "We may end up opening 225 more branches in the next four years and the majority of those will be in smaller towns."

Sukuk Issuance

Albaraka plans to spend \$200 million on acquisitions and is looking at buying assets in Indonesia and Malaysia, Chief Executive Officer Adnan Ahmed Yousif said yesterday. The Manama-based bank also plans to sell \$200 million of Islamic bonds, or sukuk, by the end of 2010 and appointed Standard Chartered Plc as a manager for the sale, Yousif said at a conference in Dubai.

"We prefer to either start an Islamic bank or acquire an Islamic bank," he said.

Qatar Islamic Bank plans to sell its first dollar sukuk and will start meeting investors in the Middle East, Asia and Europe from tomorrow, according to a statement from the Gulf state's biggest Shariah-compliant lender.

Global sales of sukuk have dropped this year as debt restructuring in the Persian Gulf, falling property prices and doubts about the strength of the global recovery damped demand for issuance. Planned fourth-quarter sales of \$5.5 billion will help relieve the shortage of supply, data compiled by Bloomberg show.

Islamic bond sales declined 24 percent to \$10.7 billion so far this year, compared with \$14 billion in the same period a year ago, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Access to Credit

The spread between the average yield for emerging-market sukuk and the London interbank offered rate widened one basis point to 376 yesterday, according to the HSBC/NASDAQ Dubai US Dollar Sukuk Index. The yield difference has narrowed 91 basis points from 467 at the end of last year.

Shariah-compliant bonds returned 10.8 percent this year, according to the HSBC/NASDAQ Dubai US Dollar Sukuk Index, while debt in developing markets gained 13 percent, JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s EMBI Global Diversified Index shows.

The yield on Malaysia's 3.928 percent Islamic note due June 2015 fell two basis points to 2.63 percent today, according to prices from Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc. The yield on the Dubai Department of Finance's 6.396 percent sukuk maturing in November 2014 was unchanged at 6.37 percent, RBS prices show.

Pakistan's central bank estimated in a December 2008 report that of the country's 6.6 million farmers, only 2 million had access to credit. Policy makers plan to increase Islamic financing to 12 percent of the total by the end of 2012, from 6 percent, to cater to Muslims, who account for 97 percent of the nation's 170 million population, Ullah said.

'Urban Clients'

"Islamic banks are providing 80 percent of their services to urban clients," said Iqbal at Al Baraka Islamic Bank. "Islamic banks can provide best products to the farmers, who will be more attracted to Islamic services because people in villages are generally more inclined toward the religion."

Pakistan plans to sell sukuk maturing in a year or less in the domestic market by the end of this month, Syed Wasimuddin, a spokesman for the State Bank of Pakistan,

said in an e-mailed statement on Sept. 8.

Islamic banking assets in Pakistan reached 411 billion rupees (\$4.8 billion) as of June, or 6 percent of the total, Wasimuddin said. That compares with 303.3 billion ringgit (\$98 billion) in Malaysia, accounting for 19.6 percent of the total, the central bank said in March. The Southeast Asian nation is the world's biggest market for sukuk.

'Comparative Advantage'

A shortage of investment options and services offered to limited clients is hampering growth in Islamic banking in Pakistan, according to Dawood Islamic Bank Ltd., which is 35 percent owned by Bahrain's Unicorn Investment Bank.

"Islamic banks have no short-term products to deploy their liquidity," Pervez Said, chief executive officer of Dawood Islamic, said in a Sept. 14 interview from Karachi. "It is natural for us to go to non-traditional sectors like microfinance and agriculture."

Agriculture in Pakistan accounted for a quarter of the nation's \$150 billion economy in the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2010, government data in May showed. The nation was hit by the worst floods since independence in 1947 last month, destroying crops worth \$1 billion.

"The central bank is encouraging Islamic banking institutions to tap non-traditional sectors like agriculture, where they have a comparative advantage over their conventional counterparts," said Ullah.

All Day

پاکستان کو ایٹمی ری ایکٹرز دینے کیلئے نیوکلیئر سپلائرز گروپ سے منظوری کی ضرورت Nawaiwaqt -- نہیں: چین

پاکستان کو ایٹمی ری ایکٹرز دینے کیلئے نیوکلیئر سپلائرز گروپ سے منظوری کی ضرورت نہیں: چین ویانا (رائٹرز) چین نے کہا ہے کہ اسے پاکستان کو ایٹمی ری ایکٹرز دینے کیلئے نیوکلیئر سپلائرز گروپ (این ایس جی) سے منظوری کی کوئی ضرورت نہیں ہے۔ اس کے جواب میں امریکہ نے کہا ہے کہ چین کے پاکستان میں 2 نئے ری ایکٹرز (چشمہ بجلی گھر نمبر 3 اور 4) تعمیر کرنے کے منصوبے پر 46 ممالک کے گروپ این فف اختیار و جی ایس کو آگے آنا چاہئے۔ گذشتہ روز چینی ترجمان نے پاکستان سے سول ایٹمی تعاون پر ٹھوس م کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان سے یہ معاہدہ 2003ء میں ہوا تھا جبکہ چین 2004ء میں شامل ہوا تھا لہذا اس معاملے پر این جی ایس سے کسی منظوری کی ضرورت نہیں۔ ادھر ویانا میں آئی اے ای کے اجلاس میں شریک امریکی نائب وزیر ایٹمی سکیورٹی تھامس ڈی اگسٹینو نے صحافیوں سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ امریکہ پاکستان کو 2 ایٹمی ری ایکٹرز دینے کے معاملے پر چین سے این جی ایس کے فریم ورک کے تحت بات چیت کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔

All Day

Ecneec likely to approve 27 projects on September 28 -- RECORDER REPORT

Ecneec likely to approve 27 projects on September 28

RECORDER REPORT

ISLAMABAD (September 24, 2010) : The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec), scheduled to meet on September 28 with Finance Minister Abdul Hafeez Sheikh in the chair, is expected to approve 27 projects worth billions of rupees including Rekodiq gold/copper project which will attract over \$6 billion investment, Business Recorder has learnt.

The government and Tethyan Copper Company (TCC) - a joint venture between Canada's Barrick Gold and Chile's Antofagasta are re-negotiating a deal, which had been halted by the Balochistan government earlier. TCC has submitted feasibility report to Balochistan government for review.

The Planning Commission has also tabled "Mangla Dam Raising Project (Revised PC-I) costing over Rs 102 billion" before Ecneec for approval. According to Ecneec agenda available with Business Recorder, the council will consider Gwadar Deep Water Port Project - phase-I (2nd Revised) costing Rs 16.6 billion.

Pakistan and China are jointly working on phase-1 of this project and its second phase will be carried out under a public private partnership. Ecneec may also approve Rekodiq gold/copper project in Balochistan at a cost of Rs 6698.700 million. Agriculture and food sector projects include Agriculture and Food Punjab Economic Opportunities Programme (PEOP) and Pak China National Project for CA and Advanced Ventilated Cold Storage costing Rs 2229.200 million.

Energy sector projects include: National Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) Project; Rehabilitation of Jabban Hydroelectric Power Station (Revised), District Malakand; Power Distribution Enhancement Programme, Phase-II [(i) Iesco (ii) Gepco (iii) Fesco (iv) Mepco (v) Pesco (vi) Hesco (vii) Lesco (viii) Qesco; Addition of 500 and 220 kV substations and transmission lines for strengthening of existing NTDC system worth Rs 24317 million.

Health sector includes one project "Prime Minister's Programme for Prevention and Control of Hepatitis (Prime Minister's Emergency Action Plan of Hepatitis). The Health Ministry has modified 'Prime Minister Programme for Prevention and Control of Hepatitis (Prime Minister's Emergency Action on Hepatitis)' worth Rs 13.9 billion to attract support of donor agencies.

In Higher Education, apex body may approve projects, which include Establishment of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Benazirabad Sindh costing Rs 1666.781 million and Fulbright Scholarships Support Programme (Revised). Planning Commission was scheduled to table "Establishment of Nust Teaching Hospital and School of Health Sciences at Sector H-12, Islamabad" before Ecneec for approval but this has been dropped from agenda now.

Transport and Communication sector projects are: Construction of flyover at Sariab Phatak, Quetta; Rehabilitation/ Upgradation and Dualisation of Multan-Shujaabad-Jalalpur Pirwala-Uch Sharif - Trinda Muhammad Pannah Road (142 km); Rehabilitation of Larkana - Rasheed Wagan - Nasirabad Road (34 km); Extension of Motorway (M-4) from Khanewal to Multan 57 km (Revised); Construction of Bridge across River Ravi near Sandhilian Wall; Construction of Northern Bypass from Bosan Road to Qasim Bela Multan including approach Road from Northern Bypass to Multan Airport via Jameelabad Chowk Multan (Length 16.05 km Phase-II); Construction of Northern Bypass from Qasim Bela to Shershah Road Multan Bypass including Grade Separated Elevated Bridge over Railway Line & N-70 (Length 12.229 km-Phase-III); Reconstruction of Berth 15-17-A including SRB-1 and SRB-2 on East Wharves at Karachi Port. Physical planning and housing projects for approval are Urban Water Supply Scheme Benazirabad (Nawabshah) Phase-V Filtration (Revised) and Improvement of Water Supply System in Faisalabad (Revised). In population and Social Planning Ecneec will consider Population Welfare Programmes [Islamabad Federal Activity, Punjab, Sindh,

Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa, Balochistan and AJK (2009-14)].

Water sector projects include: Construction of 100 Delay Action Dams in Balochistan: Package-II (26 Dams); Punjab Barrages Improvement Phase-II (PBIP-II) (Rehabilitation and Modernisation of Jinnah Barrage, Improvement and Modernisation of the Irrigation and Water Management System - Monitoring and Evaluation of the project Impacts and Technical Assistance and Trainings); and Six (6) Dispersal Structures on Nari River, Construction of Ghazi Tuk, Khokhar, Erri, Haji Shaher and Remodelling/Rehabilitation of Mithri Weir and Canal System.

All Day

Naval chief wants Gwadar deal cancelled By Iftikhar A Khan -- Dawn News

Naval chief wants Gwadar deal cancelled By Iftikhar A Khan

Friday, 24 Sep, 2010 "The agreement is one-sided and a lot of incentives have been given to the Port of Singapore Authority," Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Noman Basheer said while talking to reporters after presiding over a book launching ceremony at the Bahria University. - File Photo. Business Record 107 ships dismantled at Gaddani ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Noman Basheer said here on Thursday that the Gwadar Port was not serving the purpose for which it had been build and, therefore, an agreement with the Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) for management of facilities and development of infrastructure should be cancelled.

"The agreement is one-sided and a lot of incentives have been given to the PSA," he said while talking to reporters after presiding over a book launching ceremony at the Bahria University.

He said the government should review the concessionary deal because the PSA had not been able to develop the port up to its potential.

Admiral Basheer said the PSA was to be given 2,500 acres of land under the deal, while the navy was being accused of illegally possessing 500-600 acres of it.

"The (ministry of) ports and shipping should stop finding excuses and levelling allegations and focus its attention on the national asset the potential of which is yet to be exploited."

CHINESE SUBMARINES:

The naval chief said talks were under way with China for six to eight submarines and the quality and cost were the basic factors behind the move.

He said the talks were launched after a deal with Germany for four submarines could not be finalised because of exorbitant cost.

However, he said, both countries were still negotiating to resolve the issue.

Admiral Basheer said Pakistan badly needed submarines because four of the six submarines in the fleet had passed their life and the other two needed to be refurbished.

He said China was a time-tested friend of Pakistan and the only country in Asia which had developed expertise in building submarines.

The delivery schedule and cost also suited Pakistan's needs.

"We can seek soft loan from China to fund the submarine project," he said, adding that the time factor in acquisition of the submarines was of paramount importance.

The naval chief said eight used frigates would be acquired from the United States and they would have to be refurbished before their induction into the fleet. He said

Pakistan Navy had to build its capacity to tackle multiple challenges ranging from piracy and terrorism to drugs and human smuggling.

The admiral said he was unaware of reports that he was being appointed chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee.

All Day

Pakistan set to award \$25m consultancy to German firm -- The PakTribune

Pakistan set to award \$25m consultancy to German firm
Thursday September 16, 2010 (1207 PST)

KARACHI: Pakistan is set to appoint ILF Consulting Engineers as the consultant for the Iran gas pipeline within six days, making first step toward the much-delayed project to meet energy shortage, a senior petroleum ministry official said on Wednesday.

"The cost of the consultancy project will be \$25 million and they will have to complete the technical feasibility within 12 months," Secretary Petroleum, Ejaz Chaudhry, told our sources. The Germany-based consultants would be working on the pipeline along with National Engineering Services Pakistan Ltd. (Nespak), he said.

According to the Iran's state-run television, Tehran has already built most of the 1,000 km pipeline on its territory. However, the work on the remaining 900 kilometres at the Pakistani side has been pending for years.

Chaudhry said that the project was very much in hand and the ministry understood its importance in securing energy supplies for the country. "We have taken every scenario into consideration, including the sanctions against Iran."

The petroleum ministry official said that despite threats of losing ties with US companies, investors from Dubai, China and Germany had shown interest in financing the deal, Chaudhry said. "We have targeted January 2012 to start construction of the pipeline and trust me, financiers are out there," he added.

Iran and Pakistan signed the historic pipeline deal in March this year under which 750 million cubic feet of gas will be pumped daily by mid-2015. The 7.5-billion-dollar project, dubbed as "peace pipeline", will snake out of Iran's South Fars field into Balochistan and Sindh provinces.

Chaudhry said that there was a proposal to involve state-run companies in arranging funds for the project. "There is EOBI, OGDCL and State Life for making the initial investment."

Pakistan has been looking at internal sources to fund the gas pipeline as financing from international lenders becomes shaky in the wake of UN sanctions on Iran.

According to the secretary, the Petroleum Ministry had sought legal opinion of international experts to 'go around' the sanctions. "We are studying every option," he added.

Under a force majeure clause of the gas sale purchase agreement, the project can be stopped if sanctions are imposed on Iran. According to a government official, the government would setup a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal in Gwadar if the project failed to materialise.

End.

All Day

PCC-USA organizes coal forum to attract investment in coal sector -- Online

PCC-USA organizes coal forum to attract investment in coal sector

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has 185 billion tonnes of estimated Coal reserves and single

Thar coal Reserve of Sindh, Pakistan is more than the oil reserves of Saudi Arabia and Iran.

These reserves estimated at 850 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of gas, about 30 times higher than Pakistan's proven gas reserves of 28 TCF, said Abdul Quayyum Khan Kundi, President Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry-USA while meeting with Zahid Maqbool, President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

He informed that a forum on "Coal: Lucrative Business Opportunities in Pakistan" will be held in Houston, Texas on November 18-19 to give awareness to the international community about the huge potential of coal and opportunities of investment in Pakistan.

Mr. Waseem Rahiem, Chairman Standing Committee Coal PCC-USA said that these Coal reserves, worth USD 25 trillion, can cater to not only the electricity requirements of the country for next 100 years but also save more than four billion dollars per year in oil import bill.

Despite having these vast reserves of Coal, Pakistan today meets less than 1% of its electricity needs from Coal power generation. Instead it meets almost 35% of its needs from the more expensive oil based thermal power plants. Compare this to other developing countries in the region China and India, which meet 70% and 57% respectively of their energy needs from Coal, said Kundi.

He said that the purpose of the two-day forum was to convince the foreign investors to take advantage of investment in this sector and also to meet the energy demands of Pakistan. President of PCC-USA said that teams of technical experts from other countries will also be invited and forum will provide an opportunity to American businesses to interact and network with the decision makers from Pakistan attending this Forum.

Zahid Maqbool, welcoming the delegation, appreciated for organizing that important event and said that international investors must be motivated to invest in coal sector to produce electricity. He said that government should also support this event and look for other alternate energy resources to meet the rising energy demands of the country.

President said that PCC-USA should also do efforts for increased access of Pakistani products in the USA markets especially in the wake of current flood that has damaged a large portion of the country. He said that USA should give more market access for textile products and should also consider reducing duties on Pakistani products to boost its exports and help sustain Pakistan's economy.

He said that Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry will also bring a delegation in the forum inviting businessmen from other parts of the country.

All Day

Chinese help -- The Nation

Chinese help

Published: September 25, 2010

China has been in the forefront of helping Pakistan after its worst-ever monsoon floods, even though it had itself been the victim of natural disasters very recently. This shows that the natural disasters striking the entire region are due to an overall change in climate, not just random events. The dimensions of Chinese flood aid were made clear in a briefing by the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad on Thursday, as well as by the meeting of Ambassador Liu Jian with PML(N) Quaid Mian Nawaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif at their Raiwind residence the same day. China's own flooding and landslides not only affected 110 million people, and 7002 hectares of crops, but caused about \$21.3 billion in losses; yet not only had it announced aid of \$50 million, now, since the flooding destruction has been greater than originally feared, Chinese PM Wen Jiabao has announced a further \$200 million. This is in addition to the largest medical mission in Chinese history, consisting of 200 doctors and paramedics, including a PLA team of 68, now in Sehwan, where they arrived as recently as September 20. At the same time, China will help fully in the rehabilitation phase, and will continue to provide humanitarian aid based on Pakistan's needs. All this has been done not because China has any interest in Pakistan, but out of a humanitarian spirit, without any desire to obtain benefits for itself. Meanwhile, Ambassador Liu accepted Mian Shahbaz's invitation to the donors conference convened by the Punjab government for September 30.

Once again it has been shown that China's friendship for Pakistan is not based on China's need, but on principles. It is only the historic friendship of the two which is coming now to Pakistan's help.

After the decision to build a nuclear power plant to help meet Pakistan's power needs, Pakistan should be aware of its true friends. Chinese help is not predicated, as American, on doing their bidding, whatever the consequences for Pakistan's own interests, but on common interests. Therefore we see the USA so niggardly in helping Pakistan in its hour of need, yet still attempting to impose its agenda, while Chinese help is without any strings.

All Day

Germany considers Pakistan an important designation for investment in South Asia: Von Fersen -- Online

Germany considers Pakistan an important designation for investment in South Asia: Von Fersen

Islamabad: A high-powered 17-member German trade delegation visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry for B2B meeting. This was the first ever visit of a German delegation to Pakistan after revisiting the Bilateral Investment Treaty by both government almost after 50-years.

According to press release issued here on Thursday, the leader of the German economic delegation Mr. Claus Baron Von Fersen thanked Islamabad Chamber of Commerce for organizing the meeting of the German delegation with the Pakistani businessmen and thanked President for giving a clear picture of investment and trading opportunities in Pakistan.

He said that foreign investors have different perception about Pakistan, whereas in reality things are quite encouraging to do business with Pakistan. German businessmen have little bit small or wrong picture but in reality picture is much bigger and on return a conference will be organized to give true picture to German companies to take advantage of a big market of Pakistan.

He said that opportunity are much better as compared to the past and now Germany considers Pakistan one of the booming markets in South Asia and for that reason the delegation is visiting Pakistan to explore the possibilities of trade and investment in the areas of mutual interest.

The leader of the delegation said that German business community and government is contributing a great deal to provide relief to victims of flood. He

informed that business community has so far contributed 8 million dollars for the flood victims.

Zahid Maqbool, President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry in his welcome address said that Pakistan is a very promising economy and attractive investment destination and urged German delegation to invest in engineering, power, horticulture, dairy, construction, infrastructure development and manufacturing.

He said that Pakistan is in the process of establishing many new industrial zones in different parts of the country. Already about 650 foreign companies have made investments in various sectors and said that new zones will offer excellent opportunities to both local and foreign investors to reap the advantage of 100 percent repatriation of profit earned.

President said that recent flood in Pakistan has caused infrastructure damage at a massive scale and asked contribution of German investors in developing infrastructure including road network, railway, bridges and houses.

Germany should facilitate Pakistan in realizing a Free Trade Agreement with EU for improving its trade and economic ties with Europe and for enhancing exports and EU should provide non-conditional and easy access to Pakistani exporters to provide relief because of massive flood that hit Pakistan, said President.

He said that Germany is Pakistan's one the largest trading partner and is actively involved in Pakistan's socio-economic development and expressed the hope that new Investment Protection Treaty definitely will promote multi-dimensional co-operation between Pakistan and Germany including economy, defence, education, vocational education and other sectors.

All Day

Improving USA investment to Pakistan discussed -- 'Pakistan Times' Business & Commerce Desk

Improving USA investment to Pakistan discussed
'Pakistan Times' Business & Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: John Simmons Commercial Counselor, Embassy of USA Called on Saleem H. Mandviwalla, Minister of State / Chairman BOI, here on Friday and discussed the assistance and support of Commercial Counselor to BOI for improving the investment figures from USA.

The Chairman BOI informed him about the current projects working in energy, oil and gas sector, mining, copper and gold etc with the investment of US companies in Pakistan, says a statement issued by the Board here today.

He also shared about a conference on Thar Coal in Boston in November and asked for John Simmons suggestions to hold a successful forum to attract immediate investment to utilize our valuable resources of coal in Pakistan.

John Simmons also suggested that to attract immediate investment in this sector Pakistan should seek investment in individual processes from exploration to the power generation.

He also suggested the Chairman to attend the conference in Toronto during March and Chairman added that the volume of investment from Australian companies is not very striking.

On the request of John Simmons to support BOI, Chairman called for the capacity building of the employees of BOI and continuous interaction with him.

The Chairman BOI said that he is seeking effective and better relations with the United States and the officials working in Pakistan.

All Day

MoC to sign pact with Australia -- Pakistan Observer

MoC to sign pact with Australia

Islamabad —Commerce Ministry is to ink a pact with Australia on strengthening bilateral trade and economic ties, which would serve as a confidence-building measure (CBM) between the business communities and investment enhancement, official sources told.

Pakistan-Australia bilateral trade is in favour of Australia with Pakistan's imports averaging \$350 million against exports of \$150 million during last three years. There is an immense potential for Pakistan to enhance exports to Australia and increase its share in Australia's global imports of US \$192 billion.

Pakistan and Australia signed a bilateral trade agreement in 1990. Under the provisions of the Agreement, a Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was created. The JTC plays an important role in promoting aims and objectives of the agreement. It also considers proposals for deepening and broadening trade and economic relations and is headed by senior officials from respective trade ministries of both countries. The second meeting of JTC was held on February 16, 2010 in Islamabad after a lapse of four years. In the meeting, various avenues to enhance bilateral trade and investments were discussed. Both countries recognised the need to update the existing trade agreement to reflect contemporary priorities. The Australian side indicated its difficulty in completing the required legal and constitutional formalities for updating the existing trade agreement.

It was agreed that instead of renegotiating the existing agreement, the two countries would enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which would provide a mechanism to discuss, strengthen, and resolve trade and investment issues. The proposed MoU will be helpful in encouraging Australian investment in Pakistan and will further cement bilateral trade and investment relations.—Agencies

All Day

Pak - China Investment Company Limited launched -- Online

Pak - China Investment Company Limited launched

ISLAMABAD:A ceremony for the launching of Pak China Investment Company was held at Governor House in Lahore.

The ceremony was presided over by the Governor Punjab, H.E. Lt. Gen. Khalid Maqbool while Dr. Salman Shah, Federal Minister for Finance, Economic Affairs, Revenue & Statistics was the Chief Guest. The ceremony was also participated by Mr. Salman Taseer, Federal Minister for Industries, H.E. Ambassador of People Republic of China to Pakistan and senior government officials/dignitaries including, Secretary, Investment Division & BOI, Mr. Mushtaq Malik, Mr. Salman Siddque, Chief Secretary Punjab, Mr. Chen Jianbo Managing Director/CEO PCICL, Syed Iqbal Ashraf, Deputy Managing Director PCICL, , and Mr. Guo Yonghong CEO of China Mobile Pakistan. Private sector also participated in the ceremony.

Mr. Chen apprised the participants about delivery of superior products and services that would be available to Pakistani and Chinese businessmen with the launching of Pak - China Investment Company. He appreciated Pakistan's efforts and support and highlighted some of the existing Pak-China friendship symbols that exist in the form Karakorum Highway, Gwadar port, HMC, Heavy Electrical Complex, Saindak Copper Mining Complex and the two Chasma Nuclear Power plants.

Syed Iqbal Ashraf, Deputy Managing Director PCICL said that Pak China Investment Company Limited would provide investment banking services with an objective to provide complete financial solutions to specialized areas including Power, engineering, telecom, construction and infrastructure projects, mergers & acquisitions, debt syndications and private equity placements. The initial authorized capital of the PCICL is Rs. 12.14 billion equivalent to US \$ 200 million, making it the largest joint venture investment company in Pakistan. PCICL has become operational with an initial paid-up capital of US \$ 70 million, to be increased to US \$ 200 million by 2009.

Mr. Guo Yonghong CEO of China Mobile Pakistan said they have faced competition in Pakistan which they did not face in China; this is a clear indication of the fact that Pakistan has an extremely competitive economy to invest in and to make huge profits. He further elaborated that Pakistan's intriguing and improving economic

indicators has made it a lucrative destination for foreign investment. With the GDP growth rate over 7%, liberal investment policy in place and with a sound network of industrial zones and economic zones, Chinese entrepreneurs must take advantage of this glowing opportunity and optimize their resources and investment returns by investing in Pakistan.

Dr. Salman Shah, Federal Minister for Finance described the launching of Pak China Investment Company as ""one window" between the Pakistani and Chinese companies. He said that China could become resource base for Pakistani companies and PCICL would provide momentum to growing trust shared between the business communities of the two countries in trade and investment matters. He further pointed out that China is one of the world's most dynamic economies and is destined to become biggest economy of the world in near future. He added, that Pakistan is very lucky to have an extraordinary and strategic relationship with China in almost every area of business, trade, commerce, politics and economy. He highlighted strengths of Chinese economy in infrastructure development, agriculture and agrofood processing and also mentioned that China is a leading player in all sectors and Pakistan can benefit from China in areas of Textiles, Engineering, Ship building, real estate and automobiles. China has capital and technology and ultimately can become one window economy for Pakistan. He said that present level of bilateral trade between the two countries is over US \$ 5 billion and under the recently signed Free Trade Agreement which has come into effect from July 2007, both the countries have decided to increase this volume of trade to US \$ 15 Billion by 2012. While discussing economy of Pakistan he said that Pakistan is ranked as 6th largest economy in terms of population, having 52% of the total population under the age of 19 years. This fact also relates to Pakistan being a very dynamic and diversified economy with relatively large consumer market with growing middle class. Despite all security concerns and political developments, FDI in Pakistan from July - Nov 2007 has risen by 16 % to \$ 1712.5 million which was \$ 1480.2 million in the same period last year.

Governor Punjab while congratulating the management of PCICL said that company marks a great investment opportunity for Chinese and Pakistani business communities. He said that political relationship is also very important in strengthening long term ties and over the years, Pakistan and China share an extremely cordial relationship which is sweeter than honey in true sense. He also said that President Musharaf has introduced modern diplomacy in our relationships with China, thus enabling more human to human relationship. Therefore, for Chinese companies, their decision to come to Pakistan is strategically and economically very sound and viable. He also assured full support in providing security to Chinese companies working in the province of Punjab and referred to it as their prime responsibility. He also requested Pakistan business community to interact more frequently with Chinese companies and seek investment opportunities with China, as this is one country that Pakistan can always bank on. He asked Chinese companies to also look at Faisalabad and explore investment opportunities there.

All Day

Pak-Kuwait JMC to meet soon -- Pakistan Observer

Pak-Kuwait JMC to meet soon

Karachi —Pakistan is going to raise the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and other trade related issues with Kuwait in a bilateral ministerial level meeting to be held soon in Kuwait. Both the countries are going to hold the third 'Pak-Kuwait Joint Ministerial Commission' (PK JMC) meeting by the end of next month in Kuwait.

The third meeting of the JMC is going to be held after a long break of over seven years, as the second meeting was held in 2003 in Islamabad. According to sources, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) has proposed to the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) a number of proposals for improving trade with the oil rich country, where Pakistani products have a good demand.

Islamabad is said to be interested in holding the JMC meeting as early as possible so that more trade concessions could be sought after the catastrophic floods that have shaken the country's economy. TDAP, through a letter, has proposed to MoC

that there should be joint a business forum of the two countries, which should facilitate chambers of commerce to in exchange of trade delegations.

According to sources the authority was also planning to hold single country exhibition in Kuwait and Pakistan's commercial consular in Kuwait was busy in arrangements for organising the event shortly. It was also proposed that both the sides while re-energising the PK-JMC should take concrete steps in the light of the bilateral trade agreements/understandings, to enhance the level of bilateral trade.

Pakistan, which has a share of only over \$75 million in the imports of Kuwait, was searching for more markets for its products in the gulf country as its neighbouring country India, comparatively, had more shares in Kuwait's imports. Besides the economic relations between the two Islamic countries, the number of Pakistani expatriates in Kuwait has almost doubled over the past five years, with a total of 153,000 who were living and working in the foreign country.

Though Pakistan was exporting rice, textile items, leather etc to Kuwait, Islamabad is in highly disadvantageous position as far as the trade balance between the two countries is concerned, due to the huge import of oil. Both the countries had ratified the bilateral Trade agreement, which was signed on 24 July, 2002 which provides a framework for promotion and diversification of economic relations between Kuwait and Pakistan.—Agencies

All Day**UK to lobby for trade concession to Pakistan -- The Nation**

UK to lobby for trade concession to Pakistan

UK has said that it would lobby with other countries for providing flood assistance and trade concessions to Pakistan. Foreign Secretary of United Kingdom Mr. William Hague expressed these views in his meeting with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on the sidelines of the 65th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Foreign Minister thanked the Foreign Secretary for the assistance provided by the British Government and public for the flood victims of Pakistan. He underlined that this support was an indication that the bilateral relationship between the two countries went beyond the government level and needed to be built upon. The Foreign Minister also appreciated the leading role played by UK in facilitating discussions within EU for provision of trade concessions, says a press release received here on Saturday.

On the flood situation in Pakistan, the Foreign Minister informed his British counterpart that the government was now moving into the early recovery phase in which priority was being given to agriculture and in particular the upcoming wheat crop. Simultaneously, the government had initiated the process for damage needs assessment which was expected to be completed before the upcoming meeting of the Friends of the Democratic Pakistan in Brussels. The government had also created the National Oversight Disaster Management Council consisting of respectable persons to address the issue of transparency.

The British Foreign Secretary assured the Foreign Minister of UK's continued support in meeting the challenges posed by the recent floods. In this regard, UK would lobby with other countries for providing flood assistance and trade concessions to Pakistan. He said that he would attend the October meeting of FODP in Brussels.

All Day

Manufacturing 'China threat' -- The Dawn

Mr Selig Harrison, a noted American scholar on South Asia, writing in The New York Times on August 26 under the caption: 'China's Discreet Hold on Pakistan's Northern Borderlands' observes: "A quiet geopolitical crisis is unfolding in the Himalayan borderlands of northern Pakistan, where Islamabad is handing over de facto control of the strategic Gilgit-Baltistan region in the northwest corner of disputed Kashmir to China".

Claiming that China had deployed 7,000-11,000 troops in the area, he further observes: "The entire Pakistan-occupied western portion of Kashmir stretching from Gilgit in the north to Azad (Free) Kashmir in the south is closed to the world, in contrast to the media access that India permits in the eastern part, where it is combating a Pakistan-backed insurgency."

China has called the story "groundless," saying it was being put out with "ulterior motives" to hurt Beijing's ties with New Delhi and Islamabad.

That the Chinese would take over Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan is a ridiculous thought. But nothing is ridiculous when it comes to a hot propaganda war, particularly where the Indians are set to create a scare in the western capitals about China. Mr. Harrison has picked up the Indian script on Gilgit-Baltistan.

So ridiculous were Mr. Harrison's assertions that Pakistan's foreign office had to dismiss them as "figment of imagination". Its spokesman said, "Given Selig Harrison's well-known anti-Pakistan mindset, his gross misrepresentation of facts is hardly surprising.

Nor is it unexpected of India to create unnecessary hype using Mr. Harrison's tendentious article. China, at our request, is helping us in repairing the Karakoram highway, which has been severely damaged by the recent floods and landslides."

The hard fact is that China and Pakistan are jointly working on several projects in Gilgit-Baltistan, including the repair and upgrading of Karakorum Highway, which will take several years to complete and requires the presence of a large number of Chinese workers, but far below the numbers Harrison suggests. The road design requires tunnels to be constructed that he mischievously refers to as possible missile storage facilities.

Why, one may ask, would Pakistan store its missiles in this difficult mountainous terrain, far removed from the point of launch and when the area is prone to frequent, unpredictable and massive landslides and road blockages?

Would such an act not cause indefinite closure of this critical highway to traffic? Does it make any sense for China to store its warheads in another country in locations from where their timely and urgent retrieval cannot be guaranteed?

In January this year Karakorum Highway to China was closed in Hunza Valley after a massive landslide created the Attabad Lake which reached 22 km in length, displacing thousands and inundating over 20 km of KKH.

When the lake finally flowed over the landslide dam in June, it washed away several segments of the highway. Mr Harrison presents the road closure to the American readers as an ominous Sino-Pakistani conspiracy.

Mr Harrison remarkably twists the facts to please Indians. He has done this in the past and he has done it again. In 2006 Mr Harrison, a Washington based writer who styles himself as a Balochistan specialist, predicted in his articles in The New York Times and the French newspaper Le Monde Diplomatique that a successful insurgency would lead to the creation of a sovereign Greater Balochistan that would also include the Iranian Balochistan and Sistan province.

Then, he was promoting a Pentagon dream authored by a retired Col. Ralph Peter in his treatise 'Blood Borders'.

Some might dismiss these utterances as a misreading of events by Mr Harrison, but if one looks at the messages he is trying to send about China as an emerging threat in South Asia and Pakistan's abetment in Chinese expansionism, there is a method in his madness.

This propaganda line could have several geopolitical dimensions. It could provide India the occasion to pick a bone with Pakistan for allowing a purported Chinese ingress into a region that it claims to be its own. India could raise alarm about this perceived threat to South Asian security at international forums, to corner Pakistan.

India would expect the US to take another look at its Pakistan and China policy in the context of South Asia (India is unhappy at President Obama's suggestion during his China visit that Beijing could have a role to play in South Asia and might be able to arbitrate between India and Pakistan). And this could initiate a debate in Washington about the Chinese threat to western interests in the Gulf region and actions needed to prevent this.

The autonomy package Pakistan gave to the people of Gilgit-Baltistan has angered India and drew a strong protest. India looks upon this move as permanent integration of the region into Pakistan and it will not be surprising if it retaliates in some form.

Shortly after the elections in this new province and in tandem with Mr Harrison's article, which it cites as an evidence of Sino-Pakistani threat to Indian security, India lost no time in declaring its readiness "to face the Chinese threat".

Hindustan Times, in a story dated August 29, quotes military sources as saying that in view of the Chinese having escalated their "aggressive designs" on the country's border areas, "the Army has activated its airfields along the Line of Actual Control and enhanced its military presence and capabilities in the area. The roads to these airfields have been upgraded."

In reminding the US about Pakistan's oft alleged double-game and ignoring the position Pakistan has taken on these issues, Mr Harrison tries to call into question the US-Pakistan alliance.

He says, "What is happening in the region matters to Washington. Coupled with its support for the Taliban, Islamabad's collusion in facilitating China's access to the Gulf makes clear that Pakistan is not a US ally."

Mr Harrison plays upon western sensitivities about the security of the Persian Gulf when he tells Washington that "China wants a grip on the region to assure unfettered road and rail access to the Gulf through Pakistan."

By alluding that China's use of Gwadar port will threaten American strategic interests which, in fact, will be limited to the import of oil and raw materials and export of finished goods, Mr Harrison is taking a shot at Pakistan's economic interests. Gwadar port is planned to be a major revenue earner for Pakistan.

The Indians have always been wary of the development of Gwadar port in which they see a new Pakistani naval facility taking shape, and they fear this might lead to Chinese naval presence in the Arabian Sea.

A spanner thrown in the works would be a welcome step from the Indian point of view. Mr Harrison is all out to oblige them.

All Day

Only our fears can encircle us -- The Hindu

Instead of being alarmed at China's growing inroads in the region, India needs to take a harder look at its own role and find new ways to win neighbours and increase influence in the region's growth story.

No one would accuse Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of being alarmist. So when,

addressing the Heads of Missions last month, he spoke of paying close attention to “global powers exercising influence in the Indian Ocean Region,” it was assumed that the Prime Minister was genuinely concerned about China's growing role in the region. When he spoke to editors some days later about his concerns on China again, the assumption was sealed.

India's growing concern rose from two factors — the first, Beijing's sudden decision to provide Northern GOC General Jaswal with a stapled visa, saying his command includes a ‘disputed’ region; and the other, newspaper reports that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) had approximately 11,000 soldiers in Gilgit-Baltistan, digging tunnels and posing a direct threat to India across the LoC.

Diplomats on both sides now say they are ‘sorting out’ the visa issue, with Beijing on the back foot, particularly given that General Jaswal has travelled to China in the past. Meanwhile, the reported build-up in PoK was aggressively denied by Beijing and Islamabad, both insisting that the troops are there to help contain flood damage, and the impending threat of the Hunza dam overflowing, and also to work on the Karakoram Highway project. India's suspicions that China's army is now securing its land route to the Arabian sea via PoK have nonetheless grown, given that China has also wrested control of the Gwadar port back from the Singaporean Port Authority. The development ties in with the fear of India being choked by a strategic “String of Pearls” — a U.S. Defence Department term for China's ambitions for bases in the Indian Ocean Region. With Gwadar in Pakistan, Hambantota in Sri Lanka, Chittagong in Bangladesh, and the Sittwe port in Myanmar, it would seem the string is slowly turning into a choke-chain for India.

At one level, the fears of China overrunning Pakistan to open a front with India may seem far-fetched, even hysterical. At another, it may be a much needed wake-up call for India to reassess its preparedness to counter an increasingly assertive Chinese military. At an entirely different level, New Delhi's alarm in the past few weeks could be most constructive if it ensures that India takes a closer look at its own role in the region, and why China is making headway with so many of our neighbours.

Take Sri Lanka that has many reasons to welcome Indian investment. Whether it has been the tsunami, the war against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), or the post-war demining and rehabilitation effort, Indian agencies have been at the forefront to help. And yet, as Sri Lanka recasts itself as the Singapore of the region, it is China that is its biggest infrastructural investor, bagging many coveted projects given China's deeper pockets. Much of it is a result of Indian apathy — the Hambantota port, for example, was offered to India first. New Delhi's lack of interest in developing this strategically located harbour was easily the gain of China, which worked double time to complete the project with \$60 billion funded from China's Exim bank, building the port, the city centre, the airport, a stadium, and a massive convention centre. Many in India worry that Hambantota's future could include a Chinese naval base too.

While Indian concerns about Hambantota are well known, practically no one speaks of the port project that India does have, in the northern town of Kankesenthurai (KKS). Originally, after the tsunami, the project was handed to the Dutch, but after India showed interest, the Sri Lankan President tore up that contract and invited India to build the port. Yet 18 months later, this harbour near Jaffna has seen little by way of construction; even a feasibility survey taken in June 2010 has not yet been finalised. Meanwhile Hambantota will receive its first ship in November, some six months ahead of schedule. The contract for the Colombo port has just gone to a Chinese consortium — no Indian company having even tried to bid for it. Given that the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)-Sampur coal 500-MW plant is already delayed years beyond its 2011 deadline, it is hoped that other projects India has committed itself to including the northern rail line, the Palaly airport and the Jaffna stadium will be dealt with more expeditiously.

While many in India would see these projects essentially as aid to a needy neighbour, it is time to invert the prism and see them, just as we accuse China, as ways of increasing our footprint and extending our ambitions to a sphere of

influence well beyond our land mass.

In January this year, a historic agreement with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina seemed to redefine how India would deal with its neighbours. Amongst a slew of agreements came India's \$1-billion credit line — for 14 infrastructural projects. Even while the agreements were being finalised — Dhaka delivered some of the most wanted United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) militants. Despite opposition cries of a sell-out, Sheikh Hasina's India deal won her accolades in Bangladesh. Yet it took eight months before Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee flew to Bangladesh to operationalise the credit line, and by the time he reached, India had decided to change its earlier offer of \$1bn at one per cent interest to 1.75 per cent — terms that took many in Dhaka by unpleasant surprise. Also, unless India relaxes its trade barriers to Bangladeshi goods, it will be accused of exploiting the transit rights only for its own benefit. It is hoped that Dr. Singh, whose trip to Dhaka is imminent, will address some of those concerns. Meanwhile China has moved into the delay gap on projects like the Chittagong port with ease, funding much of its refurbishment, as also the construction of the second Padma bridge, as it vigorously pushes MoUs on road links via Myanmar and a rail line connecting Beijing to Dhaka — as part of a \$2.2-billion Chinese package on infrastructure.

A bolder move, but one that would win many hearts is to consider lifting tariff and non-tariff barriers and duties unilaterally in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region altogether. Suspend the reality of our relations with Pakistan for a moment to think about the impact of ending such protectionism in a year that has so devastated Pakistan's economy. According to estimates, the destruction of standing crops on two million hectares has virtually wiped out Pakistan's staple revenue from export of cotton, rice, and sugar. The country will be dependent on importing these for the next few years. With 77 million people likely to go hungry, and Pakistan's projected growth likely to fall by half to about two per cent, it is only natural that China's interventions in flood relief, rebuilding destroyed roads, schools and bridges, aid and trade will grow. The question is: will India watch with its customary alarm but do nothing?

On our other frontiers, it must be said, the government has made some moves — increasing development aid to Afghanistan to \$1.2 billion and discussing a \$1-billion dollar credit line to Myanmar as well. Describing some of these initiatives at Harvard University this month, Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao said: "Today, with sustained high economic growth rates ... India is in a better position to offer a significant stake to our neighbours in our own prosperity and growth." It is equally important to stand that assumption on its head, and consider India's stake in the prosperity and growth of its neighbours. Whether it's Mauritius or Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Afghanistan or yes, Pakistan — these are countries with close cultural, linguistic, historic ties to India no other country can match. As a result, it shouldn't be possible for China or any other superpower to encircle a country like India. The only thing that encircles us is our fear that they will.

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All Day

PNS Saif, Chinese pledge fulfilled ((Important)) -- by Sultan M Hali
 PNS Saif, Chinese pledge fulfilled
 Sultan M Hali

China's delivery of the third F-22P frigate PNS Saif to Pakistan Navy is yet another burgeoning proof of Pak-China relations and fulfillment of Chinese pledge to support Pakistan's defence. In yet another landmark achievement in the expansion of the unwavering bilateral defence cooperation between Pakistan and China, Beijing has delivered the third of the four F-22P frigates PNS Saif to the Pakistan Navy (PN). The newly built warship of the sword class series constructed by Hudong Zhonghua Shipyard Shanghai was delivered in a colourful and impressive ceremony. As per the schedule, the PN's fourth F-22 frigate, being constructed at the Karachi Shipyard is progressing satisfactorily. This move by the Navy would be of great help to Pakistan in achieving self-reliance towards defence of its territorial

waters.

The F-22P or Zulfiquar (sword) class frigate, an improved version of the Chinese Type 053H3, is a general purpose frigate being built by China and Pakistan for the PN. The first ship, PNS Zulfiquar, was handed over to the PN on 30 July 2009 and the second, PNS Shamsheer, on January 23, 2010. The third, after undergoing sea trials has just been handed over, while a fourth is under construction. It has been reported that the F-22P Frigates are equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors. The ships also carry Z9EC helicopters onboard. Pakistan had been negotiating with China for the supply of 4 frigates since the late 1990s. The contract was signed on 4 April 2006 with the conclusion of negotiations for financing and technology transfer. The first three have been built at the Hudong Zhonghua Shipyard in Shanghai, China, while the last is under construction in Pakistan by Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works (KSEW). The \$750 million contract also includes 4-6 Harbin Z-9EC antisubmarine warfare (ASW) helicopters as well as ammunition for the frigates.

With the addition of these ships, the strength of PN Fleet has increased considerably with much needed capabilities, while contributing in enhancement of country's shipbuilding capabilities. The F-22P hull uses many of the radar cross-section reduction features of China's Type 054 frigate to help it evade detection by radars mounted on other ships, aircraft and anti-ship missiles. The 76.2 mm caliber main gun is a Chinese development of the Russian AK-176M, the main difference being that the Chinese variant adopts a re-designed stealthy turret to reduce radar detection. The gun is designed to engage ships, aircraft and anti-ship missiles. In front of the main gun are two 6-cell RDC-32 anti-submarine rocket launchers. The frigate's primary surface-to-surface missile armament comprises eight C-802 subsonic anti-ship missiles carried in two launchers with four cells each, fitted between the foremast and the funnel. These containers are also compatible with the CY series anti-submarine rockets and may be loaded with a combination of anti-ship and anti-submarine weapons.

The FM-90N surface-to-air missile (SAM) system is fitted between the main deck and main gun. The launcher has eight cells each containing one missile and is fitted on a mount that can be elevated and traversed in the direction of the threat. The FM-90N can engage several targets, including supersonic and sub-sonic sea-skimming missiles, using different guidance modes simultaneously. The system is also designed to engage small targets such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV). A close-in weapon system (CIWS), the Type 730B, is mounted on the aircraft hangar. Comprising two seven-barrel Gatling guns of 30 mm caliber, the F-22P is believed to be the first ship armed with the Type 730B, which uses off-mount sensors such as the Type 347G radar and the OFC-3 electro-optic director.

The guns are mounted side-by-side on the aircraft hangar, with the off-mount sensors in between. The CIWS can be upgraded with the FL-3000N fire-and-forget missile system by installing up to two single-round FL-3000N launchers on each existing CIWS gun mount. The Harbin Z-9EC anti-submarine warfare (ASW) helicopter is equipped with surface-search radar, low frequency dipping sonar, radar warning receiver, Doppler navigation system and armed with torpedoes. The helicopter can be armed with one torpedo on the starboard side. A small antenna on the roof may provide a data-link, allowing the Z-9 to act as a relay for targeting data between the ship and long range anti-ship missiles such as the C-802. The beauty of China's support to Pakistan is that it is willing to provide transfer of technology, help develop the infrastructure for indigenization and soft loans to support the project with no strings attached. Other nations are either just not willing to share technology. Even if they agree to provide transfer of technology, it is at exorbitant costs and may have strings attached. Some nations insist that Pakistani technology is too backward, lacks the skill and wherewithal and is unfit for accepting hi-tech expertise. China has proved over the ages that it considers Pakistan capable and worthy of keeping pace with the latest developments and making strides towards indigenization. The delivery of the F-22 frigates to PN is burgeoning evidence of the long lasting ties between Pakistan and China. In this period of global economic meltdown, China not only has a stable economy but it holds roughly \$1.5 trillion in US assets, at least 65 percent of China's total foreign

assets, and it is the second biggest foreign holder of US debt after Japan.

Pak-China joint ventures to produce JF-17 Thunder fighter aircraft, K-8 Trainer aircraft, Al-Khalid Tank, F-22 Naval Frigates have given a new dimension to Pak-China cooperation in the field of defense. Heavy Rebuild Factory (HRF) at Taxila, Pakistan Aeronautical Complex at Kamra was also established with Chinese assistance. The Karakoram Highway, the strategic port of Gawadar and nuclear energy reactors are a manifestation of China's sustained interest in Pakistan, which make it imperative for us to reach out to our Chinese friends for our common endeavours for building a better future for our peoples and overcome the challenges to both nations and strive for prosperity. In these trying times it is imperative that we recognize our true friends and hold on to them steadfastly.

All Day

UK-Aid provides 130,000 life saving items to flood-hit people in Pakistan -- 'Pakistan Times' Federal Bureau

UK-Aid provides 130,000 life saving items to flood-hit people in Pakistan
'Pakistan Times' Federal Bureau

ISLAMABAD: Emergency production lines in factories in Karachi and Lahore - funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) - have produced more than 130,000 urgently needed aid items, including clean water storage containers and hygiene kits.

The factories have produced thousands of items every day for the last two weeks. The items are being distributed this week directly to critically affected people in Sindh and the Punjab, and will help fight the spread of disease.

A press communiqué issued by the British High Commission [BHC] said in Islamabad on Thursday that in total, the factories have produced:

- 41,000 Hygiene Kits;
- 56,600 jerry cans;
- 38,800 clean water storage containers.

In Karachi on Thursday, George Turkington, Head of UK's Department for International Development Pakistan, said: "Unless people can store clean drinking water and access basic sanitation there is a real threat of a public health disaster. That's why we took this resourceful approach and set up these emergency production lines in Karachi and Lahore to provide huge quantities of urgently needed items, in the shortest possible time. The UK will continue to stand by Pakistan, both at this critical life-saving time, and in the longer haul as we start to rebuild people's lives and communities."

The factories are H. Nizam Din & Sons (Pvt) Ltd in Karachi and H. Sheikh Noor-Ud-Din & Sons (Pvt) Ltd in Lahore.

Ali Ahmed, director of H. Nizam Din & Sons (Pvt) Ltd, said: "We are very pleased that we have been sourced for this production line to help affected flood victims and support DFID in their humanitarian work in Pakistan."

On Sunday 19 September, UK Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell announcement a further £70 million (nearly 9.5 billion rupees), from the UK Government to help people start rebuilding their lives, including re-starting agriculture, and getting children back to school, as well as further lifesaving aid for the south of Pakistan where the situation remains critical.

The UK Government has now committed a total of £134 million (nearly 18 billion rupees), while the UK public has generously donated a further £56m (approx 7.5 billion rupees) from their own pockets through the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) appeal.

The UK was one of the first countries to respond to this crisis. UK aid is already providing immediate lifesaving aid including funding towards UN airlifts; twelve planes funded by DFID packed full of vital aid; emergency shelter, safe drinking water, and latrines for millions of people; one month food packages for nearly one million people; an emergency field camp in the worst affected area near Sukkur; help for half a million malnourished children and pregnant/breastfeeding women; emergency health care; bridges shipped from the UK, and more.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is the UK's Government department responsible for promoting sustainable development and reducing poverty. The central focus of DFID is a commitment to the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals to be achieved by 2015.

All Day

Nepal-Pakistan to sign FTA in October -- Himalayan News Service
Nepal-Pakistan to sign FTA in October

Himalayan News Service

KATHMANDU: Nepal and Pakistan are planning to ink Free Trade Agreement (FTA) during the meeting of Joint Economic Commission (JEC) scheduled for October. A high-level bilateral task force is set to be finalised that will discuss the matter in the JEC meeting.

"Government is setting up a team of delegation that will head for the JEC meeting," said Surya Prasad Silwal, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Commerce and Supplies (MoCS).

JEC meeting is scheduled for October 19-20, this year in Islamabad. "The meeting will discuss all the economic aspects of the two countries," Silwal said, adding that the Finance Ministry is also preparing for the JEC meeting. The plan has been put on a fast-track basis after a

brief visit of Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani to Nepal while on his way to Bhutan to attend the SAARC meet in Thimphu in April.

Even though, both Nepal and Pakistan are signatories to the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) and members of the South Asian Economic Union, the bilateral trade between the two countries remains negligible.

Pakistan's total export to Nepal is worth \$1.63 million whereas exports from Nepal to Pakistan have touched \$3.16 million.

Nepal will be the second country in South Asia to enter into a free trade arrangement with Pakistan after Sri Lanka that inked a FTA deal with Islamabad some years ago.

All Day

Nuclear-armed Pakistan takes over as chair of IAEA -- Press Trust Of India

Nuclear-armed Pakistan takes over as chair of IAEA

Press Trust Of India

Vienna/New Delhi, September 27, 2010

Seen by many as a rogue nuclear state, Pakistan on Monday ironically became the head of the governing body of the UN nuclear watchdog--International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In an election at a special one-day meeting in Vienna, IAEA's 35-member board of governors appointed Pakistan Atomic related stories China, Pak in talks on new nuke plant India takes note of Chinese move on N-reactors in Pak Energy Commission's head, Ansar Parvez, as its chairman for the next one year. The Board is the most important policy-making body after the 151-nation general conference.

Observers in New Delhi did not attach undue importance to the development saying the post was rotating and Pakistan's candidature was endorsed by the Asian block. India had twice chaired the Board of Governors and Pakistan had done in once in the past.

Pakistan has taken over the chair the main role of which is to preside over debates and helping the Board of Governors reach consensus decisions, from Malaysia.

All Day

Pact on pvt role in TAPI pipeline -- APP

NEW DELHI: Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India have agreed to rope in a global energy major to execute and manage a \$7.6-billion natural gas pipeline running their land, brightening the prospect of a steady flow of gas from central Asia to energy-hungry South Asia.

The decision was taken after Afghanistan assured to secure the pipeline through the Taliban heartland and Pakistan in-principle agreed to do so in its territory, two senior officials with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The private partner will be inducted through an international bidding by the four countries, jointly referred to as TAPI.

"TAPI nations have agreed that in the case of a single bid, the (single) bidder will be awarded the project," an official said.

The pipeline will start from the Dauletabad gas field in southeast Turkmenistan and after 145 km stretch in the country enter Afghanistan. After traversing 735 km in Afghanistan and 800 km in Pakistan, the pipeline will cross into India. The 1,680 km pipeline will have a capacity to transport 90 mmscmd (million standard cubic metres a day) gas. Asian Development Bank (ADB), the development partner of the TAPI project, had estimated its cost at \$3.3 billion about 10 years ago.

The decision to induct a private partner was taken at the TAPI steering committee meeting of energy ministers of the four nations on September 20 at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan's capital.

American and Russian energy companies are interested to invest in the project, the officials said. Induction of an energy giant in the consortium is expected to expedite the project and help minimise transportation risks through volatile Afghan and Pakistan regions.

Minister of state for petroleum & natural gas Jitin Prasada, who represented India in the meeting, confirmed the development but declined to comment on specific details.

"The pipeline is significant for India's energy security but its success will depend on keeping minimum transit fee and setting up institutional mechanism to address security issues. We are working towards that," Mr Prasada told ET after his visit to Ashgabat.

Pakistan will present an institutional framework for securing the pipeline in its territory at the 7th technical working group meeting, the officials said. The meeting date is not yet fixed, they said.

The Afghanistan government has already guaranteed the security of the pipeline by burying it underground and paying local communities to guard it.

Turkmenistan wants to sign the deal by December this year at a proposed head of states meeting and aims to complete the pipeline by 2014, the officials said. Gas accounts for 57% of Turkmenistan's total exports followed by oil (26%), the reason it wants the pipeline to start quickly.

At the meeting Turkmenistan offered confirmed 90 mmscmd gas supply to the three nations from its Osman-Yolten reserve, certified to have between 4.25 trillion cubic meters (tcm) and 13 tcm gas.

Gaffney Cline and Associates (GCA), a British audit firm, in its audit report of October 2008 puts proven reserves of natural gas in Turkmenistan at more than 7 tcm.

The possible gas reserves could be as high as 24.6 tcm.

India is expected to get about 38 mmscmd gas, the same as Pakistan. Balance gas will go to Afghanistan.

All Day

Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan agree on enhancing bilateral cooperation -- SANA

Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan agree on enhancing bilateral cooperation
ISLAMABAD, (SANA): Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Ruslan Kazakbaev on the sidelines of the 65th UN General Assembly Session in New York. Both leaders reviewed the bilateral relations between the two countries, said a press release received on Wednesday.

Foreign Minister Ruslan Kazakbaev expressed sympathies on the tragic loss of life and extensive devastation caused by floods in Pakistan. He briefed the Foreign Minister on recent political developments in Kyrgyzstan.

He thanked for Pakistan's understanding on tragic events of June 2010 in Kyrgyzstan. He informed that Ministry of Education was devising plans to improve the academic conditions for Pakistani students. The academic year in most professional colleges in Kyrgyzstan would start after parliamentary elections in October 2010. It would help in saving an academic year of Pakistani students.

Foreign Minister Ruslan Kazakbaev emphasized the need to upgrade economic and trade relations between the two countries. He also sought Pakistan's expertise and investment in hydropower generation projects.

Mahmood Qureshi thanked the Kyrgyz Government on steps taken for safety and welfare of Pakistani students. He agreed for upgrading relations between the two countries, including development of trade and energy corridors. Foreign Minister Qureshi said that Kyrgyzstan could use facilities of Gwadar sea port for trade with the world.

The two Foreign Ministers agreed to revitalize the Joint Economic Commission and institute bilateral consultations between the two Foreign Ministries. The two sides also agreed to closely coordinate with the UN and other international organizations.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi accepted the invitation to visit Kyrgyzstan at mutually agreed dates.

All Day

PM directs restructuring of Pakistan Railways on modern lines -- APP

PM directs restructuring of Pakistan Railways on modern lines
ISLAMABAD, Sept 27 (APP): Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Monday directed the Ministry of Railways to restructure Railways on modern and commercial lines to make it a viable financial entity. He said the root cause of operational inefficiency could be addressed by dualization as well as improvement of the railway track, enhancement of goods transportation and improvement in passengers service.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review progress of the implementation of Cabinet decision on restructuring of Pakistan Railways here at the ministry, the Prime Minister called for changing mindset of the officials to enhance operation efficiency through good governance and to make it a profit earning entity. He asked the Minister of Railways and the Finance Minister to work out a long term approach to improve operation efficiency and financial viability. The Prime Minister, in his opening remarks, observed that in the 21st century, Pakistan needs a cheap, efficient, reliable and secure mode of communication for millions of passengers and movement of goods. He urged the Pakistan Railways to reclaim its old glory to become a preferred mean of travelling for the common man. To achieve this goal, he added, the Pakistan Railways must under-go a total transformation. He said the Railways needs modern, faster, safer and reliable, infrastructure and

rolling stock. Being a public service utility, it should adopt service delivery and customer satisfaction as its guiding motto.

The Prime Minister said the Ministry of Railways is one of the most important ministries of the Federal Government and Pakistan Railways is a historical asset as well as a strategic entity which played an important role in socio-economic development of the country, he added.

He observed that it provided the much needed communication lines for transportation of people and goods across the country.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan Railway was once the cheapest and the most reliable mode of transport but today it is a liability rather than an asset.

He said the government could not afford to throw good money after the bad money as it is facing serious financial management challenges like rehabilitation and reconstruction of flood affected areas and security related expenditures.

He assured that the government would, however, like to do as much as it can to revive Pakistan Railways yet the latter should first put up a genuinely self-help effort and display performance improvement to qualify for financial assistance from the government.

The Prime Minister said last year the Federal Cabinet set up the Cabinet Committee on Restructuring of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) to ensure good governance and reduce their losses and Pakistan Railways was one of the SOEs selected for the first phase of restructuring. "Much time has passed and I have yet to see tangible results on ground," he said.

The Prime Minister urged the Cabinet Committee on Restructuring to finalize the re-structuring proposals and place them before the Cabinet at the earliest.

He instructed that the re-structuring proposals should have a clear and doable road-map with time-lines and measurable targets and performance benchmarks.

He directed the ministry that in the meanwhile, the Pakistan Railways should put its house in order and begin work on improving management and bringing operational efficiency by utilizing the resources available in the organization.

He said the Pakistan Railways must focus on reducing operating costs while introducing innovation to increase internal earnings. At the same time, he added, it must also focus on better management and utilization of non-core assets to fund operational capacities.

The Prime Minister said safety and security should receive the priority it deserves. He pointed out that there are hundreds of un-manned railway crossings across the country which is a permanent public hazard. He regretted that many precious lives had been lost in the past including those of innocent school children. He directed the Pakistan Railways to take immediate steps for putting up gates at the un-manned railway crossings.

Federal Minister for Railways Haji Ghulam Ahmed Bilour apprised the Prime Minister of the steps taken to implement the Cabinet decisions. He also mentioned that due to shortage of locomotives, the Pakistan Railways is facing serious problems and difficulties.

Finance Minister Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, Minister of State for Railways Afzal Sindhu and the concerned senior officials attended the meeting.

All Day

Review port deal with PSA: Pakistan's navy chief -- The Business Times

Review port deal with PSA: Pakistan's navy chief

Pakistan may give Gwadar port contract to China

(ISLAMABAD) Pakistan should review a deal with the Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) to run a strategic shipping port, said Pakistan's navy chief, amid speculation that the contract may go to key ally China.

Pakistan is keen to become a conduit for trade to landlocked Afghanistan and Central Asia and now has three major ports - Gwadar in Baluchistan province and two at Karachi, 450km to the east.

Admiral Noman Bashir, also government adviser for maritime development, was quoted by Pakistan media calling for a review of the contract to run Gwadar with

Singapore's PSA International Ltd because the port was not operating to expectations.

'I'm saying this with great concern that the purpose for which the Gwadar port was built is not being achieved,' Mr Bashir told reporters in a news briefing shown on television on Friday.

'We have given them a lot of concessions and no commitment was taken from them in return. That's why this agreement should be reviewed.'

PSA, which runs ports around the world and is owned by Temasek Holdings, declined to comment.

Conceived over a decade ago, Pakistan hoped Gwadar, 70km east of the Iranian border and on the doorstep of Gulf shipping lanes, would handle transshipment traffic for the Gulf.

Mr Bashir's comments came on the heels of a media report last week saying the project may be given to China, which provided 80 per cent of its initial US\$248 million development costs.

China is already involved in engineering, mining, nuclear energy and construction projects in the country, and has invested in Pakistan's transport and mobile communication sectors.

'The expectation was that (PSA) would bring in trade, but it has not done so and turned the whole port - built with Pakistani and Chinese investments - into a white elephant,' said Rasul Bakhsh Rais, professor of political science at the Lahore University of Management Science.

He said the admiral's statements and earlier media reports were 'preparing the ground' for cancelling the deal and awarding operation of the port to China.

'I think it would be a wiser decision to cancel this agreement and tie up with the Chinese, who are interested in trade corridors and in gas and oil pipelines in the region.'

If under Chinese control, Gwadar would give Beijing more economic sway in the region and upset Pakistan's traditional enemy, India, which views China's ties with Islamabad with suspicion.

PSA International took over management and operational control of the deep-sea port in February 2007 for 40 years. -- Reuters

All Day

**Chinese firm bags deal to link Pak, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan by rail --
The Economic Times**

Chinese firm bags deal to link Pak, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan by rail

The proposed 700 kilometers line will run right through the hotly contested Taliban areas while connecting the in northern with Kabul and the two neighboring countries.

India has been eager to help Afghanistan build its railway system as part of the reconstruction efforts. But it has apparently been checkmated by China because of its influence as an investor in the local copper mines and Pakistan's aggressive support for the Chinese firm, sources said.

"This northern railway is part of a wider plan to extend the Afghan rail network to connect Afghanistan to ports in Iran and Pakistan," Wahidullah. Shahrani, Afghanistan's minister of mines. The rail link was essential for the transportation of iron ore and copper, he said.

The China Metallurgical Group Corporation, which has been involved in the development of Aynak copper mines, has been entrusted the task of carrying out feasibility studies, and work out the construction program.

MCC has estimated that the line will cost \$5 billion and take five years to be completed, and half of the time would be spent on the feasibility study. It is obvious that the long two and half years kept aside for feasibility study is actually the waiting period required to ensure that the Taliban areas are peaceful enough to begin construction work.

The agreement with Afghan government specifies that MCC will lay the line under a build own, operate and transfer concession after the local government approves the feasibility study. MCC president Zou Jianhui recently said that the security factor was something his company was watching closely because it would put its investment to grave risks.

All Day

Pakistan puts new life into ECO -- Kashgar Times.

Pakistan puts new life into ECO

Posted on 29 September 2010

Truck Carvan of ECO states to hit the road tomorrow Enforcement of transit transport framework agreement Muhammd Arshad

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) member countries have finally decided to enforce much awaited Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) by launching a Truck Carvan, which will start from Pakistan on Thursday. It will move across the region and terminate at Istanbul, Turkey after passing through Iran, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan.

A symbolic send off ceremony will be held in Islamabad today (Wednesday) to be attended by dignitaries and businessmen. Being initiative of Pakistan, it was decided that the Caravan will be launched from Pakistan and the Trucks of all Member States (One from each) including Pakistan will assemble in Quetta.

Truck Caravan is being jointly organized by ECO Secretariat in Tehran and International Road Transport Union (IRU), the sources informed.

The TTFA, to provide access to land-locked countries, was signed among the 10 member states more than a decade ago for road, rail and inland water transportation in a bid to boost trade and social activities in the ECO region.

Pakistan being the pioneer member of the ECO is a strong advocate for promoting transit and transport links among the ECO member countries specifically for the landlocked Central Asian States and Afghanistan.

The TTFA lays down a comprehensive roadmap for establishing functional transit links across the region, will provide a way forward for linking the five Central Asian States namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan through road with the Ports of Pakistan and surely contribute to streamlining the transport operations and services. The TTFA will boost trade activities coupled with social links in the region as the member countries have already enhanced regional cooperation in areas such as trade, industry, transport & communications, energy and information technology.

The need for cooperation among the ECO member countries is also reinforced by the common challenges faced by them. These challenges include poverty, degradation of environment, food scarcity, threat of terrorism and extremism, narcotics trade, threat of epidemic diseases and the impact of global financial crisis.

Over the years Pakistan has made steady progress towards improving potential trade and transit links through up-gradation of national transport infrastructure and establishment of functional region-wide transit corridors. This up-gradation has provided a viable option to the Central Asian Republics for transit links.

Considering the importance of sea port access to the landlocked countries and the fact that these road connections would provide shorter route to these States, Pakistan has planned to develop a new National Trade Corridor (NTC) linking upcountry in North with Ports in southern cities of Karachi and Gwadar in order to reduce travel time and operating costs.

Transit transport will enhance social links among the ECO countries as well as they have interacted over the centuries through the fabled Silk Route. The route facilitated not just traders and invaders but also philosophers, saints, thinkers and artisans. This interaction was intense and spread over millennia. As a result, today, the people of the region share cultural, linguistic, ethnic and spiritual commonalities.

These commonalities are even more pronounced in case of Pakistan. Our cultural traditions, language, cuisine, and even religious undercurrents have predominantly Central Asian roots. The historic cross currents of ideas, civilization and culture among the ECO countries had been innately strong.

Under the colonial rules of British in South Asia and some seventy years of Soviet control of Central Asia the interaction among the countries in the region was assiduously curtailed but remained intact symbolically by travel, trade, migration and even conquest. The Silk Route, both physically and in terms of ideas, put down idle but the inherent regional similarities could not be eliminated as the effects of shared millennia of history could not be reversed by the antics of the Great Game.

Scope and potential exist in the region offer inter-regional economic and political activity for the nations in the area. The population of Central Asian States (CARs) is only 65 million but they are extremely rich in energy resources and other raw materials, such as gold, uranium, iron and non-ferrous metals.

Central Asia has 150 billion barrels of crude oil and 1234 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves and Pakistan affords a ready market for these resources.

Over the years Pakistan has made steady progress towards improving potential trade and transit links through up-gradation of national transport infrastructure and establishment of functional region-wide transit corridors. This up-gradation has provided a viable option to the Central Asian Republics for transit links.

Gawadar seaport is a significant project in this regard. Future trade patterns envision substantial cargo from CARs and Afghanistan. Gawadar's role in oil transportation across the regions is also envisaged.

Karakoram Highway (KKH), built with the assistance of our great friend China, affords access to Central Asia through China. A Quadrilateral Agreement for Traffic in Transit brings together Pakistan, China, Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan through KKH.

Pakistan is also pursuing import of hydroelectricity and natural gas from Central Asia. We have credible international backing for the two projects. World Bank and ADBP are the lead institutional support for import of energy from Central Asia.

The ECO member states, which include Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have declared their intention to make improvements in the regional transportation and communications infrastructure by signing TTFA. It is good effort to boost trade and commerce activities but there are many hurdles to enforce the TTFA in letter and spirit.

An inadequate regional transport infrastructure has always been the major obstacle to implement the TTFA as links among the members are poor, and even existing networks are in disrepair. For example, as much as 60 percent of the road and bridge system in war-ravaged Afghanistan is in need of replacement. Many observers say ECO is unlikely to thrive until a comprehensive infrastructure is in place.

ECO's vision for the development of transport and communications networks was first outlined in Ashgabat Declaration of 1997, which called for the formation of a permanent commission to oversee infrastructure improvements. The document called for the creation of a network of roads, railways and ports that would make ECO goods easily exportable via shipping hubs in Iran, Pakistan and Turkey.

Subsequently, ECO established a program of action that began in 1998 and runs through 2007. The program outlines 12 objectives to stimulate trade and facilitate the movement of goods from landlocked regions to existing ports include the construction of a Trans-Asian railway; development of better border customs facilities; the establishment of a common postal area; the development of a Transit Transport Framework Agreement; the creation of an information mechanism to manage inter-state commerce; and the development of an inter-state fiber-optic telecommunications system. Other points in the programme call for the publication of studies, along with the convening of regular inter-governmental meetings, aimed at stimulating trade.

In the area of railway development, some progress has been achieved. For example, the Tejen-Seraks-Mashad railway linking Iran and Turkmenistan, inaugurated in 1996, increases the access of Central Asian states to the ports of the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea, as well as to Turkish ports on the Black Sea and the Mediterranean.

However, other aspects of railway development appear stalled. Under a plan finalized in O

All Day

Tethyan Copper plans to invest \$3.2bn in Reco Dig -- Daily Times Tethyan Copper plans to invest \$3.2bn in Reco Dig

QUETTA: Tethyan Copper Company Pakistan plans to operate a world class copper and gold mine with 2.2 billion tonnes economically mineable reserves by deploying a cutting edge technology at Reco Dig, Chagai, Balochistan as a joint venture with the Balochistan government with initial \$3.2 billion foreign direct investment over four years.

"We have submitted a feasibility study to Balochistan government and are having talks with the provincial government to conclude an agreement which will result in take-off for the project in next four years," TCCP senior project geologist Asadur Rehman told a group of journalists who visited the site of project, 70 kilometres north west of Nokandi. "Balochistan will get 25 percent profit plus royalty. Balochistan government will invest 25 percent in construction, development of project."

He said if an agreement was signed with the Balochistan government, TCCP-

Barrick Gold Corporation and Antofagasta Minerals of Chile-will export condensate copper and gold through Gwadar port through 682km buried pipeline from Reco Dig to Gwadar at prices quoted on the London Stock Exchange. TCCP has so far invested \$214 million in Reco Dig project. He said estimated payable metal production at Reco Dig over about 56 years of mine life is 22 billion pounds of copper and 13 million ounces of gold. It has an average grade of 0.5 percent copper and 0.3 grammes gold per tonne. ppi

All Day

US to promote agriculture in Afghanistan, Pakistan -- ISTANBUL - Hürriyet Daily News

US to promote agriculture in Afghanistan, Pakistan

ISTANBUL - Hürriyet Daily News

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

The U.S. government is committed to providing expertise and assistance to Afghanistan and Pakistan's agricultural sector so that the countries can establish the necessary infrastructure to promote better productivity and higher food safety in their agricultural products.

"We will support the long-term development of agriculture in both countries," Darci Vetter, the undersecretary for farm and foreign agricultural services at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said Wednesday during the agricultural meetings with Afghan and Pakistani leaders in Istanbul.

The trilateral meetings with the two Asian countries were supported by the government of the United States and ran Tuesday and Wednesday.

Food security, water management and advanced irrigation technologies, as well as the establishment of trade corridors for agricultural products, were the main areas of discussions. Participants set up priorities and drafted an action plan to help Afghan and Pakistani farmers improve productivity and trade relations.

"The main purpose of such an initiative is to bring peace to the region," Malik Zahoor Ahmad, the chief coordinator of the trilateral secretariat for Pakistan, said Wednesday, adding that promoting food security would lower poverty rates and illiteracy.

Projects to get Afghan farmers out of opium business

Afghanistan continues to be the world's biggest producer of opium in 2010, according to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, or UNODC, statistics.

Preventing opium production and distribution is one of the main challenges Afghanistan and other countries in the region have to face, said Vetter.

"We have to provide [Afghan] farmers with other real alternatives," she said, adding that they would earn larger incomes by cultivating high-value agricultural products such as fruit and nut trees.

She also said helping such agricultural products reach both domestic and foreign markets was crucial.

Abdul Ghani Ghuriani, the Afghanistan deputy minister of agriculture, said the country's government was working hard to address the opium production, which he said was more intensive in the southern part of the country.

"As this is a cross-cutting issue, we have developed cross-cutting strategies to tackle it," Ghuriani said, adding that the Ministry of Agriculture was trying to encourage farmers to produce legal agricultural goods by providing them capital and giving other policy incentives.

At the same time, he said other ministries were working to monitor the situation and stop and destroy poppy production and distribution.

Real action to be taken through projects

Afghan experts suggested establishing an irrigation institute to train and qualify agriculture academics and experts in both Afghanistan and Pakistan, thus encouraging cooperation as well as exchange of expertise and ideas.

Another project suggested by the working groups was founding a trans-border surveillance system in order to monitor animals shipped across the border. Foot and mouth disease, which is common in cattle and goats, is widespread in the region.

Vetter said the U.S. would work on small-scale and easily replicable and sustainable projects which would have long-lasting effects on the agricultural sectors in both countries.

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All Day

Accord signed with US for \$831m under Kerry-Lugar Act -- Daily Times
 Accord signed with US for \$831m under Kerry-Lugar Act

- * US ambassador says funds being used in transparent manner
- * Money to fund key sectors, including democracy and governance

By Ijaz Kakakhel

ISLAMABAD: The United States and Pakistan on Thursday signed five agreements for the grant of \$831 million under the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act, popularly known as Kerry-Lugar Act.

US Ambassador Robin Raphel and Economic Affairs Division Secretary Sibtain Fazal Halim inked the agreement. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Raphel said the US was working closely with the government of Pakistan and non-government organisations, and that the US funds were being utilised in a transparent manner.

Giving details of the agreement, the ambassador said that it was an important element in the implementation of the Kerry-Lugar Bill. It would make available the first tranche of \$831 million from over \$1 billion in development assistance funds that the US will provide to the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Raphel revealed that USAID had already provided \$224 million from the Kerry-Lugar funds to priority projects in Pakistan.

"We will implement our assistance in the most open, transparent and accountable manner, so the people of Pakistan and of the US know where the money is going," Raphel said, adding that the US government was in contact with the Pakistan government for long-term strategic dialogues, which included talks on financial assistance. The American government had also contributed \$340 million to the flood-relief efforts, she added. Answering a question about transparent use of the money, Raphel said the US had a number of monitoring mechanisms for this purpose. "We thoroughly assess the situation and make decision whether to extend our funds to an entity or government of Pakistan," she said, adding if the US government realised that the assistance was being misused, it could stop further funding. The ambassador said that there was no need to evaluate the performance of projects in Pakistan through third party evaluation.

The funds will be used for programmes in key sectors. The breakdown of allocation for various sectors is as follows: \$99 million for democracy and governance, \$131 million for health, \$179 million for education, \$144 million for creation of economic opportunities, \$56.5 million for agriculture, \$45 million for energy. \$111 million and \$66 million will be spent on stabilisation and human assistance in FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, respectively. Halim defended the country's financial and auditing system and claimed that the US government trusted them.

All Day

Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission in service of the nation --
ARTICLE

Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission in service of the nation

ARTICLE (October 01, 2010) : Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) has, over the years, built an extensive infrastructure for contributing to the socio-economic uplift of the country.

Its activities span a wide spectrum: from nuclear power generation to minerals development, from developing high yielding, stress tolerant crops to the treatment of cancer, and from design and fabrication of industrial plants/equipment to human resource development.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Nuclear power is pollution free, cost competitive and safe. It is independent of seasonal effects and provides security of electricity supply. Owing to these unique

characteristics, it augurs well for sustainable development. PAEC is successfully operating two nuclear power plants with the third one upcoming; has 45 reactor-years of experience in nuclear power plant operation at its credit and plans to build more nuclear power plants in the coming years to contribute to the energy requirements of the country.

MINERALS DEVELOPMENT:

Prospecting, exploration and processing of minerals for local industry, and provision of expert geo-technical services in these areas. Indigenous development of nuclear fuel and materials for local nuclear power plants.

SUPPORT TO THE INDUSTRY:

PAEC is assisting the industry in its growth and competitive capability by providing:

- Design and fabrication services for the manufacture of large-scale mechanical systems, complete plants and modules
- Training/certification in welding techniques and site services for manufacturing & installation of plants
- Training/certification in Non-Destructive Testing Techniques along with services for testing of manufactured equipment and in-service inspection of plants

INSTRUMENTATION & CONTROL:

PAEC undertakes design and installation of Instrumentation & Control Systems for its own projects and for the general industry. Various services are being provided in this area.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT:

- Contributing to basic research in collaboration with world scientific bodies
- Assisting local industry through Research & Development
- Based upon the excellence of its research labs and human resource quality, -- -- PINSTECH, a research institute of PAEC has been declared Regional Resource Centre of IAEA.

CANCER HOSPITALS:

PAEC is running 14 state-of-the-art cancer hospitals all over the country which are providing diagnostic and treatment services for cancer related diseases to around 500,000 patients annually, most of them free of charge. Four more such hospitals will be added shortly.

AGRICULTURE & BIOTECHNOLOGY:

Over the years, PAEC has developed more than 61 new high yielding, stress tolerant crops varieties, which are fetching additional income to the farmers

Providing Saline Agriculture Technology for economic utilisation of salt-affected lands in the country.

Expert services in this area are provided to IAEA member countries

- Offering irradiation services for enhancing shelf life of fruits and vegetables
- Development of an indigenous and low cost Laser Land Leveler, which drastically reduces irrigation water requirement to crops
- Leading role in Bio-Tech research and applications

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT:

PAEC's institutes namely Pakistan Institute of Engineering & Applied Sciences (PIEAS) and KANUPP Institute of Nuclear Power Engineering (KINPOE) offer Masters and Ph.D. degree programmes in Systems Engineering, Nuclear Engineering, Nuclear Medicine, Information Technology, Medical Physics, Nuclear Power Engineering, Materials Engineering and Process Engineering.

All Day

Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves hit \$16.78 billion record level -- RECORDER REPORT

Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves hit \$16.78 billion record level
RECORDER REPORT

KARACHI (October 01, 2010) : The country's total liquid foreign exchange reserves reached highest-ever level of \$16.788 billion because of high foreign inflows sent by overseas Pakistanis. According to the State Bank of Pakistan the country's total liquid foreign exchange reserves posted an increase of \$156.4 million to \$16.788 billion on week ended on September 24, 2010 from \$16.632 billion a week earlier.

Earlier, the country's liquid foreign exchange reserves were at peak level of \$16.76 billion on July 2, 2010. The major raise has been witnessed in the reserves held by the SBP, which reached near \$13 billion level. Reserves held by the SBP increased by \$156.4 million to \$12.99 billion during the last week as compared to \$12.794 billion a week earlier.

Foreign exchange reserves held by banks witnessed declining trend as they fell by \$41.7 million during the last week. With current decline, overall forex reserves held by banks rose to \$3.816 billion as compared to \$3.7665 billion a week earlier. Sources said during the last week the country also received \$451 million from the International Monetary Fund on account of Emergency Natural Disaster Assistance (ENDA) for flood victims.

All Day

PM to inaugurate Rs 12 billion Diamer Bhasha Dam soon: Ashraf -- Daily Times

PM to inaugurate Rs 12 billion Diamer Bhasha Dam soon: Ashraf

* Water and Power minister says India violating Indus Waters Treaty

* 1750MW added to national grid, 1,000MW more in six months

By Zeeshan Javaid

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Water and Power Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Thursday informed the National Assembly that Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani would soon inaugurate the Diamer Bhasha Dam project that was being constructed at a cost of Rs 12 billion.

Ashraf informed the House that land been acquired for the dam. He said the government wanted to build new dams with province's assent, while it was working on the construction of small and medium-sized dams. Accusing India of violating the Indus Waters Treaty from August 18, 2008 to August 25, 2008, the minister said that water inflow at the Marala Headworks on Chenab River had reduced, resulting in the desertification of over 200,000 acres of cultivable land.

Ashraf said India could not construct a dam or any other structure that hindered water flow in rivers entering Pakistan, without taking it into confidence. Responding to a question, he said that Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower project, which would generate 969MW of electricity, would be completed within a year.

The minister informed the House that restructuring of the power sector had improved electricity supply and there was no load-shedding in industrial sector presently. "Load-shedding has substantially decreased, 1,750MW electricity has

been added to the national grid and 1,000MW more will be added within next four to six months," he said. There is a gap between demand and supply of electric power and the government is making all out efforts to bridge it, he added.

Ashraf said that all the power companies affiliated with the Pakistan Electric Power Company would be privatised. He added that they would work independently and would be responsible for their profit and loss. Pointing to kunda system that is used to steal electricity, he said all provincial governments and the federal government were taking steps to stop electricity theft, and stern action against would be taken against those involved in it.

The minister said that raising of Main Dam, Sukian Dyke, Jari dam and emergency spillways was almost complete. On the Mangla Dam Raising Project, he said that development of new towns for the people affected by the raising was underway and Rs 4.8 billion were needed to complete the work. The minister said Water and Power Development Authority had transferred about Rs 48 billion to the Azad Kashmir government to compensate the affected families.

Ashraf said that the power tariff was based on fuel prices in the international market, and with any upward shift in oil price necessitates increase in domestic electricity prices. He, however, stressed that the government did not want to burden the lifeline consumers with price hikes. Ashraf vowed action against those involved in inflated billing. Admitting line losses, he said that updating the system would cost billions of dollars. He said that the government was still providing a subsidy of Rs 20 billion to the power sector.

Separately, Minister for Labour and Manpower Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah informed the House that the country was exporting over 4 million skilled and unskilled workers to various countries. He said MoUs had been signed with six Middle Eastern countries in this regard.

Adviser to Prime Minister Nawabzada Ghazanfar Gul informed the House that LPG prices had witnessed a surge of Rs 7 owing to the floods. He said the situation was returning to normal and a decrease of Rs 3 has been witnessed. He hoped that prices would return to old rates.

All Day

Nawaiwaqt -- پاکستانی سرحد پر چین اپنا دوسرا بڑا شہر تعمیر کر رہا ہے

پاکستانی سرحد پر چین اپنا دوسرا بڑا شہر تعمیر کر رہا ہے

لاہور (نیوز ڈیسک) پاکستانی سرحد پر چین اپنا دوسرا بڑا شہر تعمیر کر رہا ہے۔ کاشغر کے کارخانوں میں بننے والا سامان گوادر بندرگاہ تک پہنچایا جائے گا کاشغر کی ترقی سے گلگت بلتستان کی قسمت بھی بدل جائیگی۔ بھارت اس ترقی پر پریشان جبکہ پاکستان خوش ہے۔ ایک امریکی جریدے میں شائع ہونیوالی رپورٹ میں مزید کہا گیا ہے کاشغر کی ترقی سے جنوبی ایشیا کی مارکیٹ پر آسانی سے قبضہ کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق گزشتہ برس چینی حکومت نے یہاں ساڑھے 7 ارب ڈالر کی سبسٹیز دی تھیں۔ اس رقم سے کئی پراجیکٹ زیر تعمیر ہیں۔ یغور مسلمانوں اور کنزرویشنسٹ باشندوں کے احتجاج کے باوجود چینی حکومت نے یہاں کے پرانے شہر ٹینڈم کے ہزاروں گھر گرا دینے تاکہ ان کی جگہ نئی عمارتیں تعمیر کی جاسکیں بے گھر لوگوں کو بھی ان عمارتوں میں بسایا جائیگا۔ اس سکیم پر 500 ملین ڈالر لاگت آئی۔ یہ پراجیکٹ 5 برس میں مکمل ہوگا۔ روس اور سنٹرل ایشیئن ریسرچ سنٹر کے پروفیسر زالیو ہوا شینگ کا کہنا ہے کہ چین کو یقین ہے کہ کاشغر پر کی جانے والی سرمایہ کاری بیس برس میں واپس مل جائیگی۔ چینی منصوبے کے مطابق کاشغر سے پاکستان کے ذریعے گوادر کی بندرگاہ تک ریلوے لائن بچھائی جائیگی اور ایک پائپ لائن گوادر سے کاشغر تک جائیگی جس سے تیل کی ضروریات پوری ہونگی۔ اس منصوبے سے پاکستان تو خوش ہے البتہ بھارت انتہائی ناخوش ہے۔ پروفیسر کا کہنا ہے کہ بھارت کی سرحد کے نزدیک ملٹری انفراسٹرکچر سے بھی بھارت کو تشویش لاحق ہے۔

All Day

Afghan trucks allowed up to Wagah -- Indo-Asian News Service

Pakistan has granted permission to Afghan trucks to carry export goods to the Wagah border for onward dispatch to India, a minister said. The federal government Wednesday approved a revised Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement that allows Afghan trucks up to the Wagah border. Under the old agreement, the Afghan trucks were permitted to carry goods only to the Pakistan-Afghanistan border at Torkham.

Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira said that the new agreement was an improved form of the treaty signed by the two countries in 1965.

Dawn reported that Pakistan and Afghanistan had finalised the new agreement July 19 this year but the move sparked a public outburst. Critics said it was done under US pressure for the benefit of India.

Now, in the new agreement, Afghan trucks will be allowed to carry goods to the Wagah border, but they will not be allowed to carry Indian goods to Afghanistan. In return, Pakistani trucks will be allowed to go through Afghanistan to central Asia, Iran and Turkey.

All Day

Cabinet approves Pak-Afghan transit trade agreement -- The PakTribune
Cabinet approves Pak-Afghan transit trade agreement

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Wednesday approved the Pakistan-Afghanistan Transit Trade Agreement according to which Afghan trucks would only be allowed access up to Wagha border and they would carry only Pakistani export goods back to their country.

"The trade between Afghanistan and India is already taking place under the 1965 agreement and since 1980, Afghanistan is exporting through the Wagha border between Pakistan and India," said Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira while briefing newsmen after the cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani.

The agreement was signed between Commerce Minister Makhdoom Amin Fahim and his Afghan counterpart Dr Anwar-ul-Haq Ahady in the presence of Prime Minister Gilani and US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton on July 18 this year. The opposition had expressed reservations on the agreement, saying it would give India access to Afghanistan via Pakistan.

Kaira said since 1980, the Afghan trucks were allowed up to the Torkham border but under the new agreement they would be allowed access up to Wagha. "In return, Pakistani trucks would be allowed to go through Afghanistan to the Central Asian Republics and Iran," he said.

"The new agreement approved by the cabinet does not allow export of Indian goods to Afghanistan through the Wagha border," he added. He said the prime minister had directed the Federal Bureau of Revenue and the commerce ministry to work to curtail the menace of smuggling. It has also been agreed in the agreement that financial guarantees equal to the amount of import levies of Pakistan have to be deposited by authorised brokers/customs clearing agents to check unauthorised trade and these deposits will be released after the goods exit the country.

In case, the goods do not exit the country within the specified time, the guarantees will be confiscated by the customs authorities. He said the cabinet also approved that the Pakistan Housing Authority will now be an autonomous body and would work more efficiently with the private sector to provide accommodation to the government officials and other people on a priority basis.

When asked about reports in the Western media which claimed that Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani had given a list of tainted ministers to the government seeking their removal and why there was no clarification from the ISPR or the federal government about these reports, the information minister replied: "It is

not the job of the COAS to give any list, to tell who should remain in the cabinet. He is doing his job well. There is no need to clarify this baseless report."

Asked whether the cabinet discussed the recent statements of former president Pervez Musharraf, Kaira said, "Leave him, he is irrelevant now." He said the cabinet reviewed the implementation status of the cabinet decisions pertaining to the Narcotics Control Division, Board of Investment and Commerce Division.

He said the cabinet was told that around 85 per cent decisions relating to these divisions had been implemented while the remaining relating to discussions with foreign countries and other stakeholders were being pursued. He said the cabinet reviewed the second phase of rehabilitation of floods victims.

Kaira said floodwater had almost receded from the flood-hit areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Punjab while in Sindh, 14 per cent floodwater had receded. The information minister said so far over 322,000 Watan Cards had been distributed among the flood-affected people. He said the cabinet approved the decisions of the ECC meeting and approved a programme being launched by the French Development Agency, the Asian Development Bank and the Government of Pakistan at a cost of 980 million dollars. "Under this programme, work would be initiated to meet energy crisis in the country with more efficiency," he added. Under this programme the ADB would provide \$780 million, including \$65 million for energy saver bulbs.

The minister said the cabinet also approved an agreement with Egypt regarding exchange of experts for technical training. The cabinet gave approval to a loan assistance agreement with Korea under which Korea will provide 180 million dollars for infrastructure, health, education and renewable energy projects.

All Day**Pakistan building 500 MW Wind Energy Farms07. Oct, 2010 0 Comments
-- Islamabad Globe**

Pakistan building 500 MW Wind Energy Farms07. Oct, 2010 0 Comments

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Water and Power Raja Pervez Ashraf has asked Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) to immediately process the proposals of Employees Old age Benefit Institute (EOBI) for setting up of 200 to 500 MW Wind Energy project in the country.

He said that while presiding over the Inter-ministerial meeting for setting up of wind energy project with local manufacturing. The meeting also attended by Federal Labour Minister, Syed Khursheed Shah, Minister of State for Defence Production, Sardar Salim Haider, Chairman, Heavy Industries Board, Taxila (HIT), Chairman EOBI, CEO, AEDB and other senior officials of the AEDB and HIT.

Raja Pervez Ashraf appreciated the EOBI for their keen to invest in the power sector by establishing Wind Power Project. He said that Pakistan has great wind energy potential. The wind energy is environment friendly power generation and the world is also trying to develop wind farms to generate cheapest energy for its consumers.

He said that the government of Pakistan is also encouraging investment in the alternative energy projects and number of LOIs have been issued to the potential investors. He said that the change in the energy mix is our policy and alternative energy and hydel projects are our priorities. The Minister also assured that after completing the required procedure, the AEDB will immediately issue LOI for the wind power project of EOBI.

The Labour Minister, Syed Khursheed Shah said that the Ministry is keen to invest the EOBI funds in the best national interest and the proposal to set up Wind Energy Farm will help to meet our future energy requirements. He said that the EOBI will set up wind power project of 200 to 500 MW with the collaboration of local

manufacturing. He said that it is our desire that the wind project should be completed within shortest possible time frame of one year.

The Minister of state for Defence Production, Sardar Salim Haider informed the meeting that Heavy Industries Taxila have the ability to develop some kind of wind energy machinery parts. He assured the meeting that the HIT will fully cooperate in the mage project and utilize all of its expertise.

The meeting decided to early process two feasibilities one for 200 MW and other for 500 MW wind projects. The report of the AEDB and HIT will be submitted in the next inter-ministerial meeting to be held next week.

Earlier, the Chairman EOBI briefed the meeting on their investment plan of wind energy projects and the Chairman HIT on the expertise of manufacturing of parts of wind turbines. Pakistan plans 200 to 500 MW Wind Energy Project. 'Pakistan Times' Business & Commerce Desk

All Day

Turkmenistan to help Pak generate 1000 MW of electricity -- Dr Jassim Taqui

Turkmenistan to help Pak generate 1000 MW of electricity
Dr Jassim Taqui

Islamabad—The main thrust of the Turkmen bilateral ties with Pakistan is to promote trade ties and to accelerate efforts for TAPI gas pipeline (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan- Pakistan-India). The capacity of 1400 km pipeline, have of which would run via Afghanistan, is estimated between 25 to 30 billion cubic meters gas per year, stated the Turkmen Ambassador Mr. Sapar Berdiniyazov in an exclusive interview with Pakistan Observer. He further stated that Turkmenistan is the largest “ Blue Fuel” producer in Central Asia.

Giving a background on the TAPI, Mr. Berdiniyazov said that on March 11, 2009 and during ECO summit in Tehran Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov President of Turkmenistan and Mr. Asif Ali Zardari reaffirmed commitment to further strengthen bilateral relations and the construction of the TAPI. On August 30, 2010, President Berdimuhamedov talked telephonically to Zardari on the TAPI. During the conversation Mr. Zardari accepted the Turkmen invitation to participate in the summit of heads of the TAPI states. The summit would be held in December this year. Elaborating, Mr. Berdiniyazov said that Turkmenistan and Pakistan held two sessions of JMC successfully. The first session was held in Ashgabat last year. The second was held at Islamabad on August 24-26, 2010. Mr. Rashid Meredov, Deputy Chairman of Cabinets of Ministers of Turkmenistan, Minister of Foreign Affairs headed the Turkmen delegation. During the discussion, delegates from both sides presented various proposals to enhance cooperation in the fields of trade, energy, agriculture , livestock, science and technology, education, health, sports and tourism. At the JMC, Berdiniyazov disclosed, Turkmenistan offered export of at least 1000 MW electricity to Pakistan.

A Joint Working Group between relevant organization had been established which would start deliberation on this project. Turkmen delegates during the session paid official calls on President of Pakistan, Prime Minister, foreign Minister and Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources and discussed TAPI, bilateral and regional cooperation. The two sides also underlined the importance of accelerating efforts to build TAPI pipeline on priority basis. In this regard, Turkmen side hosted the Steering Committee meeting of TAPI on 18-20 September, 2010 in Ashgabat where the landmark agreement was signed for TAPI multi-billion gas pipeline project. Mr. Sayed Naveed Qamar, Minister of Petroleum and natural resources represented Pakistan at the meeting. Berdiniyazov said that Turkmenistan is a hub of energy and is also a major energy exporter. Turkmenistan is exporting oil, gas and electricity to Russian Federation, Ukraine, Iran, Afghanistan and Turkey through existing pipelines. On December 14, 2009, the 7000 km long international Turkmenistan- China gas pipeline was also launched. It was a landmark in the contemporary history of Turkmenistan. The event was attended by Turkmen

President Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, Chinese President Mr. Hu Jintao and Presidents of the transit countries- Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan and Nursultan Nazabayev of Kazakhstan. This transnational pipeline will transport up to 30 billion cubic meters of Turkmen gas. On January 6, 2010, construction of the new Turkmenistan-Iran (Dowlejabat-Sarakhs-Hangeran) was completed and launched in Turkmenistan. The projected capacity of this gas pipeline is 12 billion cubic meters of gas annually. Answering a question on the future pipelines intended to be constructed, Berdiniyazov mentioned East-West gas pipeline which will link the largest gas fields in the country of a capacity of 30 billion cubic meters. The pipeline costs \$ 2 billion. By 2030, Turkmenistan intends to increase gas production to 250 billion tons per year and 110 million tons of oil per year. Similarly, Turkmenistan plans to increase gas exports to 125 billion cubic meters per year. Speaking on Turkmen policy towards Afghanistan, Berdiniyazov said that his government was keen to find a peaceful settlement to the issue of Afghanistan by negotiation and creating an atmosphere of national reconciliation.

Taking into account the neutral status of Turkmenistan, Ashgabat is ready to hold an international meeting under a UN auspices on confidence building in Afghanistan. Mr. Berdiniyazov paid rich tribute to President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov for proclaiming Neutrality in Turkmenistan and said he was proud to state that the United Nations welcomed and endorsed Turkmen Neutrality. He further said, "Neutrality is not just a legal status. It is an active position, a full-scale involvement in international processes through peacemaking and assisting in working out effective models of economic cooperation."

All Day

Pakistan government seek fund for Thar coal -- Business Recorder

Pakistan government seek fund for Thar coal

Friday, 08 Oct 2010 The government is to seek foreign funding for development of infrastructure to support early completion of Thar coal project. Official sources told Business Recorder that the Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company has completed the detailed feasibility study of the coal mining project, estimated to produce 6.5 million tonnes per annum of coal from block II of Thar coal fields.

Sources said that the feasibility study proves that the project is technically viable. However, to ensure its economic viability the infrastructure related to Thar coal development is of critical importance, which has to match the timelines of the project. During recent presentations before the president and the prime minister, the infrastructure development initiatives were discussed in detail and both leaders had urged all relevant ministries to expedite project approvals on fast track basis.

In terms of Rule 6 and 11 of the Rules of procedure of the Council of Common Interests prompt action has to be taken by concerned federal and provincial governments to give effect to the decision of the CCI. According to sources, no investor can achieve financial close for the project of this level without provision of robust infrastructure. Provision of infrastructure is the responsibility of the government. Hence, it requires appropriate commitment on the part of the government to attract and retain investment for this kind of project.

Thar Coal & Energy Board is actively pursuing the task and is focused on developing an enabling environment which includes developing physical infrastructure that can facilitate the mining and power generation. In order to develop physical infrastructure for development of Thar coal, initial feasibilities/estimates suggest ensuring local/foreign funding of approximately PKR 148.09 billion. This includes funding of PKR 29.75 billion for water supply, PKR 12.75 billion for effluent disposal, PKR 17 billion for constructing railway network and PKR 4.24 billion for improvement of road network. To evacuate 10,000MW from Thar coal based on production projections, laying and installing transmission network is necessary from Thar that would require an allocation of at least PKR 85 billion.

Sindh government has urged for preparation of a comprehensive strategy and roadmap by Economic Affairs Division to explore international financing options. In this regard, it has been proposed that a core group may be constituted by EAD to expedite and follow up with international agencies, international banks through Pakistani Economic Ministers abroad, and other available financing options including but not limited to Pak-China "Five Year Development Program on Trade and Economic Cooperation".

All Day

**LCCI flays Afghan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement APTTA approval
-- RECORDER REPORT**

LCCI flays APTTA approval

RECORDER REPORT

LAHORE (October 09, 2010) : The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, while criticising the approval of Afghan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) termed it against Pakistan's national and economic interests and said it is bound to increase unemployment, poverty and further slow down the process of industrialisation in the country.

The agreement that was approved by the federal cabinet would allow Afghan trucks to fetch goods from Wahga due to which the existing trade volume between Pakistan and Afghanistan would nose-dive to new lows as India would be catering to Afghanistan's business needs at more competitive rates in an efficient way, said LCCI President Shahzad Ali Malik in a statement on Friday.

The Indian manufacturing sector would get a new boost while Pakistan's entire industrial sector would suffer badly because the Afghanistan's orders would now be directly landing to the hand of Indian businessmen instead of Pakistan. "There is no second opinion about it that the ultimate beneficiaries are India and Afghanistan" he added.

The opportunity provided to Afghanistan to export to India is also likely to be misused as had been in vogue for the last many years. Because of corrupt practices, the Afghani goods destined for India are likely to get their way to Pakistani markets turning the country into a trading hub instead of a manufacturing place thus hitting the country's economy hard, Malik maintained.

"APTTA is harmful to Pakistan's economy as whole and counterproductive for local industry as it would be catalysing smuggling. This is not only trade and industry that would be falling prey to the proposed Agreement but the transport sector would also get a blow. The Afghani trucks on their way back to Afghanistan would be carrying Pakistani merchandise to Kabul or other destinations depriving Pakistani transporters of their business, which they were doing for the last many years, he added.

All Day

TIKA opens office in Pakistan to enhance assistance operation

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APP

TIKA opens office in Pakistan to enhance assistance operation
ISLAMABAD, Oct 13 (APP): The Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) would establish its office in Pakistan to strengthen its cooperation for the development of various projects and programmes in the country. In this regard, Cooperation Protocol for establishment of the office in the country, was signed by President TIKA H.E. Musa Kulakhkaya and Hassan Nawaz Tarar, Additional Secretary, Economic Affairs Division on Wednesday.

TIKA, within the framework of this Protocol will provide assistance to Pakistan by dispatching experts, trainers, advisers, technical personnel, assistants and auxiliary staff.

It would also provide the necessary materials and equipments used within the framework of various investments, projects and programmes.

TIKA would train Pakistani experts, executive officers, diplomats, trainers and scholars both within and outside Pakistan.

In addition it would provide various services in the field of infrastructure besides assigning the preservation of cultural heritage.

TIKA is the Turkish government's Development Cooperation Agency which has coordination offices in 20 countries across Africa, Asia and Europe, delivering development assistance to partner countries through its projects and activities. Turkey had pledged US\$ 100 million during the Tokyo Donors Conference. Out of this, an amount of US\$ 10 million has already been disbursed as budgetary support, while the balance amount of US\$ 90 million will be spent on development projects/programmes.

The grant will be administered by TIKA.

All Day

**PAF to participate in Int'l aviation, aerospace exhibition next month --
'Pakistan Times' China Bureau**

PAF to participate in Int'l aviation, aerospace exhibition next month
'Pakistan Times' China Bureau

BEIJING (China): Pakistan Air Force (PAF) will participate for the first time in an international aviation and aerospace exhibition being held in China next month.

Addressing a press conference to brief about the salient features of the 8th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition to be held in Zhuhai, in Guangdong province the Deputy Secretary General of the provincial government Lin Ying who is also member of the standing Committee of the air show along with other senior officials said that an aerobatic team of Pakistan Air Force "Sherdils" will demonstrate their acrobatic skill at the Air show.

He said that besides performance of Sherdils, the Pak, China jointly produced fighter aircraft JF-17 also known as "Thunder" fighter will also participate in exhibition in which world famous aircraft manufacturers including Boeing, Airbus, Rolls-Royce and Rosoboron export besides Chinese manufacturers would also show case their products.

The Air and Technical attaches at Pakistan Embassy attended the press conference. In an informal talk with the Vice-Mayor Chen Ying, the Air Attach said that PAF is ensuring maximum participation in the Air show and Chief of Air Staff of PAF will be attending the ceremony in Zhuhai.

This is for the first time, that China made K-8 aircraft and JF-17 Thunder fighter, a co-production of Pakistan and China will be the flying in the Air show, he said.

The Vice-Mayor Chen Ying said on the occasion that he was extremely happy to say that PAF is taking part in the exhibition in a big a way. "This demonstrates Sino-Pak strong friendship in all dimensions", he observed.

All Day

**Pak Urges Turkey to Facilitate Trade by Upgrading New Rail Link --
An International Initiative for Global Trade**

Pak Urges Turkey to Facilitate Trade by Upgrading New Rail Link

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari and Premier Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani conveyed to the visiting Prime Minister of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan that their country was desirous of upgrading the new rail link between both nations to maximize trade. The first Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) freight train started its journey from the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, on August 14 and reached 14 days later in Istanbul, former capital of Turkey via Tehran.

The 6,500km (4,040 mile) trial service via the Iranian capital, Tehran, is a pilot project of the regional ECO, and Islamabad expects the link to boost Pakistan's trade with Turkey and Iran - currently estimated at \$1bn - by as much as 50 percent. The ultimate aim of the project is to start a regular passenger train service between the ECO member states and provide a link to Europe and Central Asia.

While Gilani received Erdogan, he expressed his gratitude for extending a helping hand to the victims of the recent devastating floods of his country. Turkey provided funds to the tune of \$200mn, out of which around \$126mn were donated by the Turkish business community and ordinary people.

In response, Turkey's prime minister said it was natural for Turkey and Pakistan to help each other in hard times. He recalled Pakistan had not left Turkey on its own during its War of Independence and while the country was hit by a massive earthquake in 1999.

The Pak premier also emphasized that Ankara should encourage its private sector to collaborate even more closely with Pakistani counterparts in key sectors like construction, infrastructure, engineering, energy, agriculture, tele-communications, mining and textile, etc.

The ECO is an inter-governmental regional organization established in 1985 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey for the purpose of promoting economic, technical and cultural co-operation among the member states. Apart from the founding members, the organization includes Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

By Jose Roy

All Day

SUPARCO to launch Paksat 1R satellite next year -- Dawn

KARACHI: Pakistan will launch its telecommunication satellite "PakSat 1R" on August 14, 2011. The satellite will replace the current telecommunication satellite developed by Hughes System.

This was stated by Secretary SUPARCO, Arshad H Siraj on Monday. Talking to Dawn.com, Siraj said that the satellite will replace the existing PakSat 1 which will be inactive and outdated next year. The satellite already has shown signal eclipse of 88 days in a year. In PakSat 1R, the "R" means replacement.

Paksat 1 and R: the History

Telecommunication satellites are put in orbit 35,700 km above the equator, and on that particular altitude they move in-sync with Earth, thus completing the rotation in 24 hours and remaining stationary with respect to a particular position on the ground, which is why they are also called "geostationary satellites". However, only a limited number of satellites can be placed in that particular orbit because only one satellite can be put on each degree. Hence, 360 satellites can be placed in an imaginary circle above the globe.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) allocates the satellite place in geostationary orbit on a first-come-first-serve basis. But after allotment of a position, a deadline is needed for a party to launch its satellite in a given time and in case of failure, the allotment is handed over to other nations or parties who were in queue.

According to Secretary SUPARCO, in the 1980s, Pakistan booked eight slots in the orbit. In mid 90s Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) inked an agreement with Alcatel for a satellite. But in the mean time, a few telecommunication satellites launches failed worldwide and other problems halted the launch of the Pakistani satellite, causing Alcatel to cancel the agreement. Pakistan then also lost its allotted slots in orbit.

The deadline of the only slot left, 38° East, was April 19, 2003 and after that Pakistan also lost this space. The Former President of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf asked the authorities to find a solution. A high level committee reported that buying and replacing a satellite of Hughes is the only option to secure the slot.

So Pakistan bought the Hughes satellite designed for Indonesia and moved it in the occupied slot in December 2002.

Paksat 1R

A hallmark of Pak-China joint venture, Paksat 1R will be launched on August 14, 2011, the Independence Day of Pakistan, which also happens to be the date for the 50th anniversary of SUPARCO. Working on this project will also give experience and confidence to Pakistani scientists and engineers. Many of the testing elements have been developed by experts of SUPARCO.

But the question is that why is Pakistan developing a telecommunication satellite rather than taking advantage of many commercially available satellites?

Siraj answered that it is not only important for capacity building but for self-reliance purposes as well in case of an embargo or other hurdles from advance countries as seen in past.

Siraj said that the Paksat 1R data and signals will be received by satellite ground stations located in Karachi and Lahore. Paksat 1R will have 26 transponders which will carry dozens of digital TV channels.

All Day

University in Gilgit to start Chinese language classes -- The Express Tribune

GILGIT: The Karakoram International University (KIU) in Gilgit plans to start Chinese language classes to reduce the communication gap between the people of the two neighbouring countries, official sources told The Express Tribune on Sunday.

"The management is discussing the idea and classes will be held soon," officials said, adding that the course will be extremely beneficial for those doing business in China as well as those wishing to acquire higher education in the neighbouring country. The Karakoram Highway is the only land route connecting Pakistan with China via Gilgit.

"Learning Chinese is a basic necessity for the Pakistani business community as no other language is spoken in China," they said.

With over 10 disciplines already being taught at the university, thousands of students from Gilgit-Baltistan are enrolled at the KIU.

Many feel that teaching Chinese will also have a positive impact on Gilgit's economy as more people will become involved in the Pak-China trade.

"Pakistan enjoys exemplary ties with China. The language will act as a bridge and further strengthen bilateral cultural and trade ties," they said.

All Day

Chinese Co to construct 335km of KKH: Alamgir -- Observer

Chinese Co to construct 335km of KKH: Alamgir

Islamabad—Federal Minister for Communication Arbab Alamgir Khan has said that an agreement has been signed with Chinese Company for the construction of 335 kilometers of Karakoram Highway which will cost \$ 510 million. He said the project is to be completed by 2012. He said 1600 Chinese are also working to bring the level of Attabad lake down by 50 metres and this will clear three villages which are now under water. He said blasting work has started to bring down the level of the lake. He said financial assistance would be sought from a Chinese bank for the construction of the damaged portion of KKH which has come under water. He said the area of the road which has come under water would be raised by ten meters to avoid such mishap in the future. For this ten new bridges would have to be built

In an interview with INP on Wednesday, the Communication Minister said an MOU has been signed with well known Chinese company CRPC for the building of 153 km of road from Thakot to the site of Bhasha Dam which will cost Rs 20 billion.

He said WAPDA has paid the cost of 550 kanal of land to Gilgit Baltistan Government for payment to the owners of the land acquired for Bhasha Dam. He said the Prime Minister is expected to inaugurate the construction of this road in the beginning of next month.

About damages to national highways due to floods, he said Rs 17 billion would be required for the construction and repair of roads and bridges in Khber Pakhtoonkhwa, Punjab and Sindh. He said his Ministry has demanded Rs 25 billion from the Government for the construction M-8 from Gwadar Port to Quetta.

He emphasized the importance of Karakoram Highway for Pakistan and said that a lot depend on this highway for Pakistan's trade with the new emerging economic power of the world, namely China. He said because of lack of attention of the previous governments, the KKH is in very poor shape. He said 600 KM distance between Islamabad and Gilgit takes 18 to 20 hours instead of 12 hours

The Communication Minister said 335 kilometres of KKH between Khunjerab to Raikot is not useable while a significant part of the road has come under Attabad lake. He said the Communication Ministry is making efforts to bring the road back to traffic worthy —INP

All Day

Mega projects to be given to Chinese companies: Zardari wants LPG pipeline to be laid from -- ISLAMABAD

Mega projects to be given to Chinese companies: Zardari wants LPG pipeline to be laid from Gwadar to China

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD (October 20, 2010) : President Asif Ali Zardari has directed the ministries concerned to lay a pipeline from Gwadar to China and from Gwadar to his hometown Nawabshah for supply of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to Karachi, Hyderabad, Nawabshah and Sanghar, sources told Business Recorder. Progress on this project was recently discussed at a meeting recently held under the chairmanship of President Asif Ali Zardari.

Sources said that Pakistan's Ambassador in China has also been directed to address a letter to the Chinese government in co-ordination with Foreign Ministry. The government has also decided to constitute a think-tank, with 20 to 40 years vision, that would look at the regional markets of Africa, Middle East and South Asia (Minister of Education/Foreign Ministry to co-ordinate), and a special task force will be set up for China projects to process and move forward all projects.

Sources said that mega projects, which Pakistan's budget cannot finance, require innovative finance packages eg Gwadar Port, railway from Pakistan to Turkey and Pakistan to Afghanistan. It has also been decided that Basha dam project should be put forward to the Chinese government immediately.

According to sources, BOT projects do not need approval of ECC. Three Gorges Company may be asked to provide a proposal on Bunji darn on BOT basis for further analysis by Ministry of Water and Power under Rules of Business. China is interested on a joint co-operation mechanism in energy sector, especially hydro and coal. The Chinese have called for a conclusive coal policy before they will consider any investment.

Sources said that Pakistan feels that there is a need to talk to the private sector to ascertain what products could be exported to China. Ambassador at Large, Khalil Ahmad explained that CHINT Group of China is interested in 10 megawatt solar projects, and has been asked to launch the project. AEDB and Ministry of Water and Power will ensure early processing of this offer.

Sources said that the President wants up to 20,000 Pakistanis to be trained in China and learn Chinese language. Minister for Education will contact big companies with contracts in Pakistan such as China Mobile to fund scholarships. Finance and Foreign Ministries would support Pakistani interpreters to learn Chinese.

The President is also of the view that Pakistan's young must learn Chinese working practices. Fifty to a hundred nurses would be sent to China under the programme. China is also being requested for a special interest-free loan for Pakistan's film industry. Coins will also be printed: One side Z A Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto and the other side Mao Tse-Tung and President Hu Jintao. It has also been decided that public sector works should start in Badin power project plants (5000 megawatt under supervision of Secretary General Salman Farooqi). He is engaged in talks with General Electric regarding new plans.

All Day

Korean firms to invest \$1,000m in health, energy sectors -- Daily Times

Korean firms to invest \$1,000m in health, energy sectors

* Mobile hospitals and preparation of vaccines included in the plan

* Light-emitting diodes to be imported for energy conservation

By Shabbir Sarwar

LAHORE: A consortium of Korean companies has decided to make an investment

of \$800-\$1,000 million in Pakistan in health and energy sectors, stated a three-member Korean delegation during their visit to Daily Times and Daily Aajkal offices here on Tuesday.

The team included delegation members Shinsung-Lux Technologies Director Sales Sang Jin Kim, CEO GP Corporation Kyung-Hwan and President Korea Digital Media Communication You Kiho while their host in Pakistan, Chief Executive DiShazen Group of Companies Mr Rana Imtiaz A Khan.

The delegation members told Daily Times that it was their third visit to Pakistan and they had separate meetings with Governor Slaman Taseer, health minister and businessmen. They said they have finally come to know that there are lots of opportunities for foreign businessmen in Pakistan due to suitable environment here. Therefore they have decided to invest \$800-1000 million in health and energy sectors.

To a question about the plan of investment, the delegation members said that for health sector they would establish mobile hospitals for the areas where facility of hospital and dispensary is so far not available in Pakistan. These hospitals would be established in big busses and on demand these would be shifted to other areas, they said. This proposal has won praise of the deferral health ministry. Additionally – vaccines of various diseases would be prepared in Paksitan and after meeting national requirement here they would be exported to Iran, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India, they said.

For energy conservation, they have a plan to import Light-emitting diodes (LED) to Pakistan, which would guarantee more power conservation compared to energy savers. Campaign would be launched for use of these LEDs in homes, offices and other places. Manpower will be trained by taking delegation to Korea – giving them proper training there and then employing them here in Pakistan. Many Pakistani products would be exported to Korea and some Korean products would be imported keeping in view the price factor, they said. The Korean team would soon dispatch containers for clothes, medicines and food for the flood victims of Pakistan.

All Day**Pakistan important economic partner: Swiss CG -- APP**

Pakistan important economic partner: Swiss CG

KARACHI, Oct 20 (APP): Pakistan is an important economic partner of Switzerland in Asia. This was stated by the Consul General of Switzerland in Karachi, Didier Boschung, at a reception on Tuesday evening.

He pointed out that Switzerland and Pakistan enjoy very cordial relations that go back more than 60 years.

The Consul General said that Switzerland in the last several years has usually been among the top five nations in terms of foreign direct investments in Pakistan.

He said a number of bilateral economic agreements facilitate business activities between the two countries, and many leading Swiss multinational companies are operating in Pakistan.

The Consul General pointed out that trade between Pakistan and Switzerland had increased during the past few years.

In view of the existing market potential, trade and investment performance could be further improved.

All Day

GENEVA: India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkmenistan will sign an agreement in December to build a 1,800 km long trans-border gas pipeline estimated to cost US \$7 billion. -- SANA TV

GENEVA: India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkmenistan will sign an agreement in December to build a 1,800 km long trans-border gas pipeline estimated to cost US \$7 billion.

"A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed recently between the four countries – India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkmenistan – and it will be operationalised by their leaders when they meet in December," Eklil Ahmad Hakimi, deputy foreign minister of Afghanistan, told reporters on Monday.

The proposed project will supply gas from the resource-rich Central Asia to energy-starved South Asia.

"This is a huge project involving energy cooperation between Central Asia and South Asia," the Afghan minister said, suggesting that the 1800 km underground pipeline will create employment for 20,000 people in his country now facing enormous security threats.

Hakimi, who is participating in an international meeting on regional cooperation in Central Asia, including sustainable development of Afghanistan.

He also mentioned about peace talks that are currently underway in Rome, saying terrorism is not originating from Afghanistan.

US special representative for Afghanistan Richard Holbrooke and General David Petraeus and the Afghan Foreign Minister Zalmi Rassoul are talking part in these talks.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe along with ESCAP has convened a two-day meeting on how to speed-up regional cooperation in Central Asia, particularly in generating economic development in Afghanistan.

"Whereas little can be achieved without a minimum level of security, any progress made on the security front would be short-lived without being buttressed by a development effort to allow Afghanistan to build a sustainable future," said Andrey Vasilyev, UNECE deputy executive secretary.

In a background paper prepared for the meeting, the UNECE maintained that without neglecting the decisive importance of the security dimension, it is imperative to focus on the "civilian development effort".

Countries in Central America are land-locked pursuing divergent paths of economic development are facing a huge security challenge.

"Threats to Central Asia from Afghanistan have a regional dimension," said the UN official, suggesting that instability from Afghanistan spills over into bordering countries such as Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

All Day

US to finance around \$ 40 mln for agri development in Pakistan : Gondal -- APP

US to finance around \$ 40 mln for agri development in Pakistan : Gondal
ISLAMABAD, Oct 21 (APP): Minister for Food and Agriculture, Nazar Muhammad Gondal said on Thursday that agricultural development projects worth around 40 million Dollar have been approved under Pakistan-US Strategic Dialogue.

The Minister, who is part of a high-powered delegation that attended Pakistan-US Strategic Dialogue in Washington, said that the working group approved allocations for various agricultural projects, including nine million dollars for wheat production and rust disease prevention, nine million dollars for cotton production and disease prevention, nine million dollars for prevention of food and disease in livestock and

some other programmes.

He told a news channel that this was the third or fourth meeting with main focus on increasing wheat and cotton production and controlling their diseases in Pakistan.

Nazar Gondal said the projects would also be financed under Kerry-Lugar Bill and USAid and their implementation is expected to start from next month.

He said the meeting also discussed strengthening of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and utilization of already allocated grants. Flood situation in Pakistan was also discussed in detail.

All Day

British Home Secretary meets President, PM -- Observer

British Home Secretary meets President, PM
Pak seeks intel sharing to thwart attacks in West

Staff Reporter

Islamabad—President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday called for greater international cooperation to counter extremism and terrorism and stressed the need for capacity building of Pakistani security forces to counter the threat.

Talking to Ms. Theresa May, British Home Secretary and Minister for Women and Equality who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President said both Pakistan and the United Kingdom share a common enemy and have to work together against it.

He said the democratic dispensation has evolved domestic consensus against the extremists' elements and would take all measures to neutralize the threat.

The President also appreciated the British assistance during the devastating floods and said Pakistan appreciates valuable assistance from the international community and its friends in this hour of distress.

He also thanked the British Government and the British Prime Minister for advocating Pakistan's case for getting access to EU markets.

Matters related to Pak-UK bilateral relations and cooperation, strategic dialogue, fight against militancy, floods relief and rehabilitation works, trade access to EU for Pakistan's goods, multifaceted collaboration between Pakistan and United Kingdom and various measures taken by the government for women development and empowerment were discussed during the meeting.

British Home Secretary and Minister for Women and Equality Ms. Theresa May assured British government's continued support to the democratic dispensation in overcoming difficulties due to war against terrorism and the devastation caused by unprecedented floods.

She lauded the contribution of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto for empowerment of women and strengthening of democratic institution and appreciated that the government was following her legacy. She said that both Pakistan and UK need to work together for strengthening of democracy in the country.

British Home Secretary also called on Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani. During the talks Gilani said, despite daunting challenges, Pakistan will continue to fight the menace of terrorism for the sake of peace and prosperity of the world. He hoped that the international community would honour its pledges made at the Tokyo Donors' Conference last year to address these primary issues.

The Prime Minister said that security and economic situation are intricately linked as poverty, lack of education and under development are the root causes of extremism and terrorism.

The Prime Minister proposed that Pakistan and Britain should consider recreation of a mechanism as well as parameters for cooperation between their security agencies.

He further stressed upon sharing of information and real time intelligence to enable the Pakistan authorities for taking the pre-emptive measures against any possible threat to UK and other western countries from terrorists. The Prime Minister expressed the concern on inordinate delays and high rate of rejection of visas to Pakistani politicians, businessmen, professionals and students by the UK High Commission in Islamabad.

He emphasized that the British visa service for Pakistani citizens should be resumed from Islamabad as earlier, since the underlying reasons for its shifting to Abu Dhabi did not exist anymore. The Prime Minister said that he was looking forward to receive the British Prime Minister in Islamabad in December to formally re-launch the strategic dialogue between the two countries and expressed the hope that Prime Minister Cameron's visit would impart new impetus to the cooperation in areas of finance, industry, defence, security, agriculture and cultural activities. During the meeting, Mrs. Theresa appreciated Pakistan's efforts and its role as a bulwark against terrorism to contribute towards the regional and world's stability.

She said that her government wants to work in a cooperative way with Pakistan on matters relating to counter terrorism and she would like to have an in-depth discussions during her recent trip to Pakistan to prepare and finalize cooperative framework on these issues before Prime Minister Cameron's visit.

She said that no country in the world have faced such magnitude of devastation, as did by Pakistan in the recent floods. She recalled British government and peoples' efforts to generate assistance to Pakistan.

United Kingdom Foreign Affairs Committee delegation led by H.E. Mr. Richard Ottaway MP (Chair), called on General Khalid Shameem Wynne, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) at Joint Staff Headquarters, Chaklala and discussed regional security situation especially developments in Afghanistan and other matters of mutual interest.

According to ISPR, The delegation comprised of Mike Gapes MP, Andrew Rosindell MP, Frank Roy MP, Sir John Stanley MP, Rory Stewart MP and David Watts MP. According to military sources, the UK delegation talking about Pakistan's key role for peace and stability in Afghanistan said that the manner in which Pakistan is fighting war on terror it will help in bringing peace and stability not only in region but in the world as well.

The delegation supported the reconciliation process initiated by the Karzai government said that the Afghans themselves have to play a leading role in the process.

Sources told that Gen Shameem Wayne on the occasion emphasized government point of view and said that all tribes and races should be taken into confidence for peace in Afghanistan. The two sides also agreed to further strengthening bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and UK in the fields of defense, security and armed forces.

All Day

German ILF wins IP gas pipeline feasibility study contract -- Tehran Times (Business Recorder)

German ILF wins IP gas pipeline feasibility study contract

The Pakistan government has awarded a \$55 million feasibility study contract to ILF, of Germany, for the \$2.5 billion Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project with the condition that the consultant ""will complete its job in only 12 months"", against original plan of 18 months.

The consultant will complete feasibility study on banking proposition to raise funds for the project, environmental aspect, pipeline route and land acquisition for procurement of land for the project within stipulated timeframe.

The consultant will complete the feasibility study for the project in two phases and likewise get the payment from the government of Pakistan. Sources said that Pakistan had a plan to give the consultant one-and-a-half years for completing the feasibility study for IP gas line project, but now, with rising energy shortfall in

demand and supply and already faced with a delay of around one year, the government cut down feasibility study time from 18 to 12 months.

Pakistani officials informed the visiting ILF team that all issues with the Iranian authorities have been settled, including gas sale and purchase agreement (GSPA) and third-party certification for uninterrupted supply of gas from the source field to Pakistan for 30 years, and now it was the time to act swiftly and complete the gas line as early as possible to make practically possible to import the much-needed gas from Iran.

Pakistan and Iran had taken years to reach an agreement for finalizing thorny issues of IP such as gas pricing, source field dedication to make sure that Pakistan gets required gas supply for total project lifetime of 30 years. Other than bilateral issues with Iran for this key project, Pakistan had resisted pressure from various international players like U.S.A. to make it possible that Pakistan does not miss the opportunity to import gas from the nearest external source.

"Now we are comfortable that after continuous effort for years, IP gas line is going to enter practical phase to help Pakistan get gas from Iran to meet its rising shortfall in demand and supply," an official of Petroleum Ministry said. He confirmed that the Petroleum Ministry had successfully concluded deliberations with ILF, Germany to award feasibility study during last two days, and the consultant had agreed to complete the work in revised timeframe to help Pakistan enter construction phase in 2012.

(Source: Business Recorder)

All Day

Pak-Afghan to promote media cooperation -- APP

Pak-Afghan to promote media cooperation

ISLAMABAD, Oct 26 (APP): Afghan media delegation visited the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) on Tuesday and emphasized on fostering relations between the two countries with the help of media. The two sides agreed to cement bilateral media ties including the exchange of media delegations. It was agreed that both countries would provide training facilities to their professional journalists for their capacity enhancement and skill-building in the backdrop of mushroom growth of media institutions.

The Afghan delegation said that aim of the visit was to promote culture of sharing their experiences in development of media. They appreciated the role of APP and agreed to further strength bilateral cooperation.

APP officials said that Pakistan wants to strengthen close cooperation with Afghanistan in all media sectors.

They agreed that both countries need cooperation in the media sector keeping in view the latest media trends in the world.

Media delegation highlighted the already established strong media ties between the two countries. They said that the journalists of their country are getting benefit from the interaction with journalists from neighboring countries.

The delegation emphasized that joint ventures in holding cultural events could give new dimension to bilateral cooperation. Moreover, both the countries could further benefit from joint productions and the exchange of already produced programmes.

General Manager of APP Syed Zulfiqar Hameed briefed the delegation about working of the organization and on video news service (VNS) which would help strengthen the media exchange between the two friendly states.

GM APP also assured them full support and cooperation in exchange of news. Chairman Daily outlook Publication Dr. Hussain Ali Yasa, Foreign Editor, Pajhwok, Afghan News Agency Abasin Zaheer, Radio Liberty Afghanistan Faizullah Qadash, Managing Editor, Kabul Radio Program "Islam Watander Pashtu Service Mohammad Ashuq, News Abdul Qadir Zadrar and conducting officer Qamar-uz-Zaman were members of the delegation which visited the news agency.

All Day

REFILE-Tethyan Copper to go on with Pakistan mining-exec -- Thomson Reuters

REFILE-Tethyan Copper to go on with Pakistan mining-exec

* Says in talks with government over project

* Expects production to start by end of 2015

By Amena Bakr

DUBAI, Oct 25 (Reuters) - A \$3 billion foreign joint-venture copper and gold mining project in Baluchistan province in southwest Pakistan will go ahead as planned despite plans by the provincial government to cancel it, an executive said on Monday.

The provincial government said earlier this year it would cancel the project to ease anger in Pakistan's biggest but poorest province over outsiders' exploitation of its natural resources.

"The project is going ahead and will not be cancelled, we are now in talks with the government and we expect production to start by the end of 2015," Gerhard Von Borries, chief executive of Tethyan Copper Co. Ltd., told Reuters on the sidelines of an industry event in Dubai.

Tethyan Copper Co. Ltd is a joint venture between Canada's Barrick Gold (ABX.TO: Quote) and Chile's Antofagasta Plc (ANTO.L: Quote), one of the world's largest copper miners.

It had been granted exploration licence for Reko Diq site in 2006. The site's ore reserves, a mixture of minerals including gold and copper, are estimated at more than 4 billion tonnes.

"The copper deposits are relatively low grade and we estimate the cash cost to be 85 cents per pound," Borries said. "Once production starts we are planning to double our investment in the project, so we'll add another \$3 billion," he added.

The provincial government owns 25 percent of the project, while the remaining is owned by Tethyan Copper, Borries said.

"Under the current plan the government would need to come up with its own equity, but we can also finance them with a very low interest rate ... we are also looking at employing 90 percent of the workforce from the local community."

Baluchistan is Pakistan's biggest province in terms of area but only has an estimated 10 million to 12 million of the country's 165 million people.

The province is home to one of the largest copper deposits in the world. China's Metallurgical Construction Co. (MCC) operates the Saindak mine, which has estimated ore reserves of 412 million tonnes. (Editing by James Jukwey)

All Day

Saudi Ambassador calls on Rehman Malik: further strengthening of bilateral relations emphasized -- APP

Saudi Ambassador calls on Rehman Malik: further strengthening of bilateral relations emphasized

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Abdul Aziz Bin Ibrahim Al-Ghudir called on Interior Minister Rehman Malik here on Monday, matters of mutual interests and bilateral relations between the two countries were discussed in the meeting.

Interior Minister Senator Rehman Malik said that they really valued their relations with Saudi Arabia and it is trust worth friend of Pakistan, which always helped the

country in testing times. Interior Minister praised the timely help of Saudi Arabia for flood hit people particularly King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz and Saudi Interior Minister Naif Bin Abdul Aziz, who provided field hospitals, rescuer equipments and other funds.

He also admired the role of Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan who provided the relief goods without differentiating day and nights.

Abdul Aziz Bin Ibrahim Al-Ghudir said that Saudi Arabia valued its relations with Pakistan and would further enhance the friendship by strengthening and stabilizing the bilateral associations. He stated that it is their responsibility to help the hapless masses affected by the floods across the country, adding they would continue relief works for the affectees.

All Day

TCC launches Reko Diq mining project website -- Daily Times

TCC launches Reko Diq mining project website

ISLAMABAD: Tethyan Copper Company Pakistan (Pvt.) Limited (TCC) on Monday launched its website for the Reko Diq Copper-Gold Mining Project. The TCC website, accessible at www.tethyan.com, offers a range of information about the company such as the project partners, mining and processing facilities to be developed under the project, community development initiatives and an interesting picture gallery section to view the activities at Reko Diq. staff report

All Day

FAO starts wheat seed distribution in Pakistan -- Reuters

FAO starts wheat seed distribution in Pakistan

MILAN Oct 27 (Reuters) - The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation has started distributing more than 20,000 tonnes of wheat seeds in Pakistan where floods have threatened a key wheat planting season, a FAO official said.

"We have over 20,000 tonnes of wheat seeds moving through the country," Truls Brekke, FAO's communications officer in Pakistan, told Reuters.

Floods that hit the country earlier this year have destroyed 500,000-600,000 tonnes of wheat seeds and more than 2.4 million hectares of cultivable land in Pakistan, according to FAO estimates.

All Day

Govt investing in ports to boost trade: Gilani -- Daily Times

Govt investing in ports to boost trade: Gilani

* PM inaugurates FAP Terminal at Port Qasim

* Project completed in 24 months at cost Rs 10 billion

Staff Report

KARACHI: Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said on Tuesday that the government was committed to developing the ports and shipping industry in order to boost trade.

He said this while inaugurating Pakistan's first state of the art and fully automated dry bulk cargo handling and storage terminal at Port Qasim.

Appreciating the efforts of Fauji Foundation, Akbar Group and Portia Management Services (FAP), the PM said that the Pakistan government had taken all possible measures to assist and encourage the growth of ports and shipping industry as an important tool for trade promotion and development. "Terminals such as FAP are the need of the hour to develop Pakistan and our government will continue to assist with long term investments by providing incentives and reducing financing cost for port projects. With this port, Pakistan's position as a gateway to the region is further strengthened, serving as a boost to our marine and logistics services on various levels," the PM said.

"Following examples of various developing countries, the government is always seeking new avenues to facilitate and encourage foreign investment into the country through provision of incentives and business friendly policies in the shipping and ports sector," the PM said.

Gilani said that the ports were vital to the economic development of Pakistan. "Efficient ports and terminals lower the cost of imports, bring revenue through exports, increase our foreign exchange reserves and enhance tax collection through greater transparency," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Ports and Shipping, Babar Khan Ghauri said, "The ports and shipping sector in Pakistan had a brilliant run in the last decade witnessing significant additions in capacity building across Pakistan's coastline. This world class addition to the existing facilities of Port Qasim Authority (PQA) will help Pakistan achieve its goal of becoming a regional hub of international trade."

FAP Chairman Lt Gen (r) Hamid Nawaz, FAP Vice Chairman Ghouse Akbar and other senior FAP officials were present at the occasion.

The project has been completed in a record duration of 24 months at the cost Rs 10 billion. The terminal is capable of handling 4.1 million metric tonnes of dry bulk cargo per annum.

FAP is a public limited company registered with the Securities and Exchange

Commission of Pakistan (SECP) with its registered office in Karachi, Pakistan. The company is a joint venture between Fauji Foundation, Akbar Group and Portia Management Services Limited (part of the Peel Ports Group, UK). National Bank of Pakistan had recently acquired 10 percent stakes of the company.

All Day

KARACHI: Rental power plants will add 1,700 megawatts of electricity to the national grid by the end of this year, announced Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani on Tuesday while visiting the shrine of Abdullah Shah Ghazi in Clifton. So far 1,704MW have been -- Published in The Express Tribune

KARACHI: Rental power plants will add 1,700 megawatts of electricity to the national grid by the end of this year, announced Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani on Tuesday while visiting the shrine of Abdullah Shah Ghazi in Clifton. So far 1,704MW have been added.

About 2,000MW have been added to the power-generation system, he said, warning, however, that demand is also increasing because of population growth.

To a question, he said that law and order was a provincial subject and that the provincial leadership was chalking out a line of action to deal with the situation. "I want to clarify here that no operation is being carried out either against any group or in any specific area," he added. The federal government would assist if need be. The PM condemned terrorism and said that only a handful of people were behind such acts and out to disturb the peace and destabilise the country for their own agenda.

When a reporter referred to Federal Minister Dr Babar Awan talking to Pakistan Muslim League-Q's Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi, Gilani said that there was no harm in having a meeting with the PML-Q leaders; it was part of Benazir Bhutto's reconciliation policy. When he was elected there was total unanimity in the House and the PML-Q's votes had also made him PM. For this government, the politics of reconciliation would continue. There are, after all, coalition governments in all the provinces.

"It is a good omen that we have an alliance with all political parties in the country," he said. "Tell me if we don't have a coalition with any [one] political party."

To another question, the PM said that the judiciary was playing its role. "We respect all institutions," he added. The prime minister said that the government wanted to establish a federal court in Islamabad but before this the judiciary would be taken into confidence. "We will not take any step, which leads to a misunderstanding between the judiciary and government," he said.

Meeting with Sindhi media

Additionally, the construction of the Kalabagh Dam would not go ahead unless all provinces agreed to it and it has become a "dead issue". "If consensus evolves among all the provinces and the Council of Common Interest gives permission, then the dam can be built," he added. But construction of the Bhasha Dam would start soon as the provinces had agreed.

The PM said this while talking to editors and CEOs of Sindhi newspapers and television channels at a meeting at Chief Minister House.

The objective of his visit to the city was to directly interact with the Sindhi media. The prime minister said that he had done media studies which is why he had a "personal emotional attachment" to the media. Journalism studies have benefitted him in the field of politics, he added.

Gilani said that the process of transition from a dictatorship toward democracy is under way in the country and institutions are also passing through a phase of

evolution. We faced different challenges but never deviated from the manifesto of the party, he said. Some people were talking about the accountability of the government. "I request them to please give us five years and let the people decide in the upcoming elections," he said.

A meeting would be held in Lahore on Wednesday, when Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi would give a briefing about the breakthroughs achieved in his recent visit to the US.

Gilani said that the economic recession has affected the entire globe but Pakistan had survived as, fortunately it is an agricultural country. He added that the matter of Thar coal has also been resolved and the provincial government is working on it.

The Sindhi media informed the PM about their problems and he said that he would talk to the federal minister for information and broadcasting on meeting them. To a suggestion about the performance of Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV), Gilani said that he would also meet the newly appointed MD.

There are 35 Sindhi dailies and 10 to 12 private Sindhi television channels.

With additional input from APP

Published in The Express Tribune, October 27th, 2010.

All Day

Korea keen to invest in Pak industrial sector -- The Nation

Korea keen to invest in Pak industrial sector

RAWALPINDI - Ambassador of Republic of Korea in Pakistan, Choi Choong Joo, has said that his country is eager to enhance trade relations with Pakistan by investing in its industrial sector.

"Korea is fully aware of the problems being faced by Pakistan especially in its industrial sector and his country will invest in Pakistan to enhance the bilateral trade relations," he added.

He expressed these views at a meeting with Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Syed Ali Raza during a visit, informed chamber spokesman Bilal Khan Niazi here on Tuesday.

The Ambassador said that South Korea is the active member of the Friends of Democratic Pakistan (FoDP). He said that Pakistan has a healthy environment for investment and investors from all over the globe should invest in Pakistan and assured his full cooperation in this regard.

Speaking on the occasion, RCCI President Syed Ali Raza said that Pakistan is situated in a geographically important location. He said that total trade volume between the two countries is around 1.11 billion dollars, which was very low.

Raza said that Pakistan's major exportable items that could be imported to Korea were cotton, leather, surgical goods, fruits and furniture. He stressed that the bilateral trade relations must be enhanced.

He said that the Korean Embassy should cooperate with the local business community and Pakistani businessmen should be given access to the Korean trade markets. "Business community of both sides should visit each other to find different exportable items for their countries", he said.

Senior Vice President Mian Muhammad Ateeq, Vice President Dr Shimail Daud, former presidents and members of Executive Committee were also present on the occasion.

All Day

UK to expedite visa issuance process for Pakistanis

UK to expedite visa issuance process for Pakistanis

* British home secretary says Pakistan, UK face same threat of terrorism

* Two countries sign MoU to counter human trafficking

ISLAMABAD: The UK is expediting visa issuance process for Pakistanis, who would now get their visas in minimum possible time, British Home Secretary Theresa May said on Tuesday.

While, acknowledging efforts and sacrifices of Pakistan in the war against terrorism, the British home secretary said Pakistan had rendered greater sacrifices than any other country in the war against terrorism.

May said the biggest threat to national security in both Pakistan and UK was terrorism.

She made these comments, while addressing a joint press conference with Interior Minister Rehman Malik at the Interior Ministry. Malik personally received the visiting British home secretary, who is on her first official visit to the country.

May said the Pakistani government had taken effective measures to combat terrorism and UK Prime Minister David Cameron was firm to promote the strategic dialogue between the two nations, and a key part of that was to get most out of our security relationship, she said. "My visit has identified a number of opportunities to enhance counter-terrorism agenda and it was agreed in the meeting with Interior Minister Malik that a joint working group would be constituted to combat terrorism," she added. May said that we had to make sure that action was taken against illegal immigrants, but we continue to enhance systems for those who are legally applying for visas.

The British home secretary said we are not only committed to promote bilateral ties with Pakistan, but also wish to extend cooperation in different sectors, adding that the UK government would provide 70 million pounds to Pakistan to create new job opportunities, women development, education and health sectors. Speaking on the occasion, Malik said the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to counter human trafficking. He said human trafficking had emerged as a great menace, and the Pakistani government had constituted a task force to curb it. Malik said Islamabad had requested London to deport Pakistanis illegally residing in the UK, adding that the government had also requested to share information of Pakistanis illegally residing in UK. staff report/agencies

All Day

UN starts wheat aid to 500,000 Pakistani farmers -- DAWN.COM

UN starts wheat aid to 500,000 Pakistani farmers

DAWN.COM

October 27, 2010 (5 days ago)

Some 2.4 million hectares of farmland were damaged by the floods, UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation stated. – AFP (File Photo)

ROME: The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation said it had begun large-scale distribution of wheat seed in Pakistan to 500,000 farming families affected by catastrophic floods earlier this year.

The aid means the current planting season that ends in December will still take place, the FAO said in a statement, adding that it would also provide vegetable seeds and fertilizer and assist livestock farmers.

"Wheat is the main staple of the Pakistani diet so it is of vital importance that farmers receive seeds in time," said Luigi Damiani, a senior FAO official who is heading up the Rome-based organisation's efforts in Pakistan.

FAO said the aid would benefit a total of five million people, adding: "The food security of tens of millions of Pakistanis is at stake with the current planting season. The next harvest for wheat will not be until spring 2011."

FAO has so far received 67.44 million dollars (48.88 million euros) for its Pakistan aid plan out of a total funding requirement of 107 million dollars.

Some 2.4 million hectares (six million acres) of farmland were damaged by the floods, FAO said. – AFP

All Day

US to invest in power sector: Ashraf -- The News

US to invest in power sector: Ashraf

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Water and Electricity Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said Tuesday US will invest in power sector to reduce country's rising electricity demand, Geo News reported.

The electricity will be produced through wind turbine process, he said.

He was talking to media men after coming back from US. The minister hailed Pak-US strategic dialogues, saying the strategic talks were 'successful'.

"US is aware of Pakistan's difficulties being faced in energy sector therefore US will invest in power generation to produce 150 megawatt of electricity, which will help curtail growing electricity needs," he said.

Also, US has shown agreement to help build dams in Pakistan, he said.

He said the government is expecting more investment in power sector from private companies.

All Day

Cabinet approves TAPI gas pipeline framework agreement -- Daily Times

Cabinet approves TAPI gas pipeline framework agreement

* Information minister says govt will take parliament into confidence on Pak-US Strategic Dialogue

* Govt planning to issue legal notice to Amnesty International

Staff Report

LAHORE: The cabinet has decided to approve the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline framework agreement because it is vital to cope with the current energy crisis in the country, federal Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira said on Wednesday.

He said Pakistan would do everything, which is in its favour, as it is an independent country and would not take any foreign dictation.

He was talking to reporters during a press conference on the cabinet meeting held on Wednesday under the supervision of the prime minister at the Governor's House. To a question about America's demand for a military operation in North Waziristan, Kaira stated that the matter, along with the recent Pakistan-US strategic dialogue, had been discussed in the cabinet meeting and the government had a clear policy of considering national interest before anything.

Parliament: The minister added that the government would give a briefing to parliament on the dialogue in its coming session to take it in confidence, as the Pakistan People's Party believed in taking all stakeholders on board in the government's policy matters, and even arranged a briefing by the chiefs of security agencies for parliament for the first time in history.

Commenting on the recent meetings between the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid leaders and PPP leaders, including Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani, Kaira said the PPP always believed in politics of unity and never did politics of division.

Legal notice: He said the Pakistan government had several reservations on the recent report issued by Amnesty International that ranked Pakistan as the 34th most corrupt nation in the world. He added that one of the federal ministries was even planning to issue a legal notice to AI.

He said another non-government organisation, PILDAT, had also issued a similar report, "but we should not believe such reports when they are against reality". He said even the opposition had lodged its protest against the PILDAT report for not being based on facts.

Kaira said that the government had given freedom to the Public Accounts Committee, and they tried to fix the issues pointed by the committee and considered themselves accountable to this parliamentary body. He said that the government was aware of the ongoing wave of inflation and how it was affecting basic household commodities such as flour, cooking oil, sugar, pulses, vegetables etc. He said the media was likely to make fun of him, as had happened in the past, if he urged the people to stop consuming sugar to keep the rates under control, but he said sugar was a basic commodity, which would not affect routine life if they reduced its consumption. He said this would definitely break the cartels of sugar sellers who even exploited the customers during Ramazan.

The minister said the government was investing in the local agriculture sector and had increased the prices of various items, including wheat, to encourage farmers instead of spending Rs 300 billion on procuring these things from abroad, adding that this had positively affected the rural economy.

He said that the cabinet had also discussed the relief package for farmers affected by recent floods in the country, along with the decision to approve the Islamabad Rent Restriction Bill and the decision to renew the defence agreement between South Africa and Pakistan.

It was the 67th meeting of the cabinet to date and the team not only discussed current issues, but also implementation on prior decisions. The foreign minister briefed the cabinet on the recently-concluded third round of strategic dialogue with the US. The salient features of the briefing included that Pakistan was among five countries out of the 184 countries in the world with which the US had strategic dialogue.

The dialogue upgraded to the foreign minister-level and political engagement in five sectors had been extended to encompass 13 sectors. The steering committee headed by the Pakistani foreign affairs secretary and Richard Holbrooke from the US would follow up on the decisions of the dialogue.

The cabinet deliberated on the forthcoming Pakistan Development Forum meeting to be held on November 14-15. It was mentioned that it is an annual event during which Pakistan would present the future economic development vision before the forum before prospective donor countries.

All Day

Council calls for more bilateral trade with Pakistan -- The Star

Council calls for more bilateral trade with Pakistan

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysia-Pakistan Business Council is calling for more bilateral trade between the two countries and stresses that Pakistan offers vast investment opportunities across many sectors, said new chairman Datuk Mohd Salim Fateh Din.

"Currently, only 12 to 13 companies from Malaysia have a foothold in Pakistan in the areas of real estate, energy and banking," he said after the council's inaugural meeting yesterday.

Also present was Pakistan High Commissioner Masood Khalid.

Masood invited Malaysian companies to invest in Pakistan especially in the businesses of livestock, food-processing, education, halal products, construction and Islamic banking.

"I can assure that foreign investors in Pakistan are making a lot of profits," he said.

Mohd Salim said the council had embarked on several trade projects such as setting up an abattoir in Pakistan and the import of buffaloes.

He added that total trade between the two countries stood at US\$1.7bil last year.

All Day

KARACHI: The Luksic Group will explore possibilities of making maximum investments and have cooperation with Pakistan government in various sectors, said chairman of the group and leader of a Chilean delegation, Andronico Luksic. -- Published in The Express Tribune

KARACHI: The Luksic Group will explore possibilities of making maximum investments and have cooperation with Pakistan government in various sectors, said chairman of the group and leader of a Chilean delegation, Andronico Luksic.

He was talking to Sindh Finance Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at his office on Wednesday. He pointed out that his group was the second biggest financial institution with total assets worth \$34 billion.

Luksic suggested that Pakistan should keep Latin American countries in focus in order to attract investment and said he will request the Chilean government to open its embassy in Pakistan to further enhance economic ties.

Apprising the delegation members of investment prospects in Sindh, Shah said the province is very rich in natural resources and the government will extend every possible help to the investors.

Secretary Coal and Energy Development Department Sindh, Ijaz Ali Khan told the delegation that Thar coal field has tremendous potential and has an estimated coal reserves of 176 billion tons.

He said international competitive bidding for four blocks will be undertaken in a

month along with invitation of Expressions of Investment (EOI) for Thar infrastructure projects in a bid to set up a petrochemical complex.

Published in The Express Tribune, October 28th, 2010.

All Day

'Netherlands wants to promote trade with Pakistan' -- Business Recorder

'Netherlands wants to promote trade with Pakistan'

RECORDER REPORT

MULTAN (October 28, 2010) : The Netherlands wants to promote trade between Pakistan and the Netherlands and planning to launch a programme through economic development by providing maximum job opportunities, said Joost Reinejes, ambassador of the Netherlands in Pakistan.

He was addressing the Executive Committee of Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) on Wednesday chairman by its president Shahid Naseem Khokhar. He said that the Netherlands has offered up to 60 percent of funding to Pakistani SME projects worth 1.5 million Euros per project. He said that the Netherlands Private Sector Investment (PSI) programme was launched in Pakistan in 2005 with an annual budget of 70 million Euros that was aimed at alleviating poverty and strengthening private sector investment.

The funding, available under 40-60 arrangement, is subject to certain evaluation to be conducted by the officials of the Netherlands's government. Any Pakistani company could apply for the funding for any new project or for the value addition of an existing business project. Under this programme, a project in sportswear has already been completed while three projects in chemical and dairy sectors are in progress. Moreover, PSI is considering another three projects under the programme, he said. The total funding of 1.5 million Euros allows spending on Hardware (equipment, machinery), training of people and project management, real estate and operational costs excluded. The funds are released during the project, after achieving predefined results.

The evaluation criteria include partner expertise, organisational capacity and financial strength. The projects could be a business plan, operational plan or financial feasibility. Fulfilment of Corporate Social Responsibility, knowledge transfer and its spin off effects are few things that are a necessary part of evaluation criteria. The Netherlands issues three tenders per year in this regard, the official said.

Holland has also offered matchmaking facility to stimulate private sector in Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, the MCCI President Shahid Naseem Khokhar expressed his concern over volume of trade between the two countries and said the two-way trade volume could have much bigger provided a little attention was paid by the concerned departments in the two countries. He stressed the need for participation in trade fairs and establishment of direct link between various representatives of organisations like MCCI. He called for a mechanism for the dissemination of all trade-related information that is a prerequisite to initiate joint ventures or to do business and said the MCCI is ready to extend co-operation in this regard.

President MCCI, Shahid Naseem Khokhar said that Pakistan and the Netherlands have always had good diplomatic and trade relationship. He said that Dutch assistance in terms of financial technical, educational and advisory support to Pakistan has always been great and worth mentioning. In the European Union, the Netherlands is one of Pakistan's most important export destinations after the UK, Germany and Italy. He said that analysis of trade figures between the two countries indicate that the total trade had declined from US \$966 million in 2008-09 to US \$742 million in 2009-10. Moreover, Pakistan's exports to Netherlands decreased from US \$468 million in 2008-09 to US \$389 million in 2009-10. On the other hand, he said, during these years, Netherlands's exports to Pakistan had also fallen from US \$498 million dollars to US \$353 million.

Khokhar said that joint efforts are needed to cease this trend from going further down. Moreover, the percentage share of the Netherlands in Pakistan's total exports has been ranging from 2.6 percent to 2.7 percent which can be increased by taking some sector-specific measures. Pakistan's main export products to the Netherlands are knitwear, articles of apparel, readymade garments, sugar and sugar confectionery, cotton, leather manufacturers, leather clothing, leather gloves, sport goods, pharmaceutical products, fruits and vegetables whereas Netherlands exports to Pakistan include cereals, electrical, electronic equipment, machinery, iron and steel, plastic, chemical products.

All Day

Pakistan offers Russia to set up Kalabagh Steel Mill -- Business Recorder

Pakistan offers Russia to set up Kalabagh Steel Mill

RECORDER REPORT

ISLAMABAD (October 20, 2010) : Pakistan has offered Russia to set up Kalabagh Steel Mill on equity/project sharing formula based on indigenous iron ore and coal projects, Business Recorder has learnt. In 1956, M/s Krupp of Germany offered to set up a steel mill on Kalabagh iron ore, coal and other minerals available within an 11 mile radius but the project was shelved due to the importers lobby.

In June 1966, another German company M/s Salzgitter produced 5,000 tons of quality steel from 15,000 tons of Kalabagh iron ore. The company offered in August 1967 to set up Kalabagh Steel Mill with a production capacity of over 0.8 million tons per year (mtpy) based on Kalabagh iron ore and imported coal. Some European banks offered loans for this project at the time, which confirmed technical and financial viability of the project, which was also shelved due to importers' lobby.

The subsequent year the Russian offer was accepted, however, they did not have the technology to produce steel from indigenous iron ore. Instead of reviving the German offer based on local raw materials, the site of the steel mill project was shifted to Karachi and Pak Steel Mill was established based on imported iron ore and coal.

Pakistan has offered Russia to support Pakistan Steel Mills to expand capacity from 1.2 million to 3 millions ton in the first phase and 5 million tons in the second phase. Pakistan has the largest reserves of iron ore in Dulband, Naukundi and Chaghi areas of Balochistan which can be used to support hydel projects like Bhasha dam.

All Day

USAID mission director arrives in Pakistan -- Daily Times

USAID mission director arrives in Pakistan

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: The US Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission in Pakistan Director Dr Andrew B Sisson arrived in Islamabad on Tuesday to assume management of one of the largest USAID programmes worldwide.

Under his leadership, USAID looks forward to strengthening partnerships with the Pakistan government and private organisations that support jointly-agreed priorities, particularly in the areas of post-flood reconstruction, economic growth, health, agriculture, energy, governance and education.

"I am looking forward to working in partnership with the government of Pakistan, local organisations and our international partners to make sure that the assistance from the American people to the people of Pakistan is delivered in the most transparent, accountable, and effective manner," said Dr Sisson.

All Day

4,000 Baloch inducted in Pakistan Army -- The Express Tribune

4,000 Baloch inducted in Pakistan Army

The army will induct 10,000 more Baloch men in the coming months. Four thousand young Baloch men were inducted into the Pakistan Army after their passing out parades in five towns of the province.

Parades were held in Quetta, Sibi, Zhob, Khuzdar and Kashmore.

The newly inducted soldiers will serve in fighting, technical and support wings of the army.

The army will also induct another 10,000 Baloch men, who are currently undergoing training, in the coming months.

Balochistan Governor Zulfiqar Magsi and Corps Commander Lt Gen Javed Zia were the chief guests on the occasion, while the Pakistan Army also announced to convert its Sui cantonment into an education city.

All Day

GILGIT: Over 40,000 megawatts of electricity can be produced in Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) if the available water resources are used properly, officials said on Thursday. -- Published in The Express Tribune,

GILGIT: Over 40,000 megawatts of electricity can be produced in Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) if the available water resources are used properly, officials said on Thursday.

"The region is full of water reservoirs and is best suited for the production of power. If these resources are used in a suitable manner, more than 40,000 megawatts of power can be generated in these areas," a senior official in the Water and Power department said.

With the financial support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other donors, a number of projects are in progress in this region. Shagar-thang Power project is one of them, 80 per cent of the total expenditure is being paid for by the ADB.

The dam is the largest project that is being funded by foreign donors. The Diamer-Bhasha Dam will be the highest dam in the world with a 272 metres high spillway and with 14 gates, each 11.5 m x 16.24 m.

Critics of the project have raised objections to the project as it will cause the inundation of over 50,000 ancient rock carvings and will destroy archaeological evidence in the region.

Meanwhile, the official said that nearly Rs13.5 billion will be spent on the 26 megawatt Shagar-thang project in the hopes that after its completion power shortages from the G-B region will.

"Technical evaluation of the project has been completed while the process of identification of consults is underway," he said, adding that the project will be completed by 2015.

Published in The Express Tribune, October 29th, 2010.

All Day

Malaysian Chapter of Pak-Malaysia JBC launched -- Daily Times

Malaysian Chapter of Pak-Malaysia JBC launched

ISLAMABAD: Launching of Malaysian Chapter of Pakistan-Malaysia Joint Business Council (JBC) marks an important milestone to foster friendship, promote understanding and facilitate trade and investment between the business communities of the two countries, High Commissioner for Pakistan in Malaysia, Masood Khalid stated while addressing the inaugural meeting of the newly-constituted Malaysian Chapter of Pakistan Malaysia Joint Business Council, in Kuala Lumpur.

The High Commissioner said that launching of Malaysian Chapter of JBC was indeed a significant step forward, as it would provide a common platform to two private sectors to make business networking, promote and enhance trade in traditional items, identify non traditional items to broaden trade inventory, expand investment in existing sectors and to identify new areas for investment to make a fresh start in the bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation between the two countries. He said that one of the main tasks of JBC should be to instill awareness in the business community about the benefits of Malaysia-Pakistan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (MPCEPA), which was signed in 2007 but remained underutilised.

He encouraged the JBC to formulate and set in place a comprehensive strategy to create awareness among the business community regarding enormous potential of trade and investment that exists between the two countries and to educate them on the concessions available to them in terms of reduced duties and tariff under MPCEPA.

Chairman, Malaysian Chapter of JBC, Dato Salim Bin Fateh Din said that formation of JBC was an offshoot of MoU signed between Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (NCCIM) in 2005.

He said that FPCCI of Pakistan is actively pursuing constitution of Pakistani Chapter of JBC, and after its formation, joint session of Pakistan-Malaysia Joint Business Council will be held to launch Joint Business Council. Once JBC was launched, it would provide a formal forum to the private sectors of both the countries to promote mutually beneficial business, trade and investment ties to bring about substantial increase in bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation between the two countries, he added. staff report

All Day**Pak, China sign pact on ground control system for satellite -- Press Trust Of India**

Pak, China sign pact on ground control system for satellite

Press Trust Of India

Islamabad, October 29, 2010 First Published: 16:30 IST(29/10/2010)

Last Updated: 16:32 IST(29/10/2010) Share more... 13 Comments [Email](#)
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Pakistan and China on Friday signed an agreement for a loan to set up the ground control system for a joint communications satellite to be launched next year. Pakistan's Ambassador to China Masood Khan signed the loan agreement with the Exim Bank of China for the Paksat-1R satellite's ground control project in Beijing, an official statement said. Paksat-1R will be launched on August 14 next year to replace the current communications satellite Paksat 1.

A contract for the satellite was signed between Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) and China Great Wall Industry Corporation in October 2008.

The contract for the ground control project was signed in October last year during Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani's visit to China. A framework loan agreement between the two governments was signed in June. Under the agreement, China will provide a concessional loan of RMB 86.5 million for the ground control project.

Ambassador Khan said the agreement has further promoted Pakistan-China cooperation in science and technology and the satellite will become a symbol of the friendship between the two countries.

Once it is completed, the project will bring immense economic benefits to Pakistan, he said.

Pakistan and China have a long history of space technology cooperation.

Pakistan's first low orbit satellite, Badr-1, was launched by China in 1990. The two countries have continued to enhance their cooperation in peaceful applications of space technology under an agreement signed in 1991.

All Day**Pak-Afghan ink new transit trade pact -- IBN Live**

Pak-Afghan ink new transit trade pact

PTI | 11:10 PM, Oct 29, 2010

Islamabad, Oct 29 (PTI) Pakistan and Afghanistan have inked a new transit trade agreement that will provide Kabul goods access to India through the Wagah land border route and Karachi and Qasim ports. Under the agreement, Afghan trucks will be allowed to take goods up to Wagah and the two ports, from where Indian importers will receive consignments and carry them further using their own sources of transportation. However, Pakistan will not allow the Afghan trucks to carry back Indian goods through its territory. Pakistan's Commerce Minister Makhdoom Amin Fahim and his Afghan counterpart Anwarul Haq Ahadi signed the agreement in Kabul yesterday. The cabinets of Pakistan and Afghanistan recently approved the new agreement. The new agreement will replace one signed by the two countries in the mid-1960s. President Asif Ali Zardari today hailed the signing of the new agreement, saying the pact will boost trade and contribute to peace and stability in the region. In a message felicitating his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai on the signing of the Pakistan-Afghanistan Transit Trade Agreement yesterday, Zardari said the pact would lead to a "win-win situation for the two countries". "The agreement was a most welcome development for the region that would not only boost trade of the two countries but would also contribute to peace and stability by further strengthening the relations between the two countries," Zardari said. Economic development is the key to peace and stability in the region and this agreement will promote development by creating new vistas of opportunities for people, especially for those who have been the worst victims of militancy during recent years, he said. The pact will give Afghan goods access to India through the Wagah land border route and Karachi and Qasim ports. Zardari said every vehicle plying under this agreement will contribute to "enhancing mutual trust and thereby strengthen elements of peace through socio-economic development of the region". He expressed the hope that traders and the business communities of the two countries will take maximum advantage of the pact. US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Holbrooke and President Karzai witnessed the signing. PTI RHL

All Day**Pakistan, China to boost cooperation in space technology -- Arab News**

Pakistan, China to boost cooperation in space technology

By AZHAR MASOOD | ARAB NEWS

Published: Oct 29, 2010 22:15 Updated: Oct 29, 2010 22:15

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have agreed to promote cooperation in space technology. Both countries have agreed to launch joint research and development ventures in intelligence gathering from space.

Pakistan and China have also agreed to replace current communication satellite PAKSAT-1 with Paksat-1R which will be launched on Aug. 14, 2011.

A highly-placed official from Ministry of Defense Production told Arab News: "We have agreed to develop in Pakistan and China advance satellite imagery gathering system, guidance system and early warning system for intruding missiles.

The official said an agreement for the project was signed between SUPARCO and China Great Wall Industry Corporation in the presence of President Asif Ali Zardari in Beijing in October 2008.

The agreement for the ground control segment of the satellite was signed in October 2009 during Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani's visit to China. A Framework Loan Agreement between the two governments was signed in June

2010. Under the agreement, the Chinese government would provide RMB 86.5 million concessional loan for the ground control segment.

Militaries of Pakistan and China have already cleared the project. Experts from ground, air and naval forces of the two countries will be involved in the project during R & D stages and later during its physical implementation, officials said.

All Day

US likely to provide \$400m more in military assistance -- Dawn

US likely to provide \$400m more in military assistance

DAWN.COM

October 30, 2010 (2 days ago)

By Anwar Iqbal

US Secretary of Defence Robert Gates (C) talks to Chief of Army Staff Ashfaq Kayani as Defence Minister Ahmed Mukhtar listens before US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi speak during the US-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue Plenary Session at the State Department in Washington, October 22. — Photo by Reuters

WASHINGTON: A better understanding of Pakistan's defence needs in the US capital may soon lead to an additional \$300-400 million of annual military assistance, besides a \$2.029 billion package announced last week.

Diplomatic sources told Dawn that the money would come from the Pakistan Counter-insurgency Capability Fund set up to help the country fight terrorists along and inside the Pak-Afghan border. Last year, the House Appropriations Committee approved \$400 million for the counter-insurgency fund.

In February this year, the Obama administration sought a \$0.5 billion increase in funds to bolster Pakistan's counter-insurgency capabilities.

The US administration was increasing the fund from \$700 million in fiscal 2009 to \$1.2 billion in the current fiscal year, which began on Oct. 1. Both the funds – the PCCF and the \$2.029 billion package for purchasing US weapons – are continuation of previous five-year programmes. But amounts under both programmes have been increased.

The five-year package for military hardware and training has been increased from \$1.5 billion, allocated in the previous package, to \$2.029. There will be a similar increase in the PCCF.

During last week's strategic dialogue, where the two packages were negotiated, the US also promised to reimburse \$750 million of arrears from the Coalition Support Fund. But Pakistani officials, who participated in the dialogue, said that "the talks' real achievement" was "a better understanding of Pakistan's position on North Waziristan".

The Pakistanis informed their American counterparts that they already had 39,000 troops in North Waziristan, more than those deployed in South Waziristan. Pakistan also assured the Americans that it's willing to continue and even expedite 'surgical operations' against the militants in North Waziristan but was not in a position to launch a full-fledged military operations. Besides having physical limitations, the Pakistanis feel that the operation may prove counter-productive if conducted without proper preparation to consolidate the gains achieved in the battlefield.

All Day

China: 'Pakistan is our Israel' -- Inter Press Service News Agency.

China: 'Pakistan is our Israel'

The world's most populous country is showing more international assertiveness, which bothers the US.

China's foreign relations are increasingly influenced by state run energy companies, study says [GALLO/GETTY]

When a US delegate once confronted a Chinese diplomat about Beijing's uncompromising support for Pakistan, the Chinese reportedly responded with a heavily-loaded sarcastic remark: "Pakistan is our Israel".

But judging by China's unrelenting support for some of its allies, including North Korea, Burma, Zimbabwe and Sudan, its protective arm around these countries is no different from the US and Western political embrace of Israel – right or wrong.

While China is battling the West over exchange rates, import tariffs and its territorial claims in the South China Sea, Beijing is also lobbying furiously to stall a Western-inspired proposal for a Commission of Inquiry on possible war crimes by the military junta in Burma (Myanmar).

"Such a commission should not be seen as a way to punish the government, but to prevent impunity and help prevent further abuse," says the UN Special Rapporteur on Myanmar, Tomas Ojea Quintana.

But China, which in January 2007 exercised its veto, along with Russia, to prevent Security Council sanctions against Burma, has not shown any willingness to back the proposal – even for a watered-down commission.

"Clearly," says one Asian diplomat, "China is trying to reassert its political clout at the United Nations as a counterweight to its defensive stand on currency and trade issues."

The New York Times newspaper said on Tuesday that the US administration is facing a "confrontational relationship" with an assertive China and is trying to respond to "a surge of Chinese triumphalism" by strengthening Washington's relationship with Japan and South Korea.

US President Barack Obama is planning to visit four Asian countries next month – Japan, Indonesia, India and South Korea – while bypassing China.

Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who needs China's support in the Security Council if he decides to run for a second term next year, is currently on his fourth trip to China, having visited the country in May and July 2008, and in July 2009.

In recent months, China has prevented a Security Council resolution against North Korea over the sinking of a South Korean ship and also tried to suppress a UN report alleging the use of Chinese-made bullets in attacks on UN peacekeepers in Darfur, Sudan.

"China sees value in promoting its image as the Security Council member defending the rights of the developing world, and China sees value in relying on the UN to counter US power," said Linda Jakobson, director of the programme on China and Global Security at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Jakobson, an in-house China expert at SIPRI, points out that Beijing also sees value in participating in UN peacekeeping operations "both because this enhances the image of China as a responsible power but also because it gives Chinese military experience".

Still, China relented to US and Western pressure in supporting four Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions against Iran, one of Beijing's staunchest political, economic and military allies.

The fourth round of sanctions, all of them aimed primarily at Iran's nuclear programme, was imposed in June this year.

Justifying his country's support for the resolution, Chinese Ambassador Li Baodong was quoted as saying that Beijing wanted to make sure that sanctions would not affect the Iranian people or its normal overseas trade.

Jakobson said that China agreed to these sanctions after much deliberation and on the condition that the energy sector was excluded.

"This can be seen as a compromise solution on China's part," she said. "The exclusion of the energy sector was crucial."

Jakobson also pointed out that China wants to protect the massive investments by Chinese energy companies already in Iran or under negotiation with Tehran, and China wants to ensure that its long-term strategic plans for energy security are not threatened.

In a detailed policy paper released last month, and titled "New Foreign Policy Actors in China", SIPRI said the increasing sway of large state-owned energy companies have an increasing influence on foreign policy deliberations in China.

Jakobson, who co-authored the report with Dean Knox, said this is one example of that sway though it is noteworthy that there are other foreign policy actors who presumably were not inclined to advocate China's support of the resolution.

On the other hand, she said, there were presumably actors who advocated China's support for the resolution because China supports non-proliferation and does not want to see Iran go nuclear.

"If China had not supported the resolution, it would reflect badly on China's image and undermine its efforts to portray itself as a responsible global power," Jakobson said.

She said China attaches great importance to the United Nations and would like to see the role of the UN strengthened – though Beijing is wary of many proposals that want to expand Security Council membership and/or give power to members other than the present five permanent members, the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China.

The SIPRI report argues that actors outside the traditional power structure are increasingly shaping China's foreign policy.

Influential new actors on the margins include Chinese state-owned enterprises, especially energy companies, which, due to their widespread international outreach, affect China's bilateral relationships and diplomacy at large.

The others include local governments, especially in border and coastal provinces, which seek more lucrative trade and foreign investment opportunities.

At the same time, there is growing importance of researchers, who serve as advisors to officials and media, and netizens, who constitute a new pressure group that China's leaders at times feel compelled to take into account, not least during international crises.

The findings also point to a fracturing of authority in foreign policy formulation.

Diversification outside China's official decision making apparatus – along with changes within it – means that foreigners can no longer expect to only deal with one government agency or Party organ but must take into account multiple actors that

have both a stake and say in the decision-making processes.

A version of this article first appeared on the Inter Press Service News Agency.

All Day

Korea Offers Information Technology For All Sectors -- Online

Korea Offers Information Technology For All Sectors

Islamabad: There is a need to promote Korean investment in Pakistan through more interaction between the business communities of the Republic of Korea and Pakistan through exchange of delegations. Senator Waqar Ahmed Khan Federal Minister for Privatisation stated this during a meeting with the Ambassador of Korea to Pakistan Mr. Choong Joo Choi who called on the Minister here on Thursday.

Senator Waqar said that Pakistan provided a conducive investment environment in all the sectors without any discrimination between local and foreign investors by providing equal opportunities through a fair, open and transparent process. Pakistan offers an opportunity to Korean business groups and investor to take advantage of Pakistan's incentives extended through liberal investment, privatisation through Public Private Partnership (PPP) and economic policies, he said.

The Minister further said that it was for the Korean business groups to identify the areas of interests as we were presently in the process of restructuring and turning around the State Owned Entities for value addition prior to taking them to the market.

The Korean envoy Mr. Choong Joo Choi said that Korean companies were interested in offering Information Technology through e solutions for all sectors including health, infrastructure, economy, transportation, telecom and other social services to Pakistan. Korean investors would be keen to participate in the privatisation and investment opportunities in Pakistan along with development in software and hardware, he added.

All Day

The United States will provide Pakistan \$125million for the construction of two dams and repairing four existing projects, stated Federal Minister for Water and Power Raja Pervez Ashraf on Wednesday. -- Daily Times

The United States will provide Pakistan \$125million for the construction of two dams and repairing four existing projects, stated Federal Minister for Water and Power Raja Pervez Ashraf on Wednesday.

The federal minister made the statement while speaking to the media at Islamabad Airport. Speaking about the strategic dialogue between Pakistan and the US, he said that the US assured Pakistan of their cooperation to help control the power crisis.

He said that the Thar coal and other power projects were also discussed during the meeting, along with flood destruction and the construction of Diamer Bhasha dam. Ashraf said the US will also provide investment for the generation of 150 megawatts of electricity through windmill projects.

All Day

Buttressing Pak-Turkish linkages -- Observer

Buttressing Pak-Turkish linkages

Shanzeh Iqbal

The relations between Turkey and Pakistan are entrenched deeply. Both the countries share a common vision on many regional and international issues. The relations are based on mutual respect, trust and interest. The two countries face the same challenges and a common cultural heritage. Turkey has acknowledged on many forums the sacrifices offered by the Pakistani nation and its army in waging a war on terror. Turkey has rendered an unflinching support to Pakistan. Times have proved it. Turkey always came all out for Pakistan's assistance in the hour of distress. Tayyip Erdogan was the first foreign head of state when Pakistan was in the tight hold of the most calamitous earthquake in 2005. Turkey provided Pakistan 150 million dollars for rehabilitation works. Likewise in the aftermath of the flood of 2010, which caused colossal wreckage, it was the first country which started building of prefabricated home villages for flood affected people in the recent scenario.

Turkish model is indeed a role model worth follow suit as the Turkish nation hates corruption in all forms. Its politicians think for the wellbeing of their beloved country and the fellowmen also cherish the same vision. Significant economic growth of Turkey in the previous couple of years is a good example for Pakistan to pursue. Turkey has also supported Pakistan in bringing stability in Afghanistan and for holding the regional summits and Turkey Afghanistan Pakistan Tripartite Summit. The fourth summit on January 25, 2010 was intended at reestablishing the cordial relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan. It also tried to ensure the solidarity of cooperation ventures.

In order to amplify the business ties Pak Turkish CEO's Forum went on increasing cooperation in the areas of power, agriculture and mining. In October 2009 the Turkish PM came to Pakistan on a two day visit. PM Gillani and Mr Erdogan decided to boost their strategic partnership to fight militancy and to congeal the political, diplomatic and economic cooperation. Both signed a joint declaration in trade investment, agriculture, industry, culture, education and defense and to increase people to people contacts. The Focus was also laid on increasing interaction between the intelligence agencies to get rid of terrorism, illegal arms trafficking and terrorist groups. In 2009 an MoU was signed under which the business community was given exemption from visa requirements.

The Businessmen from the two countries with valid documents were allowed to visit and stay in each other countries without visa for 90 days. In the same year Pakistan went ahead with the Islamabad Tehran Istanbul international freight train service. This service was supposed to be operated as pilot project of Economic Cooperation Organistaion. Pakistan Turkey joint Ministerial Commission meeting agreed to enhance the volume of trade to US \$2b by 2010. CEO Forum was hosted by Turkey's Foreign Economic relations Board in Istanbul in January 2010. Punjab Chief Minister said on this platform that Pakistan considers the performance of Turkey as the best model. CEO Forum is intended to help evaluate the potential of private entrepreneur. Turkey's private corporations have invested markedly in industrial and construction projects, highways, pipelines, canals, fields of energy, infrastructure, textile, engineering goods, mining and agriculture. In January 2010 Pakistan and Iran agreed to start a \$20 b project to upgrade a railway link from Islamabad to Istanbul as a means of transporting cargo from Pakistan to Turkey. With the help of this 5 year project 11 days journey would be reduced to almost 4 days between the two cities. It will connect Pakistan with European countries through Turkey. The President Zaradri conferred Nishan-e- Pakistan, the highest of civil awards, on President Gul in April 2010 when he came on his visit to Pakisan and the honorary degree in International Relations by the Quaid-E-Azam University Islamabad. Earlier in October 2009 the President of Pakistan had conferred the same award on Tayyip Erdogan in recognition of his visionary leadership and his outstanding contributions in strengthening Pakistan-Turkey relations.

In July 2010 a defense delegation met the Turkish president in Ankara. There was

expressed a need to increase Pak Turkish joint defense projects Pakistan Defense delegation led by the Defense Minister, Ahmad Mukhtar. The Turkish leadership showed a deep interest for multi role combat aircraft JF-17 Thunder. Turkey and Pakistan have decided in October 2010 to materialize ideas of currency swap which will facilitate business, trade and commerce and upgrade the existing railway track between the two countries via Iran. It is a step ahead in ensuring the speedy transportation of cargo and would open new vistas of opportunities for the people. Moreover it will also lead to economic uplift and bring forth sustainable bilateral relations. It is also a step in furthering the mutual cooperation.

Turkey's initiative of developing a common Asian policy and helping Pakistan in making powerful the relations of Pakistan with Central Asian States must be appreciated. A multidimensional mechanism must be devised to address the regional issues as the unique geo strategic position of both can be vocal in bringing peace and prosperity. There is also a need for establishing framework of preferential trade with Turkey. It will open doors for free trade agreement. Currently Pakistan is exporting rice, sesame seeds, leather, textile, sports goods to Turkey and Turkey exports wheat, chickpeas, lentils, chemicals, transport vehicles etc.

Both the Turkish PM and the President have articulated the resolve that Turkey wants to invest on permanent basis to help infrastructure of Pakistan. The lukewarm political relations can be very favorable to yield good economic benefits obliging to both the countries. Strategic partnership as a result will lead to a win win position. The sectors where the government has to work include increased corporate sector cooperation, greater people to people contacts, exchange of students, media and intellectuals. Along with this transport, telecommunications, energy, water, public diplomacy and other industries are the areas where the attention must be focused. We must take advantage of the existing potential of Turkey. This can be a way to avert the looming shadows of misfortune hovering over the economy of Pakistan.

All Day**IMF delegation arrives in Pakistan -- Published in The Express Tribune**
IMF delegation arrives in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The second delegation of the International Monetary Fund's review team has arrived in the country, led by Adnan Mazarei, head of the IMF review team for Pakistan.

Negotiations between the IMF and Pakistan, however, will start on Monday, according to finance ministry officials.

The technical team of the delegation had arrived earlier and was presented with data on Pakistan's performance in the first quarter of the current fiscal year and their notes will form the basis of policy negotiations.

Published in The Express Tribune, October 30th, 2010.

All Day**Pak receives 3 high-tech F-16s -- Observer**

Pak receives 3 high-tech F-16s
Tanvir Siddiqi

Islamabad—Pakistan on Saturday received three new high-tech F-16 aircraft from the US as part of 18 such fighter jets scheduled to reach the country by December.

The jets landed at the Shahbaz Airbase of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) in Jacobabad.

Three other aircraft had reached Pakistan in June, while the remaining would be handed over to Pakistan by the end of December.

Pakistani pilots were trained by the US Air Force prior to the handing over and they flew the aircraft to Pakistan.

A PAF spokesman said: 'Air Chief Marshal Rao Qamar Suleman has congratulated the Pakistani nation on enhanced strength of its fighter jets' fleet.'

Sources said arrival of five F-16 jets was scheduled for September 2010 but was delayed due to floods in August and September.

The government during Pervez Musharraf's tenure had struck a deal with the US for the purchase of 24 refurbished F-16 aircraft to enhance air warfare capacity of the country. The new government, after taking charge in 2008, decided to buy 18 additional new block-52 fighter jets.

All Day

Pakistan votes in favor of TAPI pipeline -- Stell Guru

UPI reported that Pakistan voted to give the green light to the Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India natural gas pipeline.

Mr Qamar Zaman Kaira information minister of Pakistan said that it was vital for Pakistan to approve the multilateral pipeline from Turkmenistan to stave off an energy crisis in the country.

Mr Kaira said that if India balked on the project the other three members would move ahead without the other partner.

The 1,043 mile natural gas pipeline would transport natural gas from the Dauletabad field in Turkmenistan, one of the world's largest. The Western backed project is viewed as a rival to Iran's plans to transit natural gas from its South Pars gas field to Pakistan and India through the so called Peace Pipeline.

New Delhi said that it was concerned about the security of the TAPI project through parts of Afghanistan and Pakistan. The project however, received support from Kabul and Islamabad as well as the Asian Development Bank.

(Sourced from UPI)

All Day

US to give \$150 million for the energy sector, says Pervaiz Ashraf -- Online

US to give \$150 million for the energy sector, says Pervaiz Ashraf
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Water And Power Raja Pervaiz Ashraf has said that United States is assisting Pakistan in the construction and upgradation of dams as well as wind power energy etc and providing RS 150 million dollars for such projects.

Two billion dollars have been allocated for the energy sector in the Kerry Lugar bill. According to media reports on his way back from the United States while talking to the media Pervaiz Ashraf said that strategic talks with the US have been successful, whereas America has assured of his full cooperation to overcome the present energy crisis.

US is well aware of our energy crisis and is taking keen interest in this sector and is planning on investing in making small dams and wind power energy in order to generate 150 megawatts of electricity.

America is providing 60 million dollars for the construction of Sipara and Gomal Zam dams and another 65 million dollars for the repair and restoration of the power projects.

Minister for power also mentioned that the provision of cheap electricity and the construction of new dams was also discussed.

Cooperation of the Americans is also expected in the construction of Bhasha Dam.

It is expected that more investment would come from the private sector in the energy sector. Minister also said that further meetings will be held next month.

All Day

Our strategic commercial corridor(s) -- BR

Our strategic commercial corridor(s)

The writer is a retired brigadier and a former president of the Islamabad Policy Research Institute

As I wrote in my last column on these pages, Pakistan's 'strategic location' is strategic only if it returns to being the centre of commercial activity. While silk and other goods will still need transportation, today there is far more: energy resources from oil and gas rich Central Asian Republics (CARs) and minerals.

Let us, however, start with China. About a decade ago, China completed an oil pipeline from Kazakhstan to Urumqi, where it constructed an oil refinery. Suddenly, industry sprouted around Urumqi and the entire province has become rich. Goods produced around Urumqi are transported by rail and road to Chinese eastern ports, a distance of about 2,500 miles. From there, transportation by sea to the Far East and the Americas is easy, but to access the rest of the world Chinese ships go through the Straits of Malacca, travel almost 5,000 miles to reach the Gulf of Aden and another 5,800 miles to reach the Arabian Gulf. Most of this route has operational US military bases on it.

On the other hand, a rail link from Urumqi to Havelian in Pakistan, parallel to the Karakoram Highway, is already in the pipeline, despite some technical difficulties. From Havelian, a direct rail link will connect to Gwadar. An extension of the Kazakhstan oil pipeline from Urumqi to Havelian is also in the offing.

Once the rail-link is established, goods from Urumqi can be transported to Gwadar, a distance of less than 2,000 miles and, once they reach there, they will be at the mouth of the Arabian Gulf and a mere 1,000 miles from the Gulf of Aden!

We know that Afghanistan is rich in mineral resources. The most logical and shortest route for them to reach the seas is via Gwadar; as it is for the CARs. However, if Afghanistan is denied to the CARs, due to insecurity which is likely to prevail for the foreseeable future, the next most logical route is via Iran. This route is unacceptable to the US and the US is in a position to have its way in this matter.

The next route out for the CARs to reach the seas is through China, sharing the rail/road link to Gwadar. A rail link from Almaty (Kazakhstan) to Urumqi already exists. It would take little effort for other CARs to route themselves via Almaty. The US does not favour this route either, but it is not in a position to deny China to the CARs.

This is our strategic commercial corridor (henceforth SCC). Not only will it solve our energy crisis, the revenue generated through commerce can make us a modern day Singapore. The only hindrance is the unrest in Balochistan. That is why our unfriendly neighbour(s) are interested in stoking the unrest there.

Our political leaders cannot see the significance of this or are incapable of doing anything about it since our economic future is inextricably linked to the SCC and, therefore, to peace in Balochistan.

India is also energy starved. It tried to get oil from Myanmar but its plans were foiled by China. Without cheap energy resources, India will fail to achieve its ambitions. The cheapest method of transporting energy is through overland pipelines. For cheap energy to reach India overland, whether from the Middle East, Iran or the CARs, is through Pakistan; that is a geographic reality.

One day, India will acknowledge this truth and realise not only that a peaceful Balochistan is in our common interest but that our economic future is still tied to each other by an umbilical cord.

If we look at the energy and mineral rich CARs, the most logical route out for them is through Afghanistan on to Gwadar.

Published in The Express Tribune, November 29th, 2010.

All Day

-- jang پاکستان اور عمان کا مسقط گوادر فیری سروس شروع کرنے پر اتفاق

پاکستان اور عمان کا مسقط گوادر فیری سروس شروع کرنے پر اتفاق

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) پاکستان اور عمان نے گوادر مسقط فیری سروس شروع کرنے پر اتفاق کیا ہے جبکہ عمان نے کوئٹہ گوادر ریلوے لائن بچھانے میں تعاون کی پیشکش کی ہے اور عمان میں ریلوے بچھانے کیلئے پاکستان سے معاونت مانگی ہے جس کا پاکستان نے مثبت جواب دیا ہے اور پاکستان یہ معاونت فراہم کریگا۔ دونوں ممالک نے تجارتی اور اقتصادی تعلقات کو فروغ دینے پر بھی اتفاق کیا ہے۔ گزشتہ روز وزیراعظم گیلانی سے مسقط کے نائب وزیراعظم، وزیر خارجہ اور سلطان قابوس کے مشیر خاص برائے امور خارجہ نے ملاقاتیں کیں۔ نائب وزیراعظم فہد بن محمود سے ملاقات کے دوران وزیراعظم گیلانی نے کہا پاکستان عمان کے ساتھ تجارتی مشکلات کو متنوع بنانے کا خواہشمند ہے، ملاقات میں دونوں ممالک کے وفود نے معاونت کی، وزیراعظم گیلانی نے عمانی سرمایہ کاروں کو دعوت دی کہ وہ توانائی، ٹیلی کام، زراعت پر منحصر صنعتوں، ٹیکسٹائل، مینوفیکچرنگ، الیکٹرانکس، فشریز، تعلیم اور صحت کے شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کریں۔ انہوں نے سرکاری، نجی شعبوں اور عوامی رابطوں کو مزید فروغ دینے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا، دونوں ممالک نے پاکستان سے مزید افرادی قوت کی فراہمی پر مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر جلد دستخط کرنے سے اتفاق کیا، وزیراعظم نے پاک عمان سرمایہ کاری کمپنی کو مزید توسیع دینے پر بھی زور دیا۔ انہوں نے عمانی قیادت سے درخواست کی کہ خلیج تعاون کونسل کے ساتھ آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدہ کو جلد حتمی شکل دینے کیلئے پاکستان کی مدد کی جائے جس پر عمانی وفد نے اپنے تعاون کا وعدہ کیا۔ علاوہ ازیں پاکستان اور عمان نے تمام شعبوں میں قریبی اشتراک کی تفصیلات طے کرنے کیلئے سال میں 2 مرتبہ اجلاس بلانے اور دوطرفہ فیصلوں پر عملدرآمد کا میکانزم وضع کرنے سے اتفاق کیا ہے۔ ادھر وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ گوادر اور مسقط کے درمیان کشتی سروس شروع ہونے سے نہ صرف عوام کے درمیان رابطوں بلکہ سیاحت کی صنعت کو بھی تقویت ملے گی۔ ڈاکٹر عمر نے کہا کہ کشتی سروس شروع کرنے سے تجارتی سرگرمیوں میں اضافہ ہوگا۔

All Day

Opportunities galore for Chinese investment in Pakistan -- APP

Opportunities galore for Chinese investment in Pakistan

KARACHI, Nov 30 (APP): There are lot of opportunities for Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan by making 100 percent investment or through joint ventures. This was stated by former president SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry and former president FPCCI Tariq Sayeed in a meeting with a high level delegation from China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Sichuan Province (CCPIT) Chengdu, China headed by Li Li, here at the Federation House, said a statement issued by Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) here on Tuesday.

The Chinese delegation invited Tariq Sayeed, who is also Patron-in-Chief of Pak-China Business Council of FPCCI and President FPCCI Sultan Ahmed Chawla to participate in the Second South Asia - Sichuan Business Promotion Seminar to be held in Chengdu on February 25 and 26, 2011.

They also requested Tariq Sayeed to invite 2 to 5 members of FPCCI to attend the said event.

The theme of the seminar will be "Investment and Trade" and is aimed to collect opinions from all sides to discuss more pragmatically with the leadership of Chambers and Associations from South Asian countries about all possible means to develop bilateral trade relations.

Tariq Sayeed thanked CCPIT for providing space to FPCCI for opening its representative office in Chengdu which has started operation since September 1, 2010.

He also appreciated them for providing FPCCI free stalls for the last two years for participation of Pakistani exporters in the exhibition, who are taking benefit from such offer of CCPIT.

He said there are lots of opportunities for Chinese companies to come and invest in Pakistan through making 100% investment or by establishing joint ventures in Pakistan.

December 6, 2010

Mon

All Day

Iran plans wind farm for Pakistan -- TEHRAN - UPI

Iran plans wind farm for Pakistan

TEHRAN, Dec. 6 (UPI) -- An Iranian company linked to the country's Energy Ministry said it plans to build a massive wind farm in Pakistan's southern Sindh province.

Iranian company SANIR, which is affiliated with the Energy Ministry, said it signed a \$100 million deal in Pakistan to build a 1,000-megawatt wind farm, the semiofficial Fars News Agency reports.

The report adds that Iran is the only country in the region that has the technological capability of building wind turbines.

The contract was signed with members of the Pakistani Chamber of Commerce, the report adds. The project aims to help Pakistan alleviate a looming energy crisis.

Both sides in June agreed to long-term natural gas contracts from the South Pars gas complex in the Persian Gulf.

Iran said it would ship as much as 750 million cubic feet of gas per year to Pakistan as early as 2014 when a pipeline from South Pars goes on stream.

Iran has pressed for the pipeline, which is dubbed the Peace Pipeline, since the 1990s. Western adversaries are pushing for a rival project from Turkmenistan.

All Day

**Pak-China relations expanding in all dimensions: Chinese spokesperson
-- APP**

Pak-China relations expanding in all dimensions: Chinese spokesperson
BEIJING, Dec 7 (APP): China's relations with Pakistan, its strong ally in South Asia, are expanding in all dimensions, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Jiang Yu said here Tuesday. "China, Pakistan are good neighbours, partners and friends," she said. Responding to a question about the upcoming visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to South Asian countries, Jiang told a regular press briefing that both the countries enjoy "all weather friendly relations," and both the countries are cooperating in all dimensions. She pointed out that the all dimensional cooperation in various fields is proceeding smoothly "with good momentum."

The "consolidating China, Pakistan relation is the priority of China's diplomacy," Jiang said.

She said that her country is committed to consolidating traditional friendship and promoting bilateral ties with Pakistan.

China, she said would like to maintain the momentum of high-level visits to Pakistan as these would promote bilateral bonds of friendship.

The Chinese Premier Wen is scheduled to visit Pakistan in the second half of this month.

All Day

ECNEC to okay 22 projects tomorrow -- APP

ECNEC to okay 22 projects tomorrow

* Reko Diq gold scheme one of the projects to be approved

By Ijaz Kakakhel

ISLAMABAD: The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) scheduled to meet tomorrow (Dec 9) with Finance Minister Abdul Hafeez Shaikh in the chair is expected to approve 22 projects worth billions of rupees including Reko diq gold/copper project, which would attract over \$6 billion investment, sources told Daily Times here on Tuesday.

According to ECNEC agenda available with this scribe, the council would consider agriculture and food sector projects including Punjab Economic Opportunities Programme (PEOP) and Pak China National Project for Controlled Atmosphere (CA) and Advanced Ventilated Cold Storage worth Rs2.2292 billion.

The meeting will also consider "Promotion of Primary Education for Girls in selected districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (WFP Assisted" and Basic Education Improvement Programme Phase-II KPK Province Norway Assisted submitted by the Education Ministry.

Energy sector projects include: National Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) Project; Power Distribution Enhancement Programme, Phase-II [(i) IESCO (ii) GEPCO (iii) FESCO (iv) MEPCO (v) PESCO (vi) HESCO (vii) LESCO (viii) QESCO; Addition of 500 and 220 kV substations and transmission lines for strengthening of existing NTDC system worth Rs 24.317 billion. Another energy project, include Combined Cycle power plant by installation of 320 MW UAE Gifted Gas Turbines & 120 MW Steam Units at GTPS Faisalabad.

The Health sector consists of 3 projects, which include: Prime Minister's Programme for Prevention and Control of Hepatitis (Prime Minister's Emergency Action Plan of Hepatitis), Expanded programme on Immunization (EPI) Revised, and National Programme for Family Planning and Primary Health Care (NP-FP & PHC), "The Lady Health Workers Programme" Phase-II.

The Higher Education, apex body may approve projects, which include Establishment of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Benazirabad Sindh costing Rs 1.666 billion, and Islamabad and Fulbright Scholarships Support Programme (Revised).

Transport and Communication sector consist of two projects, namely "Improvement, widening and construction of kohlu-Sibbi Road Project (Length 162.5 km) (Re-revised)" and Procurement of (US Origin) 150 Diesel Electric Locomotives.

Physical planning and housing projects for approval are "Improvement of Water Supply System in Faisalabad (JICA Grants)" and Establishment of National Forensic Science Agency (NFSA) in Pakistan (Revised).

In population and Social Planning, ECNEC will consider Population Welfare Programmes (Islamabad Federal Activity, Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa, Balochistan and AJK).

Water sector projects include: Construction of 100 Delay Action Dams in Balochistan: Package-II (26 Dams); Punjab Barrages Improvement Phase-II (PBIP-II) (Rehabilitation and Modernization of Jinnah Barrage, Improvement and Modernization of the Irrigation and Water Management System - Monitoring and Evaluation of the project Impacts and Technical Assistance and Trainings); and Six (6) Dispersal Structures on Nari River, Construction of Ghazi Tuk, Khokhar, Erri, Haji Shaher and Remodelling/Rehabilitation of Mithri Weir and Canal System.

All Day

The government of Pakistan has decided to allow visa on arrival for 30 days to all Turkish nationals who possess valid US, UK or Schengen visas -- ISTANBUL

ISTANBUL: The government of Pakistan has decided to allow visa on arrival for 30 days to all Turkish nationals who possess valid US, UK or Schengen visas, said Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani.

"We hope remaining formalities will soon be completed to conclude Visa Abolition Agreement for bona fide businessmen of Turkey and Pakistan," he said. Speaking at a meeting on Wednesday, hosted by Turkish Foreign Economic Relations Board DEIK, Gilani invited Turkish businessmen to explore Pakistan's business potential by investing in energy, oil and gas sectors.

"We seek your investment, desire joint ventures and want to work together in the spirit of a win-win partnership by providing conducive environment to do business in Pakistan. Bilateral trade volume of around \$782 million did not reflect the potential and opportunities that exist in two countries," he added.

He said steps had been taken by the government to promote trade and foreign investment. Despite some external and internal shocks in shape of global financial crisis, volatility in oil prices and energy shortfall, Pakistan's economy had shown resilience and modest growth this year, he stated.

Economic liberalisation, deregulation and privatisation in a transparent manner remain core principles of the economic reform agenda, he added.

He said Pakistan offered many attractive opportunities for investment in energy, textile, infrastructure development, agro-based industry, oil, gas and mining. He said the textile sector had been revamped and re-energised with a Rs40 billion investment support fund and asked Turkish businesses to consider setting up new units, entering joint ventures and relocating textile manufacturing units to Pakistan.

Gilani said the Karachi Fish Harbour, which has a recognised potential of \$1 billion, is being revamped and operations are being modernised. "We look for joint ventures for modern shrimp peeling units and mother vessels," he added.

Published in The Express Tribune, December 9th, 2010.

All Day

Pak, Afghan enjoying cordial relations: Afghan Information Minister -- BR

Pak, Afghan enjoying cordial relations: Afghan Information Minister
ISLAMABAD (updated on: 2010-12-09 15:26:46 PST):

Afghanistan Minister for Information and Culture Dr Sayed Makhdoom Raheen said on Thursday that Afghanistan and Pakistan are enjoying cordial relations and people-to-people contact of brotherly countries will further improve bilateral ties.

Talking to APP before his departure to Kabul after visiting Pakistan, he said: "The relationship between two brother countries are cordial and based on centuries, we both nations are sharing happiness of life with each other."

He said: "We need to work together to create bright future for Pakistan and Afghanistan and for the whole region."

To a question, he termed his visit to Pakistan as excellent, saying Islamabad is more beautiful and bigger than before: "I will never forget this trip."

He termed meetings with Information, cultural and tourism Minister as very fruitful.

"We have discussed the issues beneficial for both the countries and talked about the renewal of the agreements signed by Pakistan and Afghanistan," he said.

He said he also invited three ministers to visit Kabul and they have accepted the

invitation.

To another question, he stressed the need for a visa free regime for Pakistani and Afghan journalists for travelling to each other's country as it would help promote greater cooperation in the media sector.

He also called for formation of a joint association of Pak-Afghan journalists, which would enhance interaction and coordination and help promote common causes, including fight against extremism and terrorism.

The Afghan Minister emphasized that more avenues should be explored to enhance cooperation for evolving Pak-Afghan joint media strategy to fight the menace of terrorism and change the extremist mindset.

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All Day

Pakistan Capital Market Forum - 18 Pak companies to participate in London moot on Friday -- Daily Times

Pakistan Capital Market Forum

18 Pak companies to participate in London moot on Friday

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Eighteen Pakistan-based public and private sector companies will showcase at "Pakistan Capital Market Forum" at London Stock Exchange (LSE) UK on Friday December 10, 2010. Whereas more than 50 multinational foreign investment groups, business houses and top market leaders also have confirmed their participation in the moot.

LSE is organising the Forum in conjunction with Nomura Dubai at LSE headquarters, UK. The event will showcase the opportunities available to international investors in Pakistan economy and is designed to both showcase a number of Pakistan-based listed and public companies and connect them with a wide range of senior representatives from the international buy-side investor and corporate advisor communities – which will further strengthen these economic links and also bring direct benefits to the companies presenting and the wider economy of Pakistan and bring closer the leading business and investment groups to explore the areas of interest.

The public and private sector companies participating from Pakistan include, Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), Pakistan State Oil (PSO), Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL), Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) and Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC), Pakistan Railways, Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO), Pakistan Steel, ENGRO, Luck, HUBCO, MCB, Bestway, BMA, AKD Securities, JS, Arif Habib, KASB Bank, Trust Bank, Barclays and SCB.

Whereas the multinational foreign investment groups, business houses and top market leaders include Aberdeen AM, Ashmore, Axa Framlington, Baillie Gifford, Baring Asset Management, Blackfriars, Blackrock, Charlemagne, Eton Park, Fidelity, Fortis, Genesis investment Management, Goldmans, Henderson/ New Star, Hermitage, Insight Investment, Investec, JP Morgan Asset Management, Jupiter Asset Management Ltd, M & G, Martin Currie, Mondrain, Neptune, Och-Ziff, Pictet, Polunin, SAC, Sarasin, Schroders, Smith & Williamson, Standard Life, Threadneedle and others.

The opposition leader in the Senate, Senator Wasim Sajjad, the Chairman Senate

Standing Committee on Privatisation Senator Adnan Shah, members of the Committee Senator Ilyas Bilour and Senator Imtiaz Shaikh will also participate in the moot.

All Day

Pakistan wishes to raise annual Sino-Pak trade up to \$18 bn -- BEIJING
Pakistan wishes to raise annual Sino-Pak trade up to \$18 bn
BEIJING: Pakistani Ambassador in China Masood Khan has termed visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to Pakistan as great important and hoped that the visit will open new opportunities and ways for trade and investment and besides his visit to India will not harm the Sino-Pak ties.

He expressed these thoughts in an interview to a private TV channel. He said that volume of Chinese investment in Pakistan has increased in recent years.

He said that important decisions will be taken during the visit of Chinese premier Wen Jiabao, which include inauguration of Sino-Pak Friendship Center, exchange of students, teachers, women and journalist delegations and others.

Masood Khan informed that current annual volume of Sino-Pak trade is \$7 billions, which is healthier than of the past years. He said about six thousand students are currently graduating from the Chinese institutions, but we wish this to further inflate up to 20 thousands.

He said global financial crunch has not affected our trade rather 25 percent increase in our exports is recorded in recent past years, whereas it has increased by 30 percent in current fiscal year collectively. Similarly, trade between the both countries has also grown at the 30 percent rate. If it continues to grow on similar pace, the volume of trade will attain annual target of \$18 billion after the next five years time.

He anticipated that during the visit of Wen Jiabao, China will agree to provide assistance for the restoration of communication and agriculture sectors destroyed by the recent floods.

All Day**Pak-South Korea ink \$180m soft loan agreement -- BR**

Pak-South Korea ink \$180m soft loan agreement

ISLAMABAD (updated on: 2010-12-09 18:27:18 PST):

Pakistan and South Korea here on Thursday signed a Framework Arrangement, under which, the later would provide a soft loan of US \$ 180 million for development projects in Pakistan.

The signing ceremony was held here at Economic Affairs Division.

The Agreement was signed by Sibtain Fazal Halim, Secretary Economic Affairs Division and Choong-Joo Choi, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Pakistan inked the agreement on behalf of his country.

Under the Framework Arrangement, South Korea will provide a soft loan of US \$ 180 million for development projects in Pakistan.

The loan will be administered by Korean Economic Development Cooperation Fund and Korean EXIM Bank.

With the signing of the Framework Arrangement, Pakistan and Korea were able to sign loan agreements for development projects in priority areas, that include infrastructure, renewable energy, vocational training, environment, health and education sectors.

Korea has shown interest to finance two projects that include, Construction of Malakand Tunnel and Conversion of Municipal Solid Waste into Energy and Fertilizer at Faisalabad.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary EAD thanked South Korea for their help to Pakistan in development of priority areas for the socio economic development of the country besides improving the living conditions of the people of Pakistan.-APP

All Day

Russian companies willing to invest in various sectors in Pakistan -- APP

Russian companies willing to invest in various sectors in Pakistan

KARACHI: Ambassador and Consul General of Russian Federation in Pakistan visited Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and discussed matters relating to enhancing trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Russia. President FPCCI Sultan Ahmed Chawla briefed the delegation about the activities and functions of FPCCI. He stated that bilateral trade between Pakistan and Russia is around \$400 million, which is very low and is in the favor of Russia.

He said Pakistani businessmen are facing difficulties in getting business visa, whereas it is easier to get tourist visa. Sultan Ahmed Chawla said relations between the two countries lacked depth and dimension despite strong possibilities for mutual cooperation. Chawla stressed the need for strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Russia and to activate trade and economic ties as well as opportunities for improving the investment climate and expanding direct contacts between the two countries' business communities. Ambassador of Russian Federation in Pakistan, Budnik Andrey said political relationships between the two countries are improving and the desire to raise the level of economic cooperation needs to be worked out. staff report

All Day

Malaysia starts breeding project of 'Neeli Ravi' of Pakistan -- BR

Malaysia starts breeding project of 'Neeli Ravi' of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (updated on: 2010-12-10 19:04:14 PST):

The Malaysian Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry and Department of Veterinary Services have launched a pilot buffalo breeding project of Pakistani buffalo, "Neeli Ravi" known world over for its high yield of quality milk with rich fat content.

According to Pakistan's High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, the first ever consignment of 170 Neeli Ravi buffalos was formally handed over to the Malaysian Minister for Agriculture and Agro Based Industries, Datuk Seri Noh Bin Haji Omar by the High Commissioner for Pakistan in Malaysia Masood Khalid, in a ceremony, organized by the Department of Veterinary Services of Malaysia, in Kuala Lumpur, on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Malaysian Minister for Agriculture and Agro Based Industry, Dato Sri Noh Bin Haji Omar said that Malaysia was deficient in production of milk and; therefore, imports most of the fresh milk to cater the domestic market.

He said launching of the pilot project of Neeli Ravi breeding facility in Malaysia, with the active technical support of Buffalo Research Institute (BRI) of the Punjab, the Malaysian Government will set up and develop its own dairy industry to meet domestic needs of fresh milk, and develop parallel facilities for the production of milk based products like Mozzarella cheese, fresh butter etc.

The High Commissioner for Pakistan in Malaysia Masood Khalid speaking on the occasion said import of first ever batch of 170 Buffalos of Neeli Ravi breed, which included 150 female and 20 male stock coupled with approval of an abattoir of Pakistan for export of frozen beef to Malaysia.

He said it had opened up a new window of opportunity for long term mutually beneficial cooperation between the livestock sectors of the two countries.

He said it would help both the countries to further explore trade and investment in non traditional items.

He said that Pakistan and Malaysia were ideally positioned to capture multi trillion dollar halal market, the world over.

Pakistan with 5th largest milk production, 2nd largest rock salts reserves, 10th largest mandarin production, 3rd largest mango production, 33rd largest potato production, 4th largest onion production, with animal population of over 110 million, coupled with Malaysian expertise in reprocessing and packaging can jointly capture a big chunk of fast growing multi trillion halal market, the world over.

Neeli Ravi called 'black gold' in Pakistan was the most important dairy breed adaptable and versatile of all the domestic animal of Asia and produces the highest yield of milk with an average of 7.5 litre per day.

Pakistan and Malaysia had signed two MoU and one Letter of Intent to promote cooperation in the live stock sector and halal business between the two countries during the visit of Minister of Agriculture and Agro Based Industry of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Noh Bin Haji Omar in Pakistan from December 14 to 17 last year.

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All Day

Pak-Austria joint ventures to end power crisis -- APP

Pak-Austria joint ventures to end power crisis

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Austria agreed Thursday to capitalise on opportunities to forge cooperation in power sector to help overcome energy shortage in Pakistan.

As a part of the government's efforts to address the power shortages in the country, Federal Minister for Water and Power, Raja Pervez Ashraf, held a meeting with the Austrian Federal Minister for Economy, Reinhold Mitterlehner at Capital Vienna.

Both sides had wide ranging discussions on the modalities on how Pakistan could benefit from the Austrian expertise in small hydro sector as well as its state-of-the-art technology. Ashraf informed his Austrian counterpart Pakistan's total installed capacity for electricity generation was 20,000MW, while the demand for electricity was much higher. At the same time, it was growing at the rate of 10 percent every year.

He said the hydel-thermal mix in the country was 34:66, the reverse of ideal hydel-thermal mix of 70:30 required for the economic development. He highlighted country's hydropower potential was over 100,000 MW. Sites for 55000 MW had already been identified and several studies, including Diamer Basha (4500 MW), Bunji (5400 MW) and Kohala (1100 MW) were underway. app

All Day

Pakistan business team to visit Switzerland in 2011 -- PPI

Pakistan business team to visit Switzerland in 2011

KARACHI: Pakistan business delegation will visit Switzerland in first half of 2011 to further promote economic relations between the two countries.

An increased exchange of delegations could help Swiss entrepreneurs to get better picture of business environment in Pakistan and appreciate potential this huge market has to offer, Switzerland Ambassador to Pakistan, Christoph Bubb said Thursday.

Pakistan delegation's visit is being arranged by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Karachi with its counterpart Swiss Asian Chamber of Commerce in Zurich.

Bubb said Karachi is one of the world's largest metropolitan cities and an important contributor to national and global economy.

It holds a particular significance for Switzerland as out of 18 Swiss multinational companies operating in Pakistan 15 were established in Karachi and successfully operating in pharmaceuticals, chemicals, banking and other service industries.

He said Swiss companies are generally satisfied with course of business and based on market potential maintain an optimistic outlook despite concerns to ongoing energy shortages and law-and-order situation.

He said bilateral trade between two nations has shown consistent growth over several years and is now further picking up in aftermath of global recession. The balance of trade has been in favour of Switzerland but Pakistan has considerably increased exports to Switzerland in past few years, he added.

SDC is successfully operating in Pakistan since 1966 and its program focuses on improving governance and increasing Income. Additionally, Swiss government initiated two years project Responsible Foreign Direct Investment in Pakistan to promote 10 globally accepted principles of UN Global Compact on key issues such as human rights, labour, environment, anti-corruption by engaging subsidiaries of Swiss multinational companies in Pakistan and their supply chain, he added.

He urged Pakistani and multinational companies to join this meaningful campaign which may herald a new era of integrated socio economic development in Pakistan which is facing difficult challenges and therefore extra efforts are needed.

Bubb said within first few days of catastrophic, SDC humanitarian aid took immediate measures to provide emergency relief to flood victims in northern districts of D I Khan and Karak. ppi

All Day

Pakistan, China air cargo service launched -- APP

KASHGAR: The air cargo service between Pakistan and China has been launched with the arrival of first maiden flight from Islamabad here on late Friday.

At the inaugural arrival ceremony, Sardar Aminullah Khan, Economic Minister at Embassy of Pakistan, Beijing, the Deputy Commissioner of Kashi prefecture and representatives of various related agencies including Customs, Civil Aviation, Quarantine, Immigration, port management and representatives of the Airline were present.

Speaking on the occasion, the Economic Minister highlighted the important aspects of the Pak-China relations.

“There is big potential for business for the air cargo service especially during winter season when the connectivity through land between the two countries remained suspended”, he observed.

He further pointed out that through cargo service, products of the two countries not only available easily whole the year in the markets of both sides but also in the Middle Eastern countries and Central Asian States.

He also appreciated the assistance provided by the Chinese government to Pakistan at the hours of the need.

Sardar Amin also stated the present economic policy framework of the Chinese government that envisages priority to the development of the western regions including Xinjiang with substantial investment.

The plan includes the development of infrastructure such extension of high speed train and other modes of transport and communication.

The special development zone status recently assigned to Kashgar was also discussed along with its impact on Pakistan in terms of expanded trade, development, investment and facilitation to Pakistan and the adjoining region of Central Asia.

The Minister appreciated the efforts of the sponsors of Rayyan Air Lines for successful operation of the first cargo flight from Pakistan which will go a long way in promoting the trade and investment between Pakistan, China and Central Asia. Cooperation extended by the local government and other agencies in this regard was also appreciated by the Economic Minister.

The Deputy Commissioner, Kashgar Wang in his speech described the importance of reliable communication links between Pakistan and China and expressed the desire for further expanding such connectivity.

He expected the introduction of passenger flights also by the airline. The Deputy Commissioner explained the huge potential of the region after recent efforts for fast development of the area which is necessary for transferring the benefits of the development to the people of the region in terms of better standards of life, employment and other basic facilities.

Captain Bhatti, Chairman of Rayyan Airlines also spoke on the ceremony. He appreciated the cooperation extended by the local government and the other related agencies of the government in Kashgar to make the launch of cargo service possible.

The flight took about 90 minutes from Islamabad to Kashgar and was received by the Deputy Commissioner, the Economic Minister and heads of all related agencies.

This was the first international cargo flight ever landed in the city and the participants in the ceremony were delighted with the initiation of the operation by an airline of the friendly country.

The Foreign office of Kashgar oversaw all the arrangements in this regard.

All Day

Pakistan-Turkey - a journey from 'brotherhood to strategic partnership' -- APP

Pakistan-Turkey - a journey from 'brotherhood to strategic partnership'

By Shumaila Andleeb

ISLAMABAD, Dec 10 (APP): From the love of Pakistanis for Kamal Atatürk to the Turks' affection for Jinnah - the brotherly relationship is ready to witness a shining era as Pakistan and Turkey have entered a new world of strategic partnership with signing of 17 Memoranda of Understanding in different fields. With 'Atatürk Avenue' in Islamabad and 'Jinnah Jadesi' roads in Ankara, the two capitals have got a new strategic dimension with the recent official visit of Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani to Turkey.

The signing of 17 MoUs by the two countries has been regarded as a "turning point" to mutually benefit from each others' potential in the fields including health, education, agriculture, infrastructure, housing and media.

Turkey also offered to build schools and hospitals in Pakistan's flood-affected regions within six months.

Both the Prime Ministers of Pakistan and Turkey expressed conviction to take personal interest in ensuring practical implementation of the 17 MoUs.

Prime Minister Gilani's visit to Turkey also marks conferment of three separate honors for him. Turkish President Abdullah Gül awarded the Prime Minister with 'Jamhuriyat Nishan - The Republic Order' at a special investiture ceremony in recognition to furthering the relations between two countries.

Another award was Degree of Doctorate of Journalism for the Prime Minister by Turkey's prestigious Marmara University.

The University Rector termed Gilani as "Man of Culture" and said the institution was interested in learning from his experiences through his lectures.

Gilani also had the honour to address the Turkish Grand National Assembly, making him the first head of the government from Pakistan addressing the Turk parliamentarians.

Prime Minister Gilani who co-chaired the inaugural session of High Level Cooperation Council (HLCC) with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Ankara, has termed the body as a "direct interaction between the cabinets of two Prime Ministers".

In the ancient city of Istanbul, the Prime Minister during his interaction with the Turkish businessmen offered them to invest in agriculture, housing, energy and infrastructure development, with an effort to for private sectors of the two countries to engage deeply with each other. The Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK) of Turkey expressed desire to strengthen the economic relations of two countries on a higher level.

Gilani told the Turkish businessmen that Pakistan had decided to give visa on arrival for 30 days to all Turkish nationals who possessed valid US, UK or Schengen visas.

He also expressed hope that the remaining formalities will soon be completed for the conclusion of Visa Abolition Agreement for bonafide businessmen of Turkey and Pakistan.

Pakistan and Turkey also reiterated their last year's agreement to increase bilateral trade volume to US\$2 billion by 2012.

Prime Minister Gilani concluded his visit with a saying that defines the crux of relationship between Pakistan and Turkey, as "The Pak-Turk relationship is a true sense of brotherhood. It is, as if we are a single family. We value these very special relations and will take them to even greater heights."

All Day

Russia, China keen on expansion project of PSM -- Daily Times

Russia, China keen on expansion project of PSM

Staff Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) has received Expression of Interest (Eoi) from 10 companies including China and Russia to boost its production from the present 1.1 million tonne per annum to 1.5 million tonne per annum.

“After appointing a consultant from international market for evaluating the Expression of Interest, the process of awarding this contract to a foreign company will be completed within the next three months,” CEO PSM, Imtiaz Ahmed Khan Lodhi said.

In this regard, PSM management has already given a detailed presentation to Federal Ministry of Industries and Production, and the Planning Commission of Pakistan, he said in an interview on Thursday.

According to CEO Pakistan Steel, after starting work on the first phase of expansion, the entity will initiate a second phase named Green Field Project to double its production capacity to 3 million tonne per year.

He said PSM has succeeded in restoring the confidence of foreign suppliers of raw materials (iron ore and coal) — with import bills amounting Rs 800 million.

PSM, he said, has also been approached by private firms registered in Brazil, Indonesia and others for supply of raw material.

Pakistan Steel, a state-run leading industry, was set up with cooperation of former Soviet Union in early 1970s near Port Qasim.

“Next month we will be in a no-profit-no-loss position. By the end of June 2011, Pakistan Steel will have a small net profit on its accounts,” Imtiaz Ahmed Khan Lodhi said.

Pakistan Steel has also repaid all its loans and is utilising its own resources to generate funds complemented with various effective budgetary and administrative measures to strengthen its liquidity position.

It has made procedures/policies very transparent especially of procurement to check possible corruption. Third party certification of raw materials has also been introduced to achieve the results.

With re-commissioning of its battery “Coke oven-I”, in February 2011, the Mills’ production will rise to 1.1 million tonne per year. PSM, at present, is operating at 50 percent capacity. With further improvement in raw materials stock position, the Mill will use its 60% capacity next month and in January 2011, it is expected to touch 70% of its total production capacity.

The Coke oven-I has been repaired at a cost of Rs 1.5 billion with the help of Russian experts. From next month, PS Billet Mill is expected to produce 0.3 million tonne billets per month.

PSM has been catering up to 20% of total steel demand of the country. For increasing its share in the market, the entity has started diversification of the products. Now, it will make improved quality sheets to beat the competitors within and outside the country. PSM has already an edge over other steel mills in private sector. PSM could influence the local steel market as its prices work as benchmark. It produces billets, hot rolled sheets and galvanised iron sheets, besides, selling its by-products, that is, coal tar, ammonium sulphate, slag and coke. PSM is the sole source of this coke for small steel units and foundries engaged in making wide range of steel products in the country, Lodhi said.

The Mills’ management has devised a new price fixation system with full transparency to ensure better profit margins. “PSM management has focused on developing and promoting indigenous sources of raw materials to cut its raw materials bill, ensure its availability and save foreign exchange for the country,” he added.

In local cases, PSM has to pay bill within one week after shipment of raw material whereas in foreign suppliers cases, the advance payment is needed and the price is also high. The local procurement will also help promote domestic industry and create jobs for the local people.

All Day

S Korea to provide Pakistan \$180 million soft loan -- Daily Times

S Korea to provide Pakistan \$180 million soft loan

* Both countries sign framework arrangement agreement

By Ijaz Kakakhel

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and South Korea on Thursday signed a framework arrangement agreement under which S Korea would provide a soft loan of \$180 million for development projects in Pakistan.

The loan would be administered by the Korean Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) and Korean Exim Bank. The loan has one percent mark-up rate for 30 years having another five years as grace period. Under this arrangement, only special projects would be carried out.

Economic Affairs Division (EAD) Secretary Sibtain Fazal Halim from Pakistan's side and Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Pakistan Choong Joo Choi signed the agreement.

With the signing of the agreement, Pakistan and Korea were able to sign loan agreements for development projects in priority areas that include infrastructure, renewable energy, vocational training, environment, health and education sector. Korea has shown interest to finance two projects that include construction of Malakand Tunnel with total cost of \$90 million and conversion of Municipal Solid Waste into energy and fertilizer in Faisalabad with a cost of \$35 million approximately.

EAD secretary said both Pakistan and S Korea have cordial and historic relations and Korea always extended useful assistance both in terms of technical and development. At present, he said Korea provided assistance in three developmental schemes with a total cost of \$63.8 million. These projects were Kepco in Gujranwala with \$45 million, NTDC 22KV line with \$17.3 million and Garment Centre Karachi \$1.5 million. All these projects are ongoing, he maintained.

Speaking on the occasion, the S Korea ambassador said the framework arrangement between the two governments is concerned with loans from the EDCF for the year 2010 through 2012, with the view to simplifying and streamlining the loans allocation procedures. Under this arrangement, he said the government of Pakistan would be entitled to avail the opportunity of EDCF loan from Korea up to an aggregated commitment amount of \$180 million.

He said the arrangement would also provide a platform for submission of project proposals to be financed under EDCF loan assistance in the priority areas. The repayment terms and the interest rate shall be specified in the loan agreement for the individual project.

At this time of Pakistan is facing economic hardships due to recent disastrous floods, ongoing war on terrorism and extremism and energy shortage in the country. Korea has come forward as usual and stands with Pakistan not only to play its due role to soften the situation at the time of need but also to further strengthen the existing bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries.

The Korean Embassy in a statement said that it was also pertinent to mention here

that the government of Korea established the EDCF in 1987 for the purpose of promoting Korea's economic cooperation with developing countries. Drawing on Korea's development experiences to date, the EDCF assists developing countries by providing necessary funding to assist in industrial development and economic stability. The Exim Bank of Korea was responsible for the operation of the EDCF including project appraisal, execution of the loan agreement and evaluation after project completion.

All Day

Swiss officials visit OICCI to identify industries -- APP

Swiss officials visit OICCI to identify industries

KARACHI: Swiss Ambassador Christoph Bubb along with the Consul General Didier Boschung visited the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce & Industry (OICCI) to familiarise himself with the business environment in the country and to obtain the ground realities of operating in Pakistan from the business community's perspective. The prime objective of the Swiss delegate's visit to OICCI was to identify avenues for bilateral collaboration with Pakistan including identification of sunrise industries, which may be of interest to Swiss investors. The current energy crisis along with the social and political situation of the country was also discussed in detail. The delegation inquired about the initiatives being taken by the government of Pakistan and stressed improving the image of the country for potential investors. During the meeting, the issue regarding violation of "Intellectual Property Rights" was also raised with particular reference to the data protection law for the pharmaceutical sector. Ambassador Bubb shared his concerns regarding policy implementation and lack of proper governance in the country. Speaking at the occasion, Ameena Saiyid - OBE, President OICCI said, "Despite these negative aspects, Pakistan still remains an attractive destination for investment and members of the Chamber have been running their businesses successfully in the region even during the difficult periods." Ameena assured the delegate that the government could further improve the investment scenario of the country by broadening the tax base, strengthening the education system, and developing facilities to provide technical training. The ambassador acknowledged the efforts being made by the OICCI and stated that more was needed on the international front towards eliminating misperceptions about Pakistan. As the foreign world often assumes Pakistan to be a war zone, which is quite contradictory to the reality. staff report

Home

All Day

Pak to get six more F-16 aircraft from US on Dec 13 -- ANI

Pak to get six more F-16 aircraft from US on Dec 13

Lahore, Dec 11(ANI): Six new F-16 C/D Block 52 high-tech aircraft will reportedly arrive in Pakistan from the United States on December 13, after which the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) will have a total of 18 such aircraft.

In 2005-06, Pakistan had signed a contract with the US government for the acquisition of 18 F-16 C/D Block 52 aircraft, under which the PAF would receive these state-of-the-art aircraft from the US in staggered batches, the Daily Times reported.

While the first batch of three aircraft arrived in Pakistan in May 2010, and the second batch- of the same quantity- at the PAF Base in Shahbaz (Jacobabad) in October, six more aircraft reached the country in November.

The F-16 C/D aircraft is a high tech fighter aircraft equipped with state-of-the-art avionics suite and latest weapons with Night Precision Attack capability. These aircraft are part of the bid by the PAF to modernise and enhance its air defence capabilities. (ANI)

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All Day

The 17,000 Km long Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI), natural gas pipeline project has been signed on December 11, 2010 -- APP

TAPI: The desired essence

Dr Raja Muhammad Khan

The 17,000 Km long Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI), natural gas pipeline project has been signed on December 11, 2010, during Ashkhabad Summit. The project is both unique and significant. Unique in the sense that, it is third time that concern parties has agreed for its construction, but practically no construction work on it could be started as yet, mainly because of security reasons, mainly prevailing in Afghanistan. Initially, the project was conceived as TAP (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan) during the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Later it was revived twice; as TAP and TAPI during Karazai administration in Afghanistan. On December 11, 2010, the energy ministers of all four countries signed the framework agreement of the project, whereas, the Presidents of all countries less India signed the key document. Mr. Murli Deora, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, represented India, who signed the key document also.

The envisaged route of the gas pipeline is from Turkmen Dauletabad gas fields to Fazilaka India via Herat-Kandahar (Afghanistan) and Quetta Pakistan. The designated capacity of the gas is expected to be 33 billion cubic meters per year. The estimated cost of the project is \$8 billion. Following the over-through of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan in 2001, the heads of the state of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkmenistan met in Islamabad in May 2002. The heads agreed to constitute a steering committee, consisting of oil and gas ministers of three states. The committee requested the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the requisite funding and technical assistance. The ADB after necessary analysis of the project, promised assistance for, "financing a techno-economic feasibility study that covered pipeline routing, preliminary design, cost estimates, and rapid environmental impact assessment, and to assess volume-price sensitivity."

In phase-1, ADB also supported a market study on demand for natural gas in Pakistan and northern India, and a risk analysis and risk mitigation study to address the concerns of gas-consuming countries and of downstream consumers in case gas supply is disrupted along the route of the pipeline. In a way, ADB, which is acting as the secretariat of the project, vigorously persuaded and compelled the basic partners of the agreement to include India into it? The technical assistance by the designers of ADB also include construction of underground reservoirs for the storage of natural gas in Pakistan in sufficient quantity for meeting the emergency requirements of the consumer countries, in case of shortage of supply at the source or interruption in between. The project is significant, because it is the first formal effort for linking the energy rich Central Asia with the energy deficient South Asia. Moreover, the project would provide an outlet to the land locked Central Asian Republics (CARs) through a shortest possible route for the rest of the world. At regional level, the project would lead towards a regional integration between the

South and Central Asia. The regional resources would be consumed by regional countries. It is worth mentioning that as compare to the former routes of oil and gas from CARs to rest of the world through Russia, Pakistan provides shortest excess to the regional countries for export and transportation of their natural resources via Arabian Sea as well as the overland route.

Another significance of the project would be that a huge number of human resources would be committed during the construction of the pipeline and even thereafter on monitoring, storage and security related and miscellaneous duties. As per estimate, over 12,000 jobs would be created for the Afghan people only during the pipeline construction. This would provide employments to the people in their respective areas, thus substantially reducing the unemployment in these countries. Apart from this optimistic aspect, for the countries like Pakistan and Afghanistan, the project would bring a huge amount of the transit fee, as the pipeline covers huge stretches through the Pak-Afghan territories.

Besides, a lot of positive aspects and hopes for the economic prosperity, the TAPI is expected to bring in, there are fears linked with the completion of this project. The pipeline has to pass through some rowdy areas of Afghanistan, still under the occupation of Taliban and warlords. The member countries of the TAPI and even the ADB have shown concern over the security aspects of the pipeline in the Taliban dominated areas and some areas of Pakistan, frequently hit by terrorists. Indeed, "The issue is not only security in the sense that you can't actually guarantee the safety of the pipeline, but actual construction is going to be difficult as well." In this regard, the ongoing efforts of Hamid Karazai for the reconciliation and re-integration of Taliban and warlords needs further impetus. Definitely the countries directly involved in the Afghan affairs; the US and NATO countries and India, which is massively involved in the garb of Afghan development have the primary responsibility to bring stability in that country. Of course, the other regional countries do have a role to play for the stability of Afghanistan, the way Pakistan is assisting the Karazai administration in the integration and reconciliation of Taliban with his Government. Luckily, the project has the tacit approval from the United States, the occupier of Afghanistan. US otherwise, encourage and support all oil and gas pipelines from the Central Asian and Caspian region to Asia and Europe from routes other than those passing either from Russia or from Iran. In this regard, it is also highlighted that, US still oppose the establishment of Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline. It was because of US pressure that forced India to withdraw from the project, previously known as the IPI (Iran-Pakistan-India) gas pipeline.

Pakistan welcomes Indian participation in this gas pipeline project. The terrorist hit country expect that all those who promote, abet and finance terrorism and sub-nationalism in Pakistan would now desist from this nefarious act for the greater cause of economic prosperity in South Asia. Let us make TAPI as the symbol of peace, stability, and economic prosperity of South and Central Asia.

—The writer is an International Relations analyst.

All Day

Turkey to upgrade PAF F-16s -- The Nation

Turkey to upgrade PAF F-16s

ISLAMABAD – Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has opted for Turkish Aerospace Industrial Complex 'TAI' for the Mid Life Upgrade (MLU) of its F-16A/B aircraft fleet in a bid to enhance its operational capability.

Well-placed defence sources told The Nation on Friday that Pakistan and Turkey signed an agreement in this regard last week and the multimillion dollars project would begin soon. Sources said that Pakistan has opted for 'TAI' - the Ankara-based Turkish aerospace industrial complex - just for the cost-effectiveness after its lengthy negotiations with the US manufacturers failed to bear fruits. "The US manufacturers of the F-16 aircraft were very expensive. Therefore Pakistan had to opt for Turkey," a source said.

Sources further said that under the agreement the project, that was expected to kick-start within next two months or so, would be executed in phases. The PAF, which currently has more than 40 F-16 A/B multi-roller fighter fleet, would soon start sending its F-16 aircraft to Turkey for the MLU.

TAI, established in 1984, is a joint venture of various Turkish companies and had successfully realised the co-production of F-16 fighters, CN-235 light transport/maritime patrol/surveillance aircraft, SF-260 trainers, Cougar AS-532 general purpose helicopters.

With its proven experience and know-how, TAI has improved its capabilities in the fields of design, production, modernisation, modification and systems integration of fixed and rotary wing air platforms, unmanned aerial vehicles and satellite.

Because of the high quality stringent standards including the NATO AQAP-2110, ISO-9001: 2000 and AS EN 9100, TAI has won position of a qualified supplier for Aermacchi, Agusta Westland, Airbus, Boeing, EADS CASA, Eurocopter, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, MDHI, Sikorsky etc.

All Day

Turkish delegation exploring investment opportunities in textile sector -- BR

Turkish delegation exploring investment opportunities in textile sector

ISLAMABAD (updated on: 2010-12-11 18:30:50 PST):

A 5-member Turkish delegation Saturday visited Board of Investment (BoI) to explore investment opportunities, particularly in textile and agriculture sectors.

The delegation comprised of Yasar Kucukcalik, owner of KUCUKCALIK Group, Turan Kaygusuz, owner of ILKON Group, Hakan Datekin, Onur Kaygusuz and Serdar Autsuoglu, Owner of ANKA Textile.

Turkish delegation showed great interest in the areas of textile and agriculture, said a BoI press statement issued here.

Speaking on the occasion, Yasar Kucukcalik gave a brief detail about KUCUKCALIK saying that as an international manufacturer for home textile market it was producing 7 million meter fabric per month and 85 pct of this amount is exported to the 46 different countries with the power of 2000 employers.

The delegation members assured for helping exchange of information regarding investment, policies besides exploring possibility of enhanced commercial and economic cooperation between the two friendly countries and the potential of two-way investments.

BoI, Executive Director General, Humayun Sikandari gave a detailed presentation on Investment policy, incentive package, Special Economic Zones and tremendous potential available in the field of agriculture, textile and energy.

He highlighted that the current investment data from July-Sep 2010 is \$1.3 million and expressed the hope for a huge increase after the current visit of the Prime Minister and Chairman Board of Investment, Saleem H. Mandviwalla to Turkey.

He further added that Pakistan was the 4th largest cotton producer and 3rd largest cotton consumer adding that textile was the main driver of export for the last 50 years and the sector has enjoyed the investment of US\$ 7.5 billion over the last ten years.

Talking about the incentives provided to the investors, he added we have availability of internationally acclaimed raw cotton and there are Dedicated Textile and Garment `Cities.

There is notable reduction of import duty to 5% on textile machinery and parts and ginning presses adding Research and Development (R &D) support of 6% and turnover tax reduced to 1% and Sales tax reduced to 2%.

While land is available at; Karachi Garment City, Lahore Garment City and Faisalabad Garment City to develop the industries including light engineering factories, textile industries, garment industries, ginning factories, power looms & carpet industry.

Chairman BOI Saleem H. Mandviwalla and Secretary BOI Anisul Hussnain were also present on the occasion.

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All Day

Turkmenistan's neutrality contributing to regional peace, security: FM -- BR

Turkmenistan's neutrality contributing to regional peace, security: FM
ASHGABAT (updated on: 2010-12-11 15:05:52 PST):

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Saturday appreciated the 'Permanent Neutrality' stance of Turkmenistan and said it had contributed to regional peace, security and stability.

He was addressing the International Conference on Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan here, as part of series of ceremonies marking the 15th anniversary of neutrality of the land locked Central Asian Republic.

Foreign Minister Qureshi who is here as part of President Asif Ali Zardari's delegation for the inking of the Turkmenistan- Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project said Pakistan was proud to be among the select group of nations co-sponsoring the UN General Assembly Resolution on Turkmenistan's Permanent Neutrality.

Qureshi termed it a potent prescription for lasting peace and said the policy was based on time honoured norms of relations among the sovereign states and added it was a reflection of wisdom and sagacity of the Turkmen leadership.

He said the revival of the TAPI summit was a historical milestone and said it would bring durable peace and sustainable development in the region.

Later talking to APP, the foreign minister said the President held important discussions with his Turkmen counterpart last night, covering whole range of issues.

Foreign Minister Qureshi said Pakistan has urged Turkmenistan to go for barter trade of commodities between the two countries as it would enable them both save their foreign exchange reserves. He said during the talks the two sides agreed on a broadening the areas of cooperation, with a particular focus on trade, enhancing connectivity and cooperation in energy.

He said the two sides also took into account the defence and security cooperation between their countries and discussed ways to enhance it further.

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December 12, 2010

Sun

All Day

Norwegian defence delegation arrives in Pakistan -- APP

Norwegian defence delegation arrives in Pakistan

A ten-member Norwegian defence delegation, led by the Defence Minister of Norway, Ms Grete Faremo, arrived here on Sunday on three days visit to Pakistan. According to a press release issued here, the delegation was received by Rear Admiral Shah Sohail Masood, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defence and other senior defence officials at Benazir Bhutto International Airport Islamabad. The Norwegian Defence Minister would hold meetings today with Federal Minister for Defence, Ch Ahmad Mukhtar and other senior military officials of Pakistan.

All Day**Pak, Russia business forum -- Observer**

Pak, Russia business forum
Staff Reporter

Islamabad—The auspicious ceremony for the Inauguration of the Pakistan Russia Business Forum (PRBF) was held at the Creek Club.

The ceremony was visited by respected and renowned guests from Pakistan and Russia. Mr. Tariq Iqbal Puri, the Chief Executive TDAP was the Chief Guest at the event. His Excellency Mr. Andrey S. Budnik, the Ambassador of Russian Federation in Pakistan and the Chief Patron of PRBF was present along with other Consul Generals and Diplomats. Heads of the many private and public corporations including friends from Press and Electronic media also participated in this ceremony. The venue was packed with highly reputed individuals from Russia and Pakistan.

Abdul Rauf Tabani, the Founder President of PRBF, gave the opening address and welcomed all the guests. He highlighted many areas including the Russian diplomatic relations with Pakistan and how successfully they have been developing at the regional and international levels and both countries having huge possibilities for expansion of mutually advantageous business relations. He emphasized on the need for further structural improvements in terms of duties, visas and marketing. He also laid focus on how majestic the Russian Federation is in terms of geographical features and economics.

The President's address was followed by the Speech of Brigadier (R.) Mr. Tariq Khalil, Secretary General of PRBF. Mr. Tariq Khalil highlighted the past and present relations of both countries and their group participation in joint-venture projects with Russian Partners.

His Excellency Mr. Andrey S. Budnik also addressed the guests and expressed his views on the improving relations between the two countries. He also mentioned that the political and bilateral levels are successfully standing on a positive note, which means that this is the best time for improving and strengthening them further. The Chief Guest of the evening, Mr. Tariq Puri also expressed his point of view and covered areas of interest that have and will improve the Pak-Russian ties. He mentioned the need for reviving the airlines, liberalization of Visa policy for easy movement if businessmen, development of the banking sector, opening of warehouses and cold-storages in Russia to make Pakistani trade more cost-effective, he also highlighted the fact that the officials from the Russian Federation should assist Pakistanis by introducing local marketing schemes specifically targeted to support us.

Tariq Rafi, the Chief of Organizing Committee of the Inaugural Ceremony in the end conveyed the vote of thanks to the audience. The event also included the official launch of the PRBF Website held by the Chief Guest, Mr. Tariq Puri.

PRBF Momentos were presented by H.E. The Ambassador Mr. Andrey S. Budnik to Mr. Tariq Iqbal Puri and by Mr. Abdul Rauf Tabani to H.E. The Ambassador. The program was followed by the dinner hosted by PRBF.

All Day**Pakistan, China to ink series of agreements -- BR**

Pakistan, China to ink series of agreements

ISLAMABAD (updated on: 2010-12-13 14:23:30 PST):

Pakistan is expected to ink a series of agreements as Premier Wen Jiabao of China visits Pakistan aimed at boosting cooperation in energy and agriculture sectors and further strengthen strategic cooperation.

During the three-day official visit to visit Premier Wen will hold meetings with President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani and other Pakistani leaders.

"China is Pakistan's true and most reliable friend. The Government and people of Pakistan look forward to welcoming their most honoured friend," a statement from the Foreign Office said.

The Chinese Premier is expected to hold "in-depth exchange of views" with Pakistani leaders to intensify strategic coordination and communication, supporting disaster re-construction work, intensifying culture and people to people exchanges and coordination on international and regional affairs to safeguard common interest.

Premier Wen who will arrive here after his visit to India at the invitation of Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani will also address a business forum and meet chief executives of Pakistani companies.

Around 150 business leaders will accompany the Chinese premier and the visit will provide a unique opportunity for two countries to enhance their trade and commercial ties by inking several agreements.

Projects of around 20 billion dollars have been completed in Pakistan with Chinese help. Work on projects of 14 billion dollars was continuing, while agreements would be signed for another 20 billion dollars will be signed.

Premier Wen will also deliver a key note speech on Pakistan, China relations at a special joint session of parliament on Dec 19, besides having interaction with the Pakistani media.

He will be briefed about the recent flooding at a briefing for at the National Disaster Management Authority at the PM Secretariat.

The Chinese premier will also attend the inauguration ceremony of China Pakistan Friendship Centre, that houses a paintings exhibition. He will also hold meetings with opposition leaders and services chiefs.

President Asif Ali Zardari will hold a banquet in honour of the visiting dignitary.

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All Day

Pakistan-Norway keen to enhance coop to promote peace in region --

BR

Pakistan-Norway keen to enhance coop to promote peace in region

ISLAMABAD (updated on: 2010-12-13 14:20:48 PST):

Pakistan and Norway on Monday expressed keenness to further strengthen and broaden bilateral ties and work together to fight against the war on terror and promote peace and stability in the region.

At a meeting held between Minister for Defence, Ch. Ahmed Mukhtar, and the visiting Norwegian Defence Minister, Ms. Grete Faremo an agreement was reached to further bilateral ties with the aim to promote peace and stability in the region.

The meeting exchanged views on various subjects including defence cooperation, Pakistan's counter terrorism efforts and its contribution in UN peace keeping operations and security situation of the region.

Talking to his Norwegian counterpart, the Minister said that Norway was a friendly country and a valued partner on various international and regional issues, and Pakistan was keen to work closely with Norwegian government for furthering the bilateral relations.

Ch. Ahmed Mukhtar said both countries needed to enhance collaboration in the field of defence production and proposed to undertake joint ventures especially in ship building and sea boats manufacturing sectors.

The Minister also conveyed that Pakistan was keen to purchase F-16 aircraft fleet which was reportedly being replaced by Norway with F-35 Lightning-II Joint Strike Fighter (JSF).

The meeting also discussed Pakistan's anti-terror efforts. The Minister briefed the Norwegian defence delegation about the contribution and achievements made by Pakistan against the war on terror.

He said that the international community was not helping Pakistan in true sense as the war on terror was a very expensive affair.

He noted with concern that the international community had given hopes but failed to fulfill its commitment to establish Reconstruction and Opportunity Zones (ROZs) in FATA which were essential for bringing social and economic prosperity in the terror-stricken region.

He termed the recent statement of the German Chancellor Angela Merkel during a press conference with the Indian Prime Manmohan Singh in Berlin as unfortunate blaming Pakistan for the Bombay terrorist attacks.

He regretted that the friendly countries were giving such biased and unfair statements despite the fact that Pakistan had been paying a heavy cost than any other country in the world, in terms of man and material losses, against the war on terror.

On the issue of cross border movements, the Minister said that there was no cross border movement by the terrorists from the Pakistan's side of the border.

He said that it was un-understandable that Pakistan was being blamed for the skirmishes taking place in Afghanistan despite the fact that Pak-Afghan border was manned by NATO/ISAF forces.

The Minister also appreciated the Norwegian support for the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), flood victims and the development of Pakistan social sector particularly its assistance of US \$ 7 million and US \$ 11 million for the establishment of 350 community schools in FATA and basic improvement projects in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province respectively.

Admiring Pakistan's sacrifices and anti-terror contribution, Ms. Grete Faremo said that Pakistan had been playing a vital role against the war on terror, saying Pakistan's role was very essential to defeat and eliminate terrorist elements.

She said that regional approach towards bringing peace and stability in Afghanistan was very important. She informed that Pakistan's role and contribution in defeating terrorism and bringing peace and stability in the region was of significant importance.

Norwegian Defence Minister urged that both Pakistan and Norway needed to work together to promote regional peace and defeat terrorism. She also deeply admired Pakistan's role as the biggest contributor to UN Peacekeeping Missions.

All Day

Chinese PMs visit to help boost economic, trade development -- BR

Chinese PMs visit to help boost economic, trade development

ISLAMABAD (updated on: 2010-12-14 14:57:48 PST):

Welcoming the forthcoming visit of Chinese Premier, Wen Jiabao, the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President on Tuesday said that the visit would further enhance economic and trade cooperation between the two friendly countries, besides boosting the confidence of the business community.

"Chinese Prime Minister is coming with a large business delegation comprising about 250 top businessmen, hence providing an opportunity to the business persons to explore ways for developing trade relations with their Chinese counterparts," ICCI President, Mehfooz Elahi told APP.

He was optimistic that the visit would pave way for enhanced trade to meet the target of enhancing trade volume to \$15 billion by 2015.

"Pakistan has multi-dimensional and deep-rooted relationship with China and long-standing ties of friendship between the two countries are underpinned by mutual trust and confidence," said Elahi earlier while addressing a business community at the chamber house.

He said that a number of agreements, worth millions of dollars, in different sectors including energy, infrastructure, engineering, software technologies, telecom, furniture, real estate and tourism, mineral and mining, chemicals and printing, automobile, agriculture and food processing, water, industry and defence are expected to be signed during the Premier's visit.

He said Pakistan was an agro-based country, however, agriculture productivity is not up to the mark due to use of traditional measures, adding Pakistan was looking forward to China to give technology assistance to modernize agriculture.

He was of the view that establishment of industrial facilities and upgradation of communication infrastructure, besides boosting trade between the two countries will also enhance regional connectivity.

He appreciated the Presidency level meeting between both countries to resolve Pakistan's energy crisis through development of hydel, thermal and solar energy projects adding that Chasma project was subsequently resumed as a cooperative project between Pakistan and the China Nuclear Energy Industry Corporation.

Mafooz said China and Pakistan have witnessed steady growth in mutual investments in recent years adding investment of more than \$1.3 billion was made by China in Pakistan in the last few years.

He said that the combined effect certainly will be Pakistan's economic revival adding improved relations with China will also contribute towards Pakistan 's security in the changing regional geo-political environment.

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Pak financial system size increases to Rs 9.2 trn by June 2010 -- BR

Pak financial system size increases to Rs 9.2 trn by June 2010

KARACHI (updated on: 2010-12-14 16:30:32 PST):

Pakistan's financial system size, in terms of assets, increased to Rs 9.2 trillion by end-June 2010 showing a robust growth of 20 percent from December 2008 level of Rs 7.71 trillion.

According to State Bank's Financial Stability Review 2009-10, released here Tuesday, the stability of the financial system is largely derived from the pre-

dominant position of the banking sector as other components of the financial system continue to grow at a more gradual pace. Domestic banking sector assets constitute 73.2 percent of total financial system assets.

The Report, which presents an assessment of financial stability for 2009 (CY09) and the first half of 2010 (H1-CY10), is based on the theme of Role of Government in the Financial Sector and assesses the government's developmental role in enhancing the financial development in the country.

It said the bank deposits, which have a key contribution in maintaining financial stability, grew by 13.5 percent in CY09, and 8.2 percent in H1-CY10, bringing the total deposit of the banking system to Rs 5.1 trillion by end-June CY10. This bodes well for enhancing prospects of financial stability, especially keeping in view the slowdown in deposits growth in CY08.

The deposit growth is largely driven by the growth in home remittances of 23.9 percent (in USD terms), gradual economic recovery, and the substantial increase in government borrowing, a portion of which flows back into the banking system in the form of deposits, the report added.

The Report opined that healthy deposit growth is indicative of banks' resilience to the competition from the National Savings Schemes (NSS), which generally offer a higher rate of return than bank deposits.

It said that the pace of deterioration in the quality of advances slowed down considerably as in CY09 Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) increased by 24.2 percent to Rs 432 billion and further by 6.4 percent to Rs 460 billion by end-June CY10. Going forward, NPLs remain a key cause of concern for the banking sector, it added.

However, the Report noted that structural weaknesses in the process of revenue generation, significant rigidities in government spending, expansion in quasi-fiscal operations have added to the fiscal burden, which is increasingly financed from the financial system.

It pointed out that the banks' exposure to the government increased significantly during 2009 and in the first half of 2010, with particular concentration in the power sector due to the ongoing issue of circular debt, and continued increase in lending to public sector enterprises and commodity finance in general.

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All Day

Pak-China natural alliance enjoying close defence, economic ties -- APP

Pak-China natural alliance enjoying close defence, economic ties

ISLAMABAD (updated on: 2010-12-14 11:51:05 PST):

Dr. Shaheen Akhtar, Analyst and Senior Research Fellow in Institute of Regional Studies has said that Pakistan and China are natural allies and enjoying close defence and economic ties.

Talking to Radio Pakistan she highlighted the importance of Wen Jiabao's visit to Pakistan and said that the visit is aimed at boosting ties in trade, energy and investment sectors. China has expressed keen interest in solar, hydel and nuclear energy sectors to address Pakistan's energy crises, she added.

She said that the visit is also aimed at developing an energy corridor linking Gwadar and China through a highway and also through fiber optics. China is expending its role as observer and economic player in region and it is investing in Afghanistan also.

Dr Shaheen Akhtar said China wants stability in region and peace in two regional nuclear powers; India and Pakistan. Pakistan has become a very critical element in the region viewing the US interests in the region and its close relations with China. In this situation China has become a soft balancing power too.

She said President Zardari's continuous visits to China were aimed at economic ties and cooperation. China and Pakistan are developing strategic partnership keeping the IAEA safeguards in view and in the backdrop of US-India nuclear deal, she added.

Dr Shaheen Akhtar said that there are positive prospects of increasing bilateral trade between the two countries.

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Pak-China to sign 20 agreements/MOUs during Wen Jiabao visit -- BR
Pak-China to sign 20 agreements/MOUs during Wen Jiabao visit
ISLAMABAD (updated on: 2010-12-14 19:46:20 PST):
China and Pakistan will sign 20 agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) during visit of Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao.

This was stated by China's ambassador to Pakistan Liu Jian in an interview to APP here on Tuesday.

He said China's Premier Wen Jiabao and Pakistani leadership will hold wide ranging discussions to draw a five year blueprint to expand their economic and trade relations.

He said the top priority of the visit of Chinese Premier to Pakistan will be to further solidify already strong strategic ties with medium and short term plans of action.

China's Premier Wen Jiabao will pay a three day official visit to Pakistan from December 17 to 19.

This will be the second visit of the Chinese Prime Minister during which he will hold talks with the Pakistani leadership on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The ambassador said Wen Jiabao will be leading a large business delegation from China. The delegation comprising more than 250 business leaders will attend a business summit.

The two sides are expected to sign 20 Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs), which will convey a message of growing ties, he added.

The ambassador said the visit will be of great significance as both countries will emphasise on deepening and broadening their ties in multi-faceted fields.

"Pakistan and China are good friendly neighbours with long history of relations spread over decades." Both countries will celebrate 60 years of their diplomatic relations next year.

Liu Jian said not only governments of two countries have a growing strategic partnership but their people are also coming closer with exchange of youth visits and scholarships for each others students.

He said both sides are now aiming to take their ties to a new height by building up on their remarkable mutual achievements in various areas including economy,

trade, investment, energy, communication, agriculture and defence production.

The ambassador said at present Pakistan is China's second largest trading partner in South Asia and China is Pakistan's third largest trading partner, third largest import source and fifth largest export market of Pakistan.

He said the bilateral trade was growing as in the first nine months of this year, the volume grew by 29 percent as compared to last year and China's imports rose by 36 percent during the same period.

Calling ties of Pakistan and China as time tested and all weather, he said both countries are playing a critical role for regional peace and stability.

He mentioned the assistance given by both countries to each other in the aftermath of natural disasters.

China gave sincere and timely help to Pakistan during tragedy of floods and was taking active part in the reconstruction phase, the envoy said.

He appreciated that political leadership of Pakistan will be together when Premier Wen Jiabao will attend official events.

Liu Jian said the visit will prove to be a milestone and further consolidate Pak-Sino relations.

He said China respects Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity and its system of governance based on national traditions. All of Pakistani leadership is welcomed to visit his country any time, he added. He said President Zardari has better understanding of China as he shared experiences during his earlier six visits to China. The ambassador said Pakistan made great endeavours and offered sacrifices in the fight against terror and China respects its continuing efforts to implement strategy against militancy.

Referring to the cooperation in energy sector, he said there are 120 ongoing bilateral projects which will bring tangible benefits to the people of Pakistan.

The ambassador said besides meeting top leadership of Pakistan, Wen Jiabao will interact with common people who contributed in strengthening bonds between the two neighbours.

The talks will also focus on enhancing people to people contacts and increasing the number of scholarships.

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All Day

Six China provinces to have Russia-sized GDP by 2020 -- APP

Six China provinces to have Russia-sized GDP by 2020

BEIJING (updated on: 2010-12-14 11:50:06 PST):

The economies of six provinces in China will be as big as those of Russia or Canada by 2020, a study has shown, highlighting the challenges faced by Beijing as it tries to cool the red-hot economy.

Describing its forecast as conservative, British banking giant HSBC said China would resemble a "collection of second-tier developed world and leading developing countries" by the end of the next decade.

"Sizzling growth should continue for at least another five years," analyst Zhang Zhiming said in a report titled "Inside the Growth Engine" and published this month.

Zhang forecast six provinces would have annual gross domestic product worth more than one trillion dollars by 2020 -- roughly equal to the economies of Russia,

Canada, Australia, and South Korea.

The fast-growing provinces were the southern manufacturing hub of Guangdong, Hebei in the north, Shandong, Jiangsu and Zhejiang in the east and Henan in the centre.

The World Bank expects China's entire economy to grow 10 percent this year before slowing to 8.7 percent in 2011 -- well above the government's oft-stated full-year target of eight percent.

But provincial growth rates could be much higher as local officials seeking to improve their career prospects try to impress their bosses, Zhang said.

"Local governments have managed to beat Beijing's growth targets by a few percentage points every year since 1980," Zhang said.

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Trade, agri-links with Bangladesh to be enhanced -- APP

Trade, agri-links with Bangladesh to be enhanced
ISLAMABAD (updated on: 2010-12-14 16:59:06 PST):

Pakistan gives due importance to Bangladesh in areas of trade and agriculture and it is desire of the government to enhance trade links with its brotherly country.

This was stated by Federal Minister for Commerce Makhdoom Amin Fahim while talking to Secretary Food Division of Commerce Ministry of Bangladesh, Khandoker Atiar Rahman here Tuesday.

The trade delegation from Bangladesh met the Commerce Minister, the Secretary commerce and other officials of the ministry were present on the occasion.

Makhdoom Amin Fahim showed concern over the existing trade between the two countries and asked the relevant authorities to explore potential areas of trade and commerce between the two countries.

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China will be requested to revive refinery project -- Business Recorder

China will be requested to revive refinery project

ZAFAR BHUTTA

ISLAMABAD (December 15, 2010) : Pakistan will request Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao to revive Coastal Oil Refinery project at Gwadar in Balochistan which was shelved in 2009-10 due to China's declaration of the province as a no-go area for Chinese nationals, sources in the Petroleum Ministry told Business Recorder. According to official documents the reason for the Chinese government's decision to abandon projects in Balochistan is slow progress and economic recession.

The proposed project was part of China's plan to invest \$12 billion in multiple schemes in Pakistan. During former president Pervez Musharraf's visit to China in February 2006, China had expressed interest in constructing an oil refinery in Gwadar with the capacity to refine 60,000 barrels crude oil per day.

If the Pakistan government succeeds in convincing China to restart the oil refinery project the country would have two refineries as UAE state run International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC) has also expressed interest in setting up Khalifa oil refinery in the country on which work is suspended due to the controversy with Pakistan government over the extension of the Managing Director of Pak-Arab Refinery (Parco) Rasheed Jung's tenure.

Pakistan is ready to offer incentives to lure the Chinese back to Balochistan: 20-year tax holiday and waiver of one percent Workers Profit Participation Fund (WPPF) to set up Coastal Refinery is also part of the incentives. The Chinese companies will be urged to participate in oil and gas exploration activities either separately or in a joint venture with Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL).

Pakistan and China are expected to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on energy co-operation during Prime Minister Jiabao's visit scheduled for 17-19 December 2010. Pakistan and China had also considered a feasibility study for an oil pipeline from Gwadar port to western China to link it to the Persian Gulf. This proposal was shelved after China's withdrawal from the coastal oil refinery project. "Now the proposal for oil pipeline will also be discussed," sources added.

All Day

Pak links up with China's Kashgar ahead of Premier Jiabao's visit -- ANI

Pak links up with China's Kashgar ahead of Premier Jiabao's visit

2010-12-15 12:40:00

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Pakistan and China have inaugurated the first air cargo service linking Islamabad with Kashgar in China's northwest Xinjiang province, just three days before the visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to the Pakistan capital.

A Pakistan charter airline, Rayyan Air, operated the first 90-minute flight, the Asia Times web site has revealed.

The Islamabad-Kashgar air cargo route was opened last week.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao is due to visit Pakistan for a strategic dialogue from December 17.

Beijing has also agreed this month to extend cooperation in 36 development projects worth 13.2 billion dollars to boost economic activity in flood-hit areas of Pakistan.

Kashgar, located near the borders of Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan,

Afghanistan and India, is well placed to become an important air logistics base.

Cargo shipped between China and Pakistan has so far mostly gone by truck across a border closed from the end of December to May each year due to the severe winter climate.

The air cargo service will make products of the two countries available the year round and make markets in Central Asian states more accessible for Pakistan.

It will also augment Beijing's efforts to develop the western regions of China, including Xinjiang, home to Muslim Uyghurs, helped by better communication with projects such as an extension of high-speed train services from the eastern part of the country.

Kashgar was recently given the status of a special economic zone and it is hoped it will become a major trade and transport hub. (ANI)

All Day

Premier Wen to launch China's top private bank branch in Pakistan -- BEIJING

Premier Wen to launch China's top private bank branch in Pakistan

BEIJING (updated on: 2010-12-15 11:00:52 PST):

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao is going to open a branch of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), the top private bank of China during his visit to Pakistan starting from Friday.

The ICBC is the world's biggest bank by capitalization.

According to an article from a Chinese scholar published here in an English daily ahead of Premier Wen visit to all weather ally, by the end of this year, the trade between China and Pakistan will be worth \$7 billion, with an annual growth rate of 29 percent.

The growth rate of trade between the two countries is expected to grow by over 30 percent over the next five years and the trade volume could increase to \$18 billion.

But the level of economic cooperation does not reflect the close and lasting political and military ties between the two countries, writes Li Xiguang, a professor of Tsinghua University, Beijing.

"We are all-weather political allies. Since September 2008, Pakistani President Zardari came to China almost every four month, beating any heads of state in terms of frequency of visiting China," said Pakistan's ambassador to China, Massood Khan,

"China has a very positive image in Pakistan. We support China's policy on Tibet, Xinjiang and human rights," said Khan.

"But we also need to have an all-weather highway between our two countries," he said. Two years ago, Chinese and Pakistani engineers and road builders started extending the width of the Karakorum Highway from 10 meters to 30 meters.

Chinese engineers have completed a feasibility study for the building of a railroad and an oil pipeline to link Kashi in Xinjiang and Gawadar in Pakistan's Balochistan Province at the mouth of Gulf.

Sixty percent of China's imported oil comes from the Middle East and 80 percent of that transported to China through the Straits of Malacca.

With the construction of the Kashi-Gawadar railroad and oil pipeline, Gawadar, a warm-water and deep-sea port, will handle most of the oil tankers to China.

It will provide China with the shortest possible route to the oil-rich Middle East, replacing the dangerous maritime route through the South China Sea, East China Sea and the Yellow Sea. "Through Gawadar, oil will come to China and goods will go to West Asia and the Gulf, bringing China closer to countries such as Turkey and Iran," Khan said. "The highway will stimulate the economic growth in Pakistan. With the recovery of the legendary Silk Roads through Pakistan, Pakistan will become an economic hub once more."

"If China joins Pakistan in building its desperately-needed power stations, Pakistani people will feel the warmth and brotherhood every night when they turn on the light in their home," Khan said.

"In the streets of Pakistan, it seems that everyone knows Wen is coming," said Khan.

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-- اسلام آباد کی تاریخ ساز عمارتیں پاک چین گہری دوستی کی علامت ہیں۔ وزیراعظم گیلانی APP

اسلام آباد کی تاریخ ساز عمارتیں پاک چین گہری دوستی کی علامت ہیں۔ وزیراعظم گیلانی

اسلام آباد - 15 دسمبر (اے پی پی) وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی نے کہا ہے کہ اسلام آباد کی تاریخ ساز کے جمعہ سے وعمارتیں پاکستان اور چین کی گہری دوستی کی عکاسی کرتی ہیں۔ چینی وزیراعظم وین جیا با شروع ہونے والے 3 روزہ سرکاری دورہ کے موقع پر چینی خبررساں ادارے کو ایک انٹرویو میں انہوں نے نشاندہی کی کہ چواین لائی ایونیو، جناح سپورٹس کمپلیکس اور حال ہی میں تعمیر کیا گیا پاک چین فرینڈشپ سنٹر دونوں ممالک کی سدا بہار اور آزمودہ دوستی کی علامت ہے۔

All Day

پاکستان تھائی لینڈ اور ترکمانستان کے ساتھ دوطرفہ تجارت کے مزید فروغ کیلئے معاہدہ APP -- کرے گا

پاکستان تھائی لینڈ اور ترکمانستان کے ساتھ دوطرفہ تجارت کے مزید فروغ کیلئے معاہدہ کرے گا

اسلام آباد - 15 دسمبر (اے پی پی) پاکستان تھائی لینڈ اور ترکمانستان کے ساتھ دوطرفہ تجارت کو مزید فروغ دینے کا معاہدہ کرے گا۔ وزارت تجارت کے ذرائع نے بتایا کہ حکومت نے معاشی اور تجارتی سرگرمیوں میں تیزی لانے کے لئے اصلاحی اقدامات اٹھائے ہیں۔

All Day

Gilani for Chinese help in making Gwadar Port effective -- APP

Gilani for Chinese help in making Gwadar Port effective
Thursday, December 16, 2010

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani on Wednesday hinted at expanded cooperation with China, including a plan to make the Gwadar Port fully operational with Chinese assistance.

"We will discuss with China the mechanism to make the Gwadar Port operational during the visit of the Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao," said the prime minister in an interaction with editors, columnists, anchorpersons and senior correspondents here at the Prime Minister's House.

During his 40-minute interaction, the prime minister focused on the Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao's visit to Pakistan and did not discuss the latest political situation.

At the outset, Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira made it clear that this interaction would focus on the Chinese prime minister's visit to Pakistan. "You want to say that they should not ask questions about the ministers," the PM quipped.

In response to a question regarding Wen's visit to India prior to Pakistan, the prime minister said Pakistan would welcome a Chinese role in bringing Pakistan and India to the negotiation table, as Islamabad desires friendly relations with all its neighbours. "We appreciate their improved ties with India," he said.

He said Pakistan and China enjoyed time-tested relations marked by similarity of views and support for each other in all international fora, so their relations could not be compared with any other country.

The prime minister said Pakistan had offered trilateral trade among Pakistan, China and Afghanistan to enhance regional trade. Asked about the possibility of a civil nuclear deal with China, he said there was ongoing cooperation between Pakistan and China on civil nuclear energy. He said Tuesday's meeting of the NCA had reiterated that Pakistan would not accept any discriminatory approach towards the civil nuclear programme.

PM Gilani said the government and the people of Pakistan were looking forward to the visit of Premier Wen Jiabao as it would strengthen the already existing all-weather, historic and strategic friendship between the two countries.

The Chinese premier, besides holding meetings and wide-ranging talks with the Pakistani leadership and interaction with the Pakistani businessmen and entrepreneurs, will also address the joint sitting of parliament.

Asked about details of the agreements that will be signed with China during the visit, the prime minister referred the question to Pakistan's Ambassador to China Masood Khan, who said that 13-14 MOUs would be signed between the two governments.

Prime Minister Gilani said developing and further enhancing its relationship with China was the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy, as Pak-China ties — the seeds of which were sown by Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Chinese leaders Mao Ze Dong and Chu En Lai — were growing with cooperation in diverse fields. "History is a testimony to strong Pak-China relationship." He said the people of Pakistan would never forget the generous support and assistance of China after the 2005 earthquake and again during the recent devastating floods.

He hailed the Chinese help and assistance in the construction of the Karakoram Highway. He said Pakistan had declared the year 2011 as Pak-China Friendship Year. He said Pakistan and China would strengthen their defence, cultural, educational, energy relations.

Asked about security of Chinese nationals working in Pakistan, the prime minister said the government had ensured security for Chinese nationals working in Pakistan and the Chinese government was quite satisfied with these security arrangements.

The prime minister was of the view that there should be more cultural cooperation and more people-to-people contacts between the two countries. He said the Pak-China bilateral trade was continuously growing, as Pakistan's exports to China last year witnessed a 37 per cent surge.

He further said that with increased cooperation in diverse fields, the level of bilateral trade between Pakistan and China was expected to reach US\$15-\$18 billion in the next five years.

All Day

اے پی پی نے اپنے ہفت روزہ ”عہد نو“ کا خصوصی شمارہ چینی، اردو اور انگریزی زبانوں میں شائع کر دیا

APP -- میں شائع کر دیا

اسلام آباد - 16 دسمبر (اے پی پی) قومی خبر رساں ادارے ایسوسی ایٹڈ پریس آف پاکستان (اے پی پی) نے چینی کا خصوصی ”عہد نو“ کے پاکستان کے تاریخ ساز دورہ کے موقع پر اپنا ہفتہ وار جریدہ وزیراعظم وین جیابا شمارہ 3 زبانوں چینی، اردو اور انگریزی میں شائع کیا ہے۔

All Day

بیس ماہ کے مختصر عرصہ میں مکمل ہونے والے پاک چائنہ فرینڈ شپ سنٹر کا افتتاح 19

APP -- دسمبر کو ہوگا

بیس ماہ کے مختصر عرصہ میں مکمل ہونے والے پاک چائنہ فرینڈ شپ سنٹر کا افتتاح 19 دسمبر کو ہوگا

اسلام آباد - 16 دسمبر (اے پی پی) 12 ایکڑ اراضی پر تین ارب روپے کی لاگت سے 20 ماہ کے مختصر عرصہ میں مکمل ہونے والے پاک چائنہ فرینڈ شپ سنٹر کا افتتاح 19 دسمبر کو ہوگا۔ اس موقع پر چینی مصوری کی نمائش کا اہتمام کیا گیا ہے۔ یہ فرینڈ شپ سنٹر چینی حکومت کی طرف سے پاکستان کی عوام کیلئے دوستی کا بہترین تحفہ ہے اور یہ سنٹر مستقبل میں پاکستان اور چین کی ثقافت کو اجاگر کرنے کیلئے مرکزی کردار ادا کرے گا۔

All Day

چین کے وزیراعظم وین جیا باؤ تین روزہ تاریخی دورے پر (آج) اسلام آباد پہنچیں گے، پاکستان کے ساتھ 20 ارب ڈالر کے سمجھوتوں پر دستخط کئے جائیں گے، پاکستانی قیادت کے ساتھ سٹریٹجک شراکت داری کو نئی بلندیوں تک لانے پر تفصیلی بات چیت ہوگی

APP

تین روزہ تاریخی دورے پر (آج) اسلام آباد پہنچیں گے، پاکستان کے ساتھ 20 ارب ڈالر کے سمجھوتوں پر دستخط کئے جائیں گے، پاکستانی قیادت کے ساتھ سٹریٹجک شراکت داری کو نئی بلندیوں تک لانے پر تفصیلی بات چیت ہوگی

پاکستان کے ساتھ سٹریٹجک شراکت و اسلام آباد - 16 دسمبر (اے پی پی) چین کے وزیراعظم وین جیا باؤ داری کو مزید فروغ دینے اور معیشت، توانائی اور مواصلات سمیت مختلف شعبوں میں 20 ارب ڈالر کے معاہدوں پر دستخط کرنے کے لئے تین روزہ سرکاری دورے پر (آج) جمعہ کو اسلام آباد پہنچ رہے ہیں۔

All Day

APP -- چینی وزیراعظم کے دورہ کے موقع پر اسلام آباد کو خوبصورتی سے سجا دیا گیا

چینی وزیراعظم کے دورہ کے موقع پر اسلام آباد کو خوبصورتی سے سجا دیا گیا

کی پاکستان آمد کے موقع پر وفاقی دارالحکومت و اسلام آباد - 16 دسمبر (اے پی پی) چینی وزیراعظم وین جیابا اسلام آباد کو خوبصورتی اور خلوص سے سجایا گیا۔ اسلام آباد کی اہم شاہراہ پر دونوں ممالک کے پرچم کے علاوہ پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی کے بانی شہید ذوالفقار علی بھٹو، شہید بے نظیر بھٹو، صدر آصف علی زرداری اور کی قد اور تصاویر آویزاں کر دی گئیں۔ وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی اور چینی وزیراعظم وین جیابا

All Day

APP -- چینی وزیراعظم (کل) سیاسی اور فوجی قیادت سے ملاقاتیں

چینی وزیراعظم (کل) سیاسی اور فوجی قیادت سے ملاقاتیں
بزنس سمٹ میں شرکت اور فرینڈشپ سنٹر کا افتتاح کریں گے

اسلام آباد - 17 دسمبر (اے پی پی) چین کے وزیراعظم وین جیا باؤ پاکستان کے تین روزہ سرکاری دورہ کے دوسرے روز (کل) ہفتہ کو وزیراعظم سیکرٹریٹ میں نیشنل ڈیڑاسٹر مینجمنٹ سیل کی جانب سے دی جانے والی بریفنگ میں شرکت کریں گے۔ چینی حکام کے مطابق پاکستان کے سیلاب زدہ علاقوں میں تعمیر نو کی کوششوں میں مدد دینا چینی وزیراعظم کے دورے کے بڑے مقاصد میں سے ایک ہے۔ اس سلسلے میں چین نے پاکستان کو 250 ملین ڈالر کی امداد دینے کا وعدہ کیا ہے۔

All Day

APP -- چینی وزیراعظم کے فقید المثال استقبال سے عبداللہ کے دور شاہ کی یاد تازہ ہو گئی

APP

چینی وزیراعظم کے فقید المثال استقبال سے عبداللہ کے دور شاہ کی یاد تازہ ہو گئی

اسلام آباد - 17 دسمبر (اے پی پی) پاکستان کے دوست ملک چین کے وزیراعظم وین جیا باؤ کے دورہ پاکستان کے موقع پر ان کے فقید المثال استقبال سے شاہ عبداللہ کے دورہ پاکستان کے موقع پر ان کے استقبال کی یاد تازہ ہو گئی۔ جمعہ کو چینی وزیراعظم تین روزہ دورے پر جب چکلالہ ایئر بیس پہنچے تو ان کا پرتپاک استقبال کیا گیا، اس موقع پر ان کے ہمراہ چینی میڈیا، تاجروں اور صنعت کاروں کا 260 رکنی وفد بھی تھا۔

All Day

APP -- چینی وزیراعظم وین جیا باؤ تین روزہ سرکاری دورے پر اسلام آباد پہنچ گئے

چینی وزیراعظم وین جیا باؤ تین روزہ سرکاری دورے پر اسلام آباد پہنچ گئے
چکلالہ ایئر بیس پر وزیراعظم، وفاقی کابینہ اور تینوں مسلح افواج کے سربراہان نے استقبال کیا
تینوں مسلح افواج کے جاق وچوبند دستوں اور جے ایف 17 تھنڈر طیاروں کے سکواڈ نے سلامی دی

اسلام آباد - 17 دسمبر (اے پی پی) چین کے وزیراعظم وین جیا باؤ پاکستان کے تین روزہ سرکاری دورے پر اسلام آباد پہنچ گئے۔ چکلالہ ایئر بیس پر وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی نے مسلح افواج کے سربراہان اور وفاقی کابینہ کے اراکین کے ہمراہ چین کے وزیراعظم کا استقبال کیا۔ چینی وزیراعظم جمعہ کو ایئر چائنا کے خصوصی طیارے کے ذریعے پاکستان پہنچے جہاں ان کا فقید المثال اور پرتپاک خیر مقدم کیا گیا۔

All Day

Pak-China sign \$ 275 million project for KKH repair -- APP

Pak-China sign \$ 275 million project for KKH repair

ISLAMABAD, Dec 18 (APP): National Highway Authority (NHA) and China Roads and Bridges Corporation on Saturday signed \$ 275 million agreement for repairing Karakorum Highway (KKH) damaged with Attabad accidental lake in Gilgit-Baltistan. Chairman NHA, Altaf Ahmad Chaudhry and Chairman Roads and Bridges Corporation of China, Wen Gong signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides. Briefing the media on the bilateral agreement, the chairman NHA said that the accidental lake of Hunza Attabad has badly damaged several portions of KKH that need urgent repair. The Chinese engineers have advised to bring down the surface of the lake by at least 30 feet down to carry out repair work of the damaged portion.

He said that 15 km of the KKH will be recovered by bringing down the surface of the lake while the rest of the damaged portions will be reconstructed under an agreement between the two countries.

The reconstruction including digging of six km tunnel, six high raise bridges and 70 small bridges will take six years under the project and will cost \$ 275 million, he added.

All Day

پاکستان اور چین کا تجارتی و اقتصادی روابط کو مزید مستحکم بنانے، دوطرفہ تجارتی حجم APP -- اور سرمایہ کاری میں اضافے کے عزم کا اظہار

پاکستان اور چین کا تجارتی و اقتصادی روابط کو مزید مستحکم بنانے، دوطرفہ تجارتی حجم اور سرمایہ کاری میں اضافے کے عزم کا اظہار
بزنس سمٹ میں سرکاری اداروں اور نجی کمپنیوں کے درمیان 15 ارب ڈالر کے 22 معاہدوں اور مفاہمت کی یادداشتوں پر دستخط

اسلام آباد - 18 دسمبر (اے پی پی) پاکستان اور چین نے تجارتی و اقتصادی روابط کو مزید مستحکم بنانے، دوطرفہ تجارتی حجم اور سرمایہ کاری میں اضافے کے عزم کا اظہار کیا ہے جبکہ پاک چین بزنس سمٹ میں سرکاری اداروں اور نجی کمپنیوں کے درمیان 15 ارب ڈالر کے 22 معاہدوں اور مفاہمت کی یادداشتوں پر دستخط کر دیئے گئے۔ بزنس سمٹ ہفتہ کو یہاں منعقد ہوئی۔ سمٹ کا انعقاد سرمایہ کاری بورڈ، وفاق ایوان بائیں صنعت و تجارت، ٹریڈ ڈیولپمنٹ اتھارٹی آف پاکستان، چین کی وزارت تجارت اور چین کی کونسل برائے فروغ بین الاقوامی تجارت نے مشترکہ طور پر کیا تھا۔

All Day

APP -- چین کے وزیراعظم وین جیا باؤ نے پاک چین فرینڈ شپ سنٹر کا افتتاح کر دیا

چین کے وزیراعظم وین جیا باؤ نے پاک چین فرینڈ شپ سنٹر کا افتتاح کر دیا
فرینڈ شپ سنٹر کا افتتاح سے دونوں اطراف کے عوام کے درمیان محبت اور دوستی کا رشتہ مزید گہرا ہو گا۔
سید یوسف رضا گیلانی

اسلام آباد - 18 دسمبر (اے پی پی) عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے وزیراعظم وین جیا باؤ اور وزیراعظم پاکستان سید یوسف رضا گیلانی نے پاک چین سدا بہار اور آزمودہ دوستی کی علامت پاک چین فرینڈ شپ سنٹر کا افتتاح کیا۔ چینی وزیراعظم نے ہفتہ کو وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی کے ہمراہ فرینڈ شپ سنٹر کی تختی کی نقاب کشائی کی۔ اس موقع پر وفاقی وزراء کے علاوہ مختلف شعبہ ہائے زندگی سے تعلق رکھنے والے افراد کی کثیر تعداد موجود تھی۔

All Day

APP -- عسکری قیادت کی چینی وزیراعظم وین جیا باؤ سے ملاقات

عسکری قیادت کی چینی وزیراعظم وین جیا باؤ سے ملاقات

چینی وزیراعظم کی پاکستان کے ساتھ دفاعی تعاون مزید مضبوط بنانے کی یقین دہانی

اسلام آباد - 18 دسمبر (اے پی پی) چین کے وزیراعظم وین جیا باؤ نے پاکستان کی سالمیت اور دفاع کے لئے مکمل تعاون کا یقین دلاتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان سٹریٹجک تعلقات کو نئی بلندیوں تک پہنچایا جائے گا۔ انہوں نے یہ بات پاکستان کی عسکری قیادت سے ہفتہ کو ملاقات کے دوران کہی۔ آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق جوائنٹ چیفس آف سٹاف کمیٹی کے چیئرمین جنرل خالد شمیم وائیں 'چیف آف آرمی سٹاف جنرل اشفاق پرویز کیانی' پاک بحریہ کے سربراہ ایڈمرل نعمان بشیر اور پاک فضائیہ کے سربراہ رائو قمر سلیمان نے مشترکہ طور پر چینی وزیراعظم سے ملاقات کی۔

All Day

چین ہمارا قابل اعتماد دوست ہے، ہماری خوشیاں اور غم ایک ہیں، چین سے ہماری دوستی APP -- ایک قیمتی اثاثہ ہے

چین ہمارا قابل اعتماد دوست ہے، ہماری خوشیاں اور غم ایک ہیں، چین سے ہماری دوستی ایک قیمتی اثاثہ ہے چین کی عالمی معاملات پر رائے پوری دنیا کے استحکام اور امن کیلئے اہم ہے وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی کا پارلیمنٹ کے اجلاس سے خطاب

اسلام آباد - 19 دسمبر (اے پی پی) وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی نے پارلیمنٹ اور پاکستانی قوم کی کے دورہ پاکستان اور پارلیمنٹ سے خطاب پر ان کا شکریہ ادا کرتے و طرف سے چینی وزیراعظم وین جیا با ہوئے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان منفرد تعلقات ہیں، چین ہمارا قابل اعتماد دوست ہے، ہماری خوشیاں اور غم ایک ہیں، چین سے ہماری دوستی ایک قیمتی اثاثہ ہے، چین کی اخلاقی اقدار اور عالمی معاملات پر رائے پوری دنیا کے استحکام اور امن کی ضمانت ہے۔

All Day

وین جیا باؤ نے خطاب کا آغاز ”اسلام علیکم بھائی“ اور اختتام ”پاک چین دوستی زندہ باد“ پر کیا

پر کیا ”پاک چین دوستی زندہ باد“ اور اختتام ”اسلام علیکم بھائی“ نے خطاب کا آغاز وین جیا با

نے پارلیمنٹ کے مشترکہ اجلاس سے خطاب و اسلام آباد - 19 دسمبر (اے پی پی) چینی وزیراعظم وین جیا با سے کیا اور اختتام پر چین پاک دوستی زندہ باد کا نعرہ لگایا۔ اتوار کو پارلیمنٹ کے ”اسلام علیکم بھائی“ کا آغاز مشترکہ اجلاس سے خطاب کے آغاز میں چینی وزیراعظم نے اردو میں تمام اراکین کو اسلام علیکم بھائی کہہ کر مخاطب کیا اور اپنی تقریر کے اختتام پر اردو میں ہی پاک چین دوستی زندہ باد کا نعرہ لگایا۔

All Day

APP -- چینی وزیراعظم کے حالیہ دورہ پاکستان نئی جہت ملی ہے۔

چینی وزیراعظم کے حالیہ دورہ پاکستان نئی جہت ملی ہے۔
چینی وزیراعظم کے حالیہ دورہ پاکستان سے دونوں ملکوں کے تعلقات کو نئی جہت ملی ہے۔ مسعود خان

بیجنگ - 20 دسمبر (اے پی پی) چین میں پاکستان کے سفیر مسعود خان نے کہا ہے کہ چینی وزیراعظم کے حالیہ دورہ پاکستان سے دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان اقتصادی، ثقافتی اور سیاسی تعلقات کو نئی جہت ملی ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے ایک نجی ٹی وی چینل سے گفتگو کے دوران کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وین جیا باؤ چین کی طرح پاکستان میں بھی بے حد مقبول ہیں۔

All Day

Another milestone in Pak-China ties -- Observer

Another milestone in Pak-China ties

Dr Raja Muhammad Khan

The three days visit of Chinese Premier Mr. Wen Jiabao, has attained another milestone in the history of bi-lateral relationship of Pakistan and China. This visit is indeed of a unique significance, as it covers all aspects viz; the strategic, political and economic. During the visit, Premier Wen Jiabao made sure that he meets all stakeholders in Pakistan. Apart from the traditional meetings with the President and Prime Minister, Chinese Premier met with leaders of all political parties of Pakistan. Rather, it was a rare mosaic of Pakistani political, religious, and territorial leadership gathering to welcome their all time friend in Islamabad. This gathering was indicative of the fact that, there exists no second opinion about Pakistan's relationship with the People's Republic of China. No global leader ever has such a reception and united response and indeed a spirit of love from Pakistan ever. Premier also had a detail meeting with the Armed Forces heads under Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee and assured further enhancement in the ongoing cooperation in the field of defence. Premier Wen Jiabao declared that, "Beijing would never give up on Pakistan."

Following the establishment of Pak-China diplomatic relationship in May 1951, both countries has attained many milestones in their bi-lateral relationship. Pakistan, otherwise among the first few countries, which recognized this great communist state, proved its friendship by making strong lobby in getting the UN membership for China. The initial slow pace of mutual understanding got an impetus following the Sino-India war of 1962. In the era of Field Martial Muhammad Ayub, then Foreign Minister (later Prime Minister), Zulfikar Ali Bhutto formalised this relationship on the strategic direction. Through his strategic vision, he made Pak-China relationship as an essential and never changing pillar of the Foreign Policy of Pakistan. The same vision exists even today and Pakistan maintained it as an inalienable part of its diplomatic relationship.

China has always appreciated its deep-rooted friendship with Pakistan and acknowledges Pakistan's untiring efforts for getting her closer to United States in early 1970s. Indeed, through this collaboration during the peak days of the cold war, Pakistan lessened the tension, previously existed between US and the China. Following this collaboration, China got an opening and diplomatic and trade excess into the Western world, whereas, US got a Communist friend in Asia. In a way, Pakistan proved its significance and vision as a broker of international facilitator if not mediator. Thereafter, Chinese markets and goods were introduced at the global level and its economy started prospering to a level of second to US only in the contemporary world today. For the United States, this was the first moral and diplomatic pre-eminence over former Soviet Union.

During the visit of Prime Minister Wen Jiabao, Pakistan and China concluded economic deals worth \$35 billion in total. These deals include; 17 agreements, four memorandum of understanding (MoU) and a joint venture. This indeed is a new record of the economic deals and agreements in the history of traditional friends. Both Premiers attended the Pak-China Business Cooperation summit, participated by 260 Chinese delegates with their 150 Pakistani counterparts. On this occasion, Chinese Premier, reiterated his resolve to enhance the bilateral trade with Pakistan

in the coming years in a bid to improve the flow of investments between both countries." He said that, "his country would increase investment in Gwadar Port. The port currently being administered by Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) was constructed by China in 2006. Chinese Premier promised that his country would remove the trade barrier between Pakistan and China by improving trade infrastructure and promoting Pakistani exports to his country.

Earlier Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani, appreciated Chinese investment in Pakistan, especially in the energy sector of Pakistan. Prime Minister Gillani said that, "We would encourage Chinese companies to consider investments in the energy sector, which assures certain returns. Our energy requirements are expected to increase from 20,000MWs to more than 160,000MWs by the year 2030." In fact Pakistan is not a resource deficient country, but problem lies with the technical expertise, infrastructure development and finances. Today, apart from huge amount of unexplored oil and gas, "Pakistan has 185 billion tonnes of coal reserves, which would be converted into energy to satisfy Pakistan's growing demand." Besides, Pakistan welcome, Chinese experts for the exploration of its oil and gas resources. Prime Minister assured Chinese investors for special economic incentives like; "duty-free import of plant and machinery, exemption from sales tax and income tax." Pakistan and China are already working for the development of the Pak-China Trade Corridor along the Karakoram Highway (KKH). In this regard, the highway is being upgraded and laying of a railway track along the KKH is in progress. Upon development of this overland route, there would be further boost to the economic relationship. Pakistan is otherwise becoming a hub for the oil and gas from Central Asia and Middle East. With the improvement of communication infrastructure, oil and gas from these regions can easily be transported to the Chinese territories either through oil tankers or through an overland gas pipeline. Premier Gillani assured his counterpart for the safety of Chinese nationals working in Pakistan. He said, "Besides a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement and the Joint Five Year Economic Programme, we are now jointly endeavouring to establish closer financial and banking sector cooperation."

Chinese Premier also addressed the Joint Session of the Pakistani Parliament, indeed, a unique honour for a dignitary as well as the host itself. He assured Pakistan that, China supports Pakistani point of view/ stand on Kashmir issue. Kashmiri must get their right of self-determination as per UN resolutions. China indeed, rejects all Indian assertions of betraying Pak-China relationship and regional domination by India. China does not support Indian case for a permanent membership of UNSC. China also assured Pakistan for its full supports on Pakistani position on the Afghan issue. The visit truly proved that Pak-China relationship is higher than mountains and deeper than oceans.

—The writer is an International Relations Analyst.

All Day

China, Pakistan relations moved beyond bilateral dimension -- APP

China, Pakistan relations moved beyond bilateral dimension
BEIJING, Dec 20 (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to China Masood Khan has said that the just concluded 3-day official visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to Pakistan has further reinforced our strategic cooperative partnership adding that Chinese Premier termed wisely that "China, Pakistan relations have moved beyond bilateral dimensions". Talking from Islamabad on CCTV News, "Dialogue," a flagship programme on current affairs beamed in major cities throughout the world, Ambassador Khan said that these relations have now required broader regional and international ramifications.

Regarding historic reception the Chinese leader received in Pakistan, Ambassador Khan said that "Premier Wen Jiabao is a popular figure here and China is a love country for the people of Pakistan" adding that it was the reason the people greeted Chinese premier with core of their hearts. Ambassador Khan also informed that it was an important occasion in the history of the two countries when Premier Wen addressed the joint session of the Pakistani

parliament.

He said that Premier Wen along with Pakistani Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Saturday inaugurated the Pakistan, China Culture Centre which will help bring the people of the two countries more closer and to know in better way the rich culture the both countries enjoy.

During presence of Premier Wen here the "economic ties between the countries have been expanded dramatically", he observed.

In this regard, he said that preparations were made well for Pakistan, China Business Cooperation Summit in which number of agreements and Memorandum of Understanding were concluded.

With the visit, he said the strategic partnership, economic cooperation, culture and people to people ties have moved Pakistan, China friendship to higher platform.

The Ambassador to a question termed the Chinese assistance for Pakistan for flood relief and reconstruction as it was generous, it was Timely, it was unconditional and it was recognized by the Pakistan leadership.

During this visit, Ambassador informed that Premier Wen Jiabao also announced an additional amount of about US\$ 400 million which will be in form of concessional credits.

But, he pointed out that Premier Wen in the United Nations also announced 200 Million dollars for the upgradation of infrastructure damaged due to massive floods.

All Day

Wen remarks turned a new page in Pak-China friendship : Yang APP

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Wen remarks turned a new page in Pak-China friendship : Yang
BEIJING, Dec 20 (APP) Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said here on Monday that Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to Pakistan was of great significance in advancing the all-weather strategic partnership of cooperation between China and Pakistan. Yang said that Premier Wen's remarks on the China-Pakistan friendship and the cooperation initiatives he proposed during his visit have turned a new page in the China-Pakistan friendship and cooperation. Yang, who accompanied Wen on his visits to India and Pakistan from December 15-19, told reporters that during his stay in Pakistan, Premier Wen met with President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, as well as leaders of the parliament and the main political parties, and top military leaders.

Echoing Wen's remarks on the China-Pakistan ties, the Pakistani side stressed that pursuing friendship with China was the bedrock of Pakistan's foreign policy and national consensus, and that Pakistan was ready to work together with China to make their friendship last from generation to generation.

Leaders of the two countries had an in-depth exchange of views on further strengthening and deepening the China-Pakistan strategic partnership of cooperation as well as on major international and regional issues, and they reached broad consensus, Yang said.

A consolidated and deepened all-weather strategic partnership of cooperation between China and Pakistan would serve the common interests of the two countries and peoples, and contribute to peace, stability and development in the region and the world, Wen said.

The Chinese Premier urged the two sides to seize the opportunity of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations next year to promote traditional friendship, deepen practical cooperation, and make the partnership more extensive and productive.

Wen also reaffirmed China's support to Pakistan in its efforts to safeguard national sovereignty and social stability, and to achieve economic independence and sustainable development.

The two sides signed a joint statement, deciding to establish an annual meeting mechanism between leaders, and a foreign ministers' dialogue mechanism, according to Yang.

They also signed a number of documents on bilateral cooperation in economy, energy, finance, culture and other areas.

In July, Pakistan was hit by heavy floods, and now the country is at a critical period of reconstruction.

During his visit, Premier Wen announced a package of aid plans for post-flood reconstruction in Pakistan, saying China would continue to help Pakistan in the post-flood phase and provide resources and technical support for disaster prevention and forecasting technology.

On economic and trade cooperation, Wen stressed the two countries should expand the scale of bilateral trade, promote exchanges between the enterprises of the two sides and raise the level of China-Pakistan economic and trade cooperation.

The two sides also identified infrastructure, energy and agriculture as priority areas of bilateral cooperation.

On the cultural sphere, Wen and his Pakistani counterpart Gilani jointly announced 2011 as the Year of China-Pakistan Friendship.

The two nations will sponsor a series of celebration activities and events to further broaden people-to-people exchanges, and thus promote mutual understanding and friendship.

He pointed out that Wen's visits to India and Pakistan were a major diplomatic move of China bearing a far-reaching strategic significance.

He termed the visit to two South Asian countries as fruitful and successful with rich achievements.

Both India and Pakistan are important countries in South Asia, Yang said, adding the development of China's relations with the two countries would have an important influence on peace and prosperity not only in South Asia, but also in Asia and the world at large.

To develop friendship and good relations with India and Pakistan and promote mutual trust and cooperation is the common aspiration of China and its neighbours, Yang said.

All Day

-- چین کے ساتھ 36 ارب ڈالر کے معاہدوں پر عملدرآمد کو یقینی بنایا جائے۔ فوزیہ وہاب
APP

چین کے ساتھ 36 ارب ڈالر کے معاہدوں پر عملدرآمد کو یقینی بنایا جائے۔ فوزیہ وہاب

اسلام آباد - 20 دسمبر (اے پی پی) پیپلز پارٹی کی سیکرٹری اطلاعات فوزیہ وہاب نے کہا ہے کہ چین کے ساتھ 36 ارب ڈالر کے مختلف معاہدوں پر عملدرآمد کو یقینی بنایا جائے۔ یہ معاہدے ہمارے اہم شعبوں کی بہتری کیلئے انتہائی مفید ثابت ہونگے، وزارتوں کو ہدایت کی جائے کہ دو سال کے عرصہ میں اس کے نتائج سامنے آنے چاہئیں۔ پیر کو قومی اسمبلی میں نکتہ اعتراض پر فوزیہ وہاب نے کہا کہ 19 دسمبر ایک تاریخ ساز دن تھا۔ بہترین سیشن کے انعقاد پر تمام پارلیمنٹ اور سپیکر اور ڈپٹی سپیکر مبارکباد کے مستحق ہیں۔

All Day

-- APP صدر کی کویت کے امیر کے خصوصی نمائندہ سے گفتگو

صدر کی کویت کے امیر کے خصوصی نمائندہ سے گفتگو
صدر آصف علی زرداری کی کویت کے امیر کے خصوصی نمائندہ سے گفتگو

اسلام آباد - 20 دسمبر (اے پی پی) صدر آصف علی زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان خلیج تعاون کونسل (جی سی سی) کے ساتھ آزادانہ تجارت کے معاہدے کو حتمی شکل دینے میں گہری دلچسپی رکھتا ہے اور اس ضمن میں کویت کی حمایت کا خواہاں ہے، اس سے پاکستان اور خلیجی ممالک کے درمیان تجارتی سرگرمی میں اضافہ کیلئے راہ ہموار ہو گی۔ انہوں نے یہ بات پیر کو ایوان صدر میں کویت کے امیر کے خصوصی نمائندہ ڈاکٹر عبداللہ معاطوق المعاطوق سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہی۔

All Day

Oman accepts Pak proposal for maritime trade, Gwadar-Muscat ferry -- Pakistan Times

Oman accepts Pak proposal for maritime trade, Gwadar-Muscat ferry
'Pakistan Times' Business & Commerce Desk

MUSCAT (Oman): Oman on Tuesday expressed willingness over Pakistan's proposal to initiate ferry service and maritime trade as it would go a long way in generating economic activity and contributing to the progress and prosperity of the two countries.

Minister for Ports and Shipping Babar Ghouri says that Oman also agreed on closer collaboration between the ports of Pakistan and Oman and said it would open new avenues of trade and business besides generating economic activity in the region.

The Minister said the cooperation between the port of Gwadar and Oman's upcoming ports in Sahhar and Dukkum would create new opportunities for the traders and skilled professionals of two countries to explore the trading potential.

The Minister said Pakistan would provide every facility to Oman's private sector to run a ferry service between Gwadar and Muscat. He said Pakistan's skilled workforce had a great demand in Oman, as around 175,000 Pakistanis were already contributing towards Oman's economy.

He said the skilled Pakistani manpower was acting as a bridge not only in cementing the trade ties between the two countries but also bringing equal dividends to the two economies.

Minister of State for Ports and Shipping Nabil Gabol said that the two countries had historical and bilateral relations with decades old economic ties. He described talks between the two countries as very positive and said both identified new opportunities.

All Day

APP -- وزیر داخلہ رحمن ملک سے روسی سرمایہ کاروں کے وفد کی ملاقات

وزیر داخلہ رحمن ملک سے روسی سرمایہ کاروں کے وفد کی ملاقات

اسلام آباد - 15 دسمبر (اے پی پی) وزیر داخلہ سینیٹر اے رحمن ملک سے روس کے سرمایہ کاروں کے ایک وفد نے وزارت داخلہ میں ملاقات کی۔ ملاقات انتہائی خوشگوار ماحول میں ہوئی جس میں روس کے سرمایہ کاروں کا پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ وزیر داخلہ کے حکم پر روس کے سرمایہ کاروں کو مکمل سیکورٹی فراہم کی گئی۔

The title "Gwadar's largest commercial scheme" Al-Noor cargo city holds this distinct. Al-Noor cargo city is also known as Gwadar's first strategic commercial scheme. Al-Noor cargo city is situated in the mid of Gwadar airport and Gwadar sea port. It has one-kilometer wide front on the 205ft wide main Baluchistan Broadway and 150ft wide Existing coastal highway.

Al-Noor Cargo City gives an eye-catching stance to both local and international investors due to its strategic location. In addition, just 1500 yards distance to Deep Sea East Bay gives another edge to Al-Noor Cargo City.



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All Day

Speech by Ambassador Liu Jian at the 2011 "China-Pakistan Friendship Year" and New Year Reception -- APP

Speech by Ambassador Liu Jian at the 2011 "China-Pakistan Friendship Year" and New Year Reception

2011/01/03

Your Excellency Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening!

First of all, I would like to thank H.E. Asif Ali Zardari, President of Pakistan and H. E. Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, Prime Minister of Pakistan, for their encouraging and inspiring congratulatory letters on the occasion of commencement of the "China-Pakistan Friendship Year". I would also like to thank all of you for being with us tonight. Today is of special significance. It is the first day of the year 2011. It is also the first day of the "China-Pakistan Friendship Year" where we will jointly celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. On this fantastic occasion, I am more than pleased to launch the "China-Pakistan Friendship Year" and greet the year 2011 together with all of you at the newly inaugurated Pakistan-China Friendship Center which symbolizes our all-weather friendship in the new era.

The year 2010 just passed witnessed a continued stable and vigorous growth of the China-Pakistan strategic partnership of cooperation. Recently, as the screen showed, Chinese premier Wen Jiabao paid a successful and historic official visit to Pakistan. The premier made broad contact with Pakistan leadership as well as people from all circles. The two sides reached broad consensus on further consolidating and deepening the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. We signed the China-Pakistan Joint Statement and announced the establishment of the leaders' annual meeting mechanism and the foreign ministers' dialogue mechanism. The two governments signed over 10 cooperation documents covering economy, technology, energy, finance, culture and other fields. Premier Wen Jiabao announced a package of plans for China's involvement in Pakistan's reconstruction efforts and China's new assistance initiatives. The business of our two countries signed 20 commercial contracts valued at more than \$10 billion showcasing the huge potential for bilateral economic and trade cooperation. Chinese premier Wen Jiabao's productive and successful visit is of great significance to further consolidating and deepening the traditional friendship and pragmatic cooperation between our two countries.

I would like to point out that the Pakistan government and people welcomed Premier Wen Jiabao with great warmth and enthusiasm. The extensive involvement of the Pakistan people from all walks of life is a vivid depiction of the brotherly friendship that they have towards the Chinese people. It impressed the Premier's entourage and all the Chinese. I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the people of our two countries who have been engaged, either directly or indirectly, in the preparation and reception work of this historic visit. I would also like to extend our highly appreciation to all the friends who have always been dedicated to the China-Pakistan friendship.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the past 60 years since we established diplomatic relations, our two countries have developed an all-weather friendship and conducted multi-dimensional cooperation. In the face of a volatile international situation, the China-Pakistan

friendship remains as strong and solid as a rock standing firm despite the passage of time. This is only because we always respect each other, highly trust each other, and wholeheartedly help each other. The two peoples, sharing weal and woe, have made passage together in hard times and written a number of touching chapters in our history. In 2008, when a massive earthquake struck China's Wenchuan, Pakistan gave all its tents in reserve and provided swift emergency assistance to us. The Chinese people will never forget it. Last year, when Pakistan was hit by the catastrophic floods, the Chinese government and people felt as much pain as our Pakistan brothers did and offered timely, sincere, unconditional help to Pakistan in an unprecedented manner. As Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao elaborated in his speech at the Pakistan parliament during his recent visit, the China-Pakistan friendship has been deeply rooted in the hearts of the two peoples. It is in our blood, and has become our noble and firm conviction. A close neighbor means more than a distant relative. China and Pakistan will always be good neighbors, close friends, trusted partners and dear brothers.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. During his recent visit, Premier Wen Jiabao and Prime Minister Gilani jointly announced the year 2011 as the "China-Pakistan Friendship Year". To celebrate this historic occasion, the two sides, based on the consensus reached between the two leaders, will hold a series of wonderful commemorative activities covering fields like politics, economy, culture, education, sports, military and others. We all believe that such activities will definitely further promote mutual understanding and brotherly friendship between the two peoples and bring our strategic partnership of cooperation into a new high. I sincerely hope that all the friends present tonight will continue to care about and support the China-Pakistan friendship, actively participate in activities celebrating the "China-Pakistan Friendship Year" and make fresh contributions to our traditional friendship and pragmatic cooperation.

I wish you all a very happy and prosperous new year! And I wish the event of the "China-Pakistan Friendship Year" a complete success.

Thank you!

All Day

Year long celebrations of Pak-China friendship starts -- APP

Year long celebrations of Pak-China friendship starts

ISLAMABAD, Jan 2 (APP): Year long celebrations on the occasion of 60 years of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China commenced here last night with a function held at Pak-China Friendship Centre at a colourful ceremony attended by a large number of Pakistanis and Chinese nationals. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was the chief guest on the occasion while the launching ceremony of Pakistan-China Friendship year 2011 was attended by Chief of Naval Staff Noman Bashir, diplomats, members of the federal cabinet, politicians, business community representatives, Chinese working in Pakistan and elite of the federal capital.

The ceremony was jointly hosted by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chinese Embassy at Pakistan-China Friendship Centre which has built by China and donated to Pakistan as symbol of everlasting friendship.

The diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China established in January 1950 when Pakistan recognized China while Pakistan opened its embassy on May 21, 1951.

Inaugurating the year long celebrations, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Pakistan and China enjoy excellent political and diplomatic relations and time has come to take a leap forward to bind the two nations together economically in all the fields.

The Foreign Minister said there was tremendous goodwill and trust between the two countries and they can move towards economic integration.

He said the present government is concentrating on economic diplomacy as national security and territorial integrity are closely linked to economic strength.

Qureshi pointed out that despite some of the economic difficulties because of security situation and fight against extremism and terrorism, Pakistan is recognized internationally as emerging economy with great potential to grow and prosper.

The Foreign Minister said Pakistan and China are cooperating with each other in a number of fields including economy, trade, energy, infrastructure and defence.

"The two countries have unanimity of views on regional and international issues, they support each other at international fora and their defence cooperation is progressing satisfactorily," he said.

He pointed out that the process of economic integration between the two countries was somewhat limited but there is scope and potential to enhance it manifold.

He acknowledged that China has invested billions of dollars in many projects in Pakistan.

The minister said there are thirteen thousand Chinese engineers and workers in Pakistan contributing to the socio-economic development of the country.

He said the two countries have signed a number of agreements including the one relating to currency swap that will help broaden the economic interaction and achieve target of fifteen billion dollars bilateral trade by 2015.

Qureshi also expressed the confidence that the decision to open branches of the largest Chinese bank in Karachi and Islamabad would facilitate Chinese investment in Pakistan.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Liu Jian speaking on the occasion expressed the confidence that strategic relationship between the two countries would continue to grow.

He said the Chinese Premier paid a very successful visit to Pakistan recently which would help forge ties between the two countries.

The Chinese ambassador said the Pakistani government and people welcomed Premier Wen Jiabao with great warmth and enthusiasm.

He said in the last 60 years, since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the two countries have developed an all weather friendship and conducted multi-dimensional cooperation in different fields.

The Chinese ambassador said despite volatile international situation, the China-Pakistan friendship remained as strong and solid as a rock standing firm despite the passage of time.

"This is only because we always respect each other, highly trust each other, and wholeheartedly help each other," he said.

He said while celebrating the 2011 as year of friendship, both the countries will hold a series of wonderful commemorative activities covering fields like politics, economy, culture, education, sports, military and others.

On this occasion, a photographic exhibition was also organized depicting different aspects of bilateral relations including high level exchanges, people-to-people contacts, sharing of hard times and participation of China in the economic development of Pakistan.

In his inaugural remarks, Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir said this year also marks establishment of diplomatic representation between the two capitals as Pakistan recognized China in January 1950.

He also read out on the occasion messages addressed by President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Syed Yusaf Raza Gilani to their Chinese counterparts on launching of the friendship year.

In their messages the two leaders expressed determination to take this friendship and partnership to new heights.

Salman Bashir, who had been Pakistan's ambassador to China said, "I and my family will never forget the kindness, love and affection that we received from our Chinese friends during my stay there."

He said Pakistan-China friendship is legendary a fascinating romance between two peoples, deeply rooted in national ethos, since times immemorial.

Salman Bashir said, the leadership, the Government, the Armed Forces and, above all, the people of Pakistan and China are united in their resolve to safeguard their national interests, uphold national dignity and frustrate and defeat any evil designs against their motherland.

He said, "Our two peoples will continue to march, hand-in-hand, on the high road to peace and prosperity."

Later a cultural show, depicting folk songs of different areas of Pakistan were presented on this occasion to start the year long celebrations. Chinese cultural dance was also presented by the Chinese dancers.

All Day

KARACHI: Dr Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Hon Consul General of Yemen in Sindh and Adviser to Prime Minister on Textile, attended the 6th Session of Pak-Yemen Joint Ministerial Commission meeting in Sana'a on Dec 28-29, 2010. -- APP

KARACHI: Dr Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Hon Consul General of Yemen in Sindh and Adviser to Prime Minister on Textile, attended the 6th Session of Pak-Yemen Joint Ministerial Commission meeting in Sana'a on Dec 28-29, 2010.

The Pakistan delegation was represented by Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, Minister for Industries and Production, Dr Ikhtiar Baig and Sohail Rehan, Joint Secretary Economic Affairs Division, says a press release.

Both sides agreed to increase the present level of trade of \$170 million, particularly in the field of pharmaceutical, oil, gas, rice, foodstuff, electric fans and footwear.

The private sector of Pakistan has proposed an investment of about \$100 million in LPG Extraction Gas project in Yemen to export LPG to Pakistan. A four member technical committee has been constituted, headed by Dr Mirza Ikhtiar Baig and representative from Ministry of Oil and Minerals, Yemen. Both sides agreed to establish the Pak-Yemen Investment Company for the promotion of investment.

The Yemeni Minister of Industry and Trade, Yahya Y Al-Mutawakel, and Pakistani counter part Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani have agreed to negotiate a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries.

Dr Ikhtiar Baig also took up the matter of holding the meeting of Pak-Yemen Joint Business Council of Federation of Chambers, established in 2006 as per an agreement signed by Dr Baig and his Yemeni counterpart. It was also decided to promote cooperation in the field of healthcare, agriculture, fisheries, education, technical training, industrial and infrastructure.

During the visit, the delegation had meetings with Prime Minister of Yemen Dr Ali Mohammad Mujawar, Foreign Minister Dr Abu Bakr Abdullah Al-Qirbi, Deputy Minister of Oil Eng Abdulmalik M Alama.

The foreign minister of Yemen appreciated the efforts of Dr Mirza Ikhtiar Baig for promotion of bilateral trade and investment between the two countries.

The Ambassador of Pakistan Dr Syed Khawaja Alqama hosted a dinner reception in honour of the visiting Pakistani delegation, attended by Minister of Education, Minister of Industries & Trade and leading businessmen, Tarek A Hayel Saeed, United Insurance, Ahmed H Shumailah, Chairman Shumailah Group, Monnwar Al-Fakhri, Al Fakhri Oil Services, Omar M Omar, MD Universal Group.

Dr Ikhtiar Baig invited Yemeni businessmen to attend the Expo Pakistan to be held in Karachi in February 2011. The next Pak-Yemen JMC will be held next year in Islamabad.

All Day

Quetta, Jan 3(ANI): Afghan transit trade through Gwadar port can boost economic activities in Balochistan, Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani has said. -- APP

Quetta, Jan 3(ANI): Afghan transit trade through Gwadar port can boost economic activities in Balochistan, Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani has said.

Buzz up! Talking to reporters, Raisani said the transit trade was imperative for sustainable development of the port.

He said he had suggested to British officials that fuel to NATO troops battling the Taliban in Afghanistan should be supplied through Gwadar port because doing so

would be economical.

Raisani also said the Balochistan Government was ready to provide security to NATO vehicles travelling through Gwadar, however, adding that the roads had been adversely affected by heavy NATO containers and oil tankers passing through Balochistan.

"The US and NATO have to only invest 1.5 billion dollars for construction of roads, and then they can easily supply fuel to their troops in Afghanistan from Gwadar," the Dawn quoted the CM, as saying.

All Day

Raisani seeks NATO fuel transportation via Gwadar -- Daily Times

Raisani seeks NATO fuel transportation via Gwadar

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Muhammad Aslam Raisani said that he had asked the relevant authorities to supply fuel to NATO forces in Afghanistan through the Gwadar Port. He said the provincial government was ready to provide security to NATO supplies if they were transported through the Gwadar port.

Talking to media persons on Sunday, Raisani said that the NATO forces would have to invest \$1.5 billion for construction of roads structure for easy transportation of oil to Afghanistan through the Gwadar port. He observed that the highways were badly damaged by heavy NATO containers and oil tankers passing through Balochistan. He also said the Afghan Transit Trade through Gwadar Sea Port could promote trade and business in Balochistan besides opening new opportunities for employment. The Afghan Transit Trade through Gwadar Port was the need of hour for development of the port, he added. app

All Day

China's 'all-weather friendship' with Pakistan: Implications for India --**IDSA COMMENT**

IDSA COMMENT

China's 'all-weather friendship' with Pakistan: Implications for India

R N Das

January 4, 2011

China's balancing act in its diplomatic posturing in the sub-continent was evident when Premier Wen Jiabao flew to Pakistan for a three-day visit after concluding his three-day India visit in December 2010. While there are discernable changes in China's foreign policy, friendship with Pakistan has remained a constant. The only other exception is with respect to Beijing's relationship with Pyongyang. So deep is the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan that the visit of Premier Wen to India and Pakistan was declared almost simultaneously in Beijing, in deference to Pakistan's sensitivities. It was Wen's second visit to both countries in the last five years, though there was a difference this time around. During his previous visit in 2005, New Delhi was Wen's last port of call out of the four nations that he visited, while this time New Delhi preceded Islamabad. This simply cannot be a mere coincidence, but planned and consciously scheduled.

In view of the importance of Premier Wen's visit to Pakistan, it is imperative to analyse its achievements and significance. The high point of the visit was the honour extended to the Chinese Premier to address Pakistan's Parliament, an honour that India had offered to President Barack Obama during the latter's visit to India in November. In a country where the military wields considerable clout, the Pakistani offer was more of a symbolic gesture than a substantive one. In his address entitled 'Shaping the future together through thick and thin,' Premier Wen used the phrase "brothers forever" to describe the relationship between the two countries. He went on to note that "China-Pakistan friendship is full of vigour and vitality, like a lush tree, with deep roots and thick foliage." And he added that "China-Pakistan relationship is strong and solid, like a rock standing firm despite the pressure of time."¹ Besides reinforcing the strategic commitment to Pakistan, a number of important announcements were made during this address. Premier Wen also recalled Pakistan's consistent and full support to China in the past at some crucial junctures on various issues, including Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang.

It is worthwhile to recall in this context India's role and contributions at a very critical time when China was seeking admission to the United Nations. When the Korean War broke out in 1950, India voted in favour of the United Nations action against the North, but when China entered the Korean war India resisted the condemnation of China as an aggressor by the General Assembly of the United Nations in order not to enlarge the area of hostility. In its efforts to bring about a settlement, India served as a channel of communication of Chinese intentions and requirements to the outside world, and consistently pressed for the recognition of the People's Republic of China as the rightful representative in the United Nations. Further, in September 1951, India declined to attend the Conference at San Francisco for the conclusion of a peace treaty with Japan because, among other reasons, China was not a party to it.² Beijing should not forget these Indian efforts.

If the achievements of Premier Wen's visit to India were more pronounced in terms of economic content, his visit to Pakistan was more characterised by political and strategic significance. Although China has been helping Pakistan in all fields, particularly in its defence modernization and development including the nuclear programme, its recent help in mitigating the flurry of floods in Pakistan was unprecedented in its volume and magnitude, and suggests the depth of the strategic relationship between the two countries. China had offered about \$ 250 million worth of aid to Pakistan. As part of the aid, China sent a team of experts to the PoK region in November last year, as claimed by China, to help Pakistan expedite its reconstruction work. An article in China Daily claimed that the aid to Pakistan has created many records in the history of China's aid and relief work in other countries.³ The Chinese claim of humanitarian assistance to Pakistan has, however, been taken with a pinch of salt by the western media.⁴

One more important announcement came when Premier Wen declared that China had decided to provide 500 government scholarships to Pakistan in the next three years, and that 100 Pakistani high-school students will be invited to participate in the Chinese Bridge Summer-Camp in China. Wen also said that China may explore the possibility of a currency-swap agreement with Pakistan. During his visit the two sides also signed 35 new pacts, expected to bring \$30 billion of investment into Pakistan over the next five years.

China's adversarial relationship with India has been one of the important factors in its all-weather friendship with Pakistan. Such an intimate relationship between the two had developed at a time when China's global profile had not developed to the extent that is discernable now. Over the years, Sino-Indian relationship has also matured to a greater degree of engagement. China is now projecting itself as a responsible global power, beyond the sub-continent and the region. One can fathom China's primordial commitment to Pakistan and China's imperative need for Pakistan's support to rein in Muslim separatists operating in China-Pakistan border in the Uygur region, but China needs to calibrate its relationship with Pakistan in the context of these changes and in such a manner so as not to arouse any misgivings in New Delhi. Although India has expressed concerns about China's engagement in infrastructural projects in PoK and about Beijing's support for Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme, the Sino-Indian relationship has acquired an independent dynamism and is not hamstrung by the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan. Neither should Beijing have any anxiety about India's strategic relationship with the United States with which China itself has a deeper all-round engagement and cooperation. An important issue which needs to be noted is that while the Pakistani foreign minister was quoted as saying that China's position is 'clear about Kashmir', the Chinese Premier seems to have maintained a studied silence on the Kashmir issue. This prompted an editorial in an important English daily which commented that "Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani may have been fishing for a Chinese role in facilitating dialogue with India on Kashmir but it is apparent that Beijing is keen to reiterate its neutrality on the issue." If the lofty goals of the Asian century are to be realized in full measure, the giants - China and India - need to correct the trust deficit between them and forge better understanding and cooperation.

All Day

Stable Balochistan army's dream: Kayani -- Daily Times

Stable Balochistan army's dream: Kayani

Staff Report

SUI: Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Kayani on Monday said strong, stable and thriving Balochistan remained an utmost dream of the army as it could help make Pakistan prosperous.

He inaugurated a military college in Sui and also announced establishment of an education city. Separately, Balochistan Governor Nawab Zulfiqar Ali Magsi and Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani inaugurated the academic block and hostel of Balochistan Public School. A large number of parliamentarians, Baloch tribal elders, military officials and locals were present on the occasion. The governor and chief minister appreciated the efforts of the army in bringing education and social development to remote areas of the province.

In his address, COAS spoke about various projects initiated by the Pakistan Army with the support of locals and the provincial government. He said 22,786 Baloch students were studying in educational institutions, which were being run by the army and Frontier Corps.

In addition, 4,268 Baloch students were benefiting from Chamlang Beneficiary Education Programme, whereas, 662 Baloch students were studying in reputed institutions of other provinces.

To enhance technical skills of Baloch youth for better job opportunities, Balochistan Institute of Technical Education (BITE), which is managed by the Pakistan Army,

has so far trained 1,673 individuals.

In this regard, Gwadar Institute of Technical Education will also start functioning soon. The army chief hoped that establishment of the education city would open new avenues of development and prosperity in remote areas of Balochistan.

All Day

Pipeline and regional stability -- Pak Tribune

Pipeline and regional stability

Wednesday January 05, 2011 (1718 PST)

The long-awaited gas pipeline agreement TAPI was signed in December 2010 by the heads of Turkmenistan, Pakistan and Afghanistan and the Indian PNG Minister, Murli Deora, in Ashgabat. This marks a new era of pipeline diplomacy between the energy-rich Central and the energy-deficient South Asia for resources.

The Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) is a natural gas pipeline being developed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) at an estimated cost of \$7.6 billion. It will transport Caspian Sea natural gas from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan into Pakistan and then India. The gas supply is expected to start by the end of 2014 or early 2015, as stipulated in the agreement. The 1,680-kilometre pipeline will run from the Dauletabad gas field, in Turkmenistan, to supply 33 billion cubic meters gas to Afghanistan, and then through Quetta and Multan in Pakistan. The final destination of the pipeline will be the Indian town of Fazilka, near the border between Pakistan and India. Under the agreement, both the countries will get 42 percent of the supply quota, while the remaining would be given to Afghanistan.

By and large, TAPI is expected to boost the economies of all the four participating countries and would promote cooperation among these states. Further, it is a vital project for the development and progress of the region, and serve the cause of maintaining peace in South and Central Asia. Thus, the four countries need to take concrete steps to make it a reality, specifically because of their economic interests. It would provide revenue and diversification of export routes for Turkmenistan. For Pakistan and India, it would address energy deficits, while the potential for export to other countries through the Pakistan's Gwadar Port is an added advantage. In Afghanistan, it would provide revenue for development and gas for industrial enterprises. At the same time, the deal is consistent with the US declared policy of linking Central and South Asia and diversifying export routes for the Turkmen gas.

Another significance of the project is that a large number of human resources would be recruited for the construction of the pipeline, and thereafter on monitoring, storage, and other related assignments. According to estimates, more than 12,000 jobs will be created for the Afghan people, only during its construction. In the long run, it would provide direct and indirect employment opportunities to the people of all the four countries, thus substantially reducing unemployment in these countries. Apart from this positive aspect, especially for the countries like Pakistan and Afghanistan, the project would bring a huge amount of the transit fee, as the pipeline covers long stretches through the Pak-Afghan territories – only Kabul could reap \$1.4 billion a year.

The project is, indeed, the first formal effort for linking the energy rich Central Asia with the energy deficient South Asia. Moreover, it would provide an outlet to the land-locked Central Asian Republics (CARs) through a shortest possible route for the rest of the world.

Besides, a lot of hope for the economic prosperity TAPI is expected to bring in, there are fears linked with its completion. The gas pipeline will pass through some Taliban-dominated areas in Afghanistan. TAPI member countries, and the ADB, have shown concern over the security of the pipeline in these areas, and also some areas of Pakistan that are frequently hit by the terrorists. Since Afghanistan and Pakistan are facing the menace of terrorism, construction cannot begin unless concrete measures are adopted to put an end to the unrest, which mainly requires a political solution rather than military one.

As decided, TAPI's construction will start by 2012, while all the member states hope to complete by the end of 2014. But many believe it is not possible because of the security concerns in Afghanistan, and Pakistan's FATA and Balochistan. However, since the demand for energy in both India and Pakistan is increasing, they have no option except to complete it.

Pakistan's gas requirement is increasing annually by 10 percent; therefore, TAPI is considered vital for fulfilling its growing energy requirement. In addition, it has welcomed India's participation in the project. Pakistan will receive up to \$700 million royalty a year, as a transiting state supplying gas to India.

For Afghanistan too TAPI is very important and it will be the biggest project in the country. That is why the Karzai government has shown its resolve to deploy five to seven thousand security forces to safeguard its route. Kabul seems to have the political will and a powerful economic incentive to keep the Taliban away from TAPI. In this regard, the ongoing efforts of President Hamid Karzai for the reconciliation and reintegration of the Taliban needs further momentum.

Prior to TAPI, the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline agreement was signed, despite USA's opposition. Islamabad is still not ready to abandon IPI because of its severe energy crisis, which is a legitimate reason to undertake multiple energy projects. India too has not shelved IPI, but it is concerned about the security in Pakistan.

Anyway, both Pakistan and India are energy-deficient countries; they need to do what is in their best interest. So, the economic dependence of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India on each other for energy resources is likely to improve bilateral ties among them, which will ultimately add to regional stability.

All Day

China's western push strengthens Pakistan links -- ((Important Article))

China's western push strengthens Pakistan links
Ananth Krishnan

China and Pakistan are expected to discuss long-pending plans to accelerate construction of rail-lines and a pipeline from Kashgar in China's west to the port of Gwadar on the Persian Gulf, during Premier Wen Jiabao's three-day visit to Islamabad which began on Friday.

The Silk Road oasis town of Kashgar, which lies a few hours away from the Pakistan border along the Karakoram Highway, is at the centre of China's plans to develop its restive Muslim-majority Xinjiang region, which neighbours Pakistan. China has recently announced it will build a trading hub in the city, which will serve as a platform for Beijing to deepen economic and strategic links with energy-rich West and Central Asia.

The plan, officials and analysts say, is bringing new importance to Beijing's ties with Islamabad, given that Pakistan will play a crucial role, both from the point of view of diplomacy and simply, geography, in linking China with Afghanistan and West Asia.

"One of the most important reasons why we value our relations with Pakistan is that the country can play the role of a bridge between China and the Muslim world," Hu Shisheng, a scholar at the China Institutes for Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) told The Hindu in a recent interview ahead of Mr. Wen's visit.

Kashgar's transformation from an ancient Silk Road town to a modern trading hub is gathering pace, said Muhammed Ahmed Khan of the Kashgar-based Pakistan Business and Investment Promotion Council, in an interview during a visit to the city earlier this year.

When Mr. Khan, a trader from Rawalpindi, first moved to the sleepy oasis town, business was hard to come by. The long drive to Kashgar through the Karakoram highway, from the town of Gilgit in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), posed numerous obstacles – flooding, stray boulders and weathered roads - and kept most businessmen away.

But a decade on, that trickle of businessmen has grown into a flood, Mr. Khan says. The Pakistani community in the city is growing. "The Chinese are welcoming more and more Pakistanis to put in long-term investments here," says Liaqat Ali of the Gilgit-based 7 Brothers trading company, who makes the three-day drive to Kashgar twice a year through the Karakoram.

The view from the window of Mr. Khan's modest office, located along a dusty highway in Kashgar's suburbs, shows a city in the throes of transformation.

Trucks carrying construction equipment clog the roads, as construction cranes work day and night to transform the historic old town into a sprawling Economic Development Zone — the "Shenzhen of the West", as one Chinese official says, referring to China's first Special Economic Zone.

The investments, say Chinese analysts, indicate China's long-term intentions to strengthen economic links in the region.

Chinese engineers in Kashgar have recently completed a feasibility study for the building of a railroad and an oil pipeline, according to Li Xuguang of Tsinghua University.

Sixty per cent of China's imported oil comes from West Asia. The construction of a pipeline from the port at Gwadar, which is being built by China, will reduce Chinese dependence on the narrow Malacca Straits, through which 80 per cent of China's supplies pass. "It will provide China with the shortest possible route to the oil-rich Middle East, replacing the dangerous maritime route through the South China Sea, East China Sea and the Yellow Sea," Mr. Li wrote in the Global Times this week.

The plans have been accelerated since July 2009, when ethnic unrest in Xinjiang, between native Uighurs and China's majority Han Chinese who have migrated to the region, left at least 197 dead. "After July, China will carry forward plans to build a new economic development zone in Kashgar, as part of modified development policies in the frontier region," Mr. Hu said.

"Accompanying this kind of development in western regions, we value our relations with external surrounding regions, specially in the west, a lot, in terms of development, security and stability."

Pakistan's renewed importance was recently evident, according to Mr. Hu, after the floods in Pakistan last year. "That is why this year after the unprecedented floods in Pakistan we donated about \$ 250 million," he said. "This kind of assistance never happened in China's history before."

All Day

100-member Chinese youth delegation leaves for Pakistan -- APP

100-member Chinese youth delegation leaves for Pakistan
BEIJING, Jan 7 (APP): A 100-member youth delegation comprising people representing various segments of society belonging to different parts of China left here for Pakistan on Friday. The delegation is visiting as per decision taken by Pakistan and China during Chinese President Hu Jintao official visit to Pakistan in 2006. As per decision, 100 youths from both sides will visit each other countries with the objective to better acquaint with the history and rich culture and achievements made by Pakistan and China in various sectors.

Talking to the leader and members of the delegation prior to their department for Islamabad, Ambassador Masood Khan said that Pakistan and China enjoy very close strategic partnership adding that the two countries are committed to work for establishment of peace in the region and beyond.

"We are committed to fight against terrorism, extremism and separatism", he observed.

He said that both the countries are supporting each other views on various regional and international issues on different forums.

Tracing the history of Pakistan, China friendship, as well as cooperation in various areas including economy, Ambassador Masood Khan said that the strong foundation of friendship was laid by the forefathers of both the countries.

Time is now ripe to transfer the legacy of shining history of friendship to the younger generations, he observed.

He said that the visit will be beneficial to learn more about Pakistan as the youths would shoulder the future responsibility of their country.

During their week long stay in Pakistan, the delegation will meet Pakistani leadership, visit higher learning educational institutions in Islamabad and Karachi, besides holding interaction with their peers in both the metropolis.

The delegation comprising youths, students and young entrepreneurs representing various sectors of Chinese economy, Speaking on the occasion the leader of the delegation and Chairman All China Youth Federation Mr. Ni Jian said that Premier Wen Jiabao during his last month successful visit to Pakistan said that our friendship would pass from generation to generation.

All Day

BEIJING: China is ready to put in place a deep space monitoring network in 2016 to support the country's future space missions, a senior scientist has said. -- The Economic Times

BEIJING: China is ready to put in place a deep space monitoring network in 2016 to support the country's future space missions, a senior scientist has said.

The network will consist of two monitoring stations in China, one in northwestern region of Kashgar and the other in northeastern region of Jiamusi, Xinhua reported.

A third station will be in South America, Qian Weiping, chief designer of the Chang'e 2 mission's tracking and control system, was quoted as saying.

Efforts are being made to upgrade or build monitoring stations in the three locations by equipping them with large-caliber antennas, Qian said.

The upgradation work in Kashgar and Jiamusi will be completed in 2012 to provide monitoring support for China's lunar orbiters, Chang'e 3 and Chang'e 4, while the monitoring station in South America will be created in 2016 to assist in the lunar orbiters return to Earth, he added.

All Day

BoI, Chinese Counselor discuss progress of MoUs -- APP

BoI, Chinese Counselor discuss progress of MoUs
ISLAMABAD, Jan 7 (APP): Minister of State and Chairman Board of Investment, Saleem Mandviwalla on Friday held a special meeting with Commercial Counselor of China to discuss the plan for pursuing 40 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) signed so far. Mandviwalla also informed the counselor

about the responsibility assigned to him by President to produce results out of MoUs signed between Pakistan and China during the visits of President of Pakistan to China and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to Pakistan.

He said that both leaders are concerned to mature the agreements on urgent basis and suggested that all the private and public organizations holding MoUs and agreements with Chinese companies would be called for a meeting to present the progress on all accords.

It is noted that BOI witnessed MoUs of more than US\$.10,300 million with Chinese companies during the Pak-China Business Summit 2010.

A special committee, comprising BOI and Chinese officials started working on accomplishing these accords before the visit of Chinese President this year.

All Day

Gwadar port's unrealised potential -- Business Recorder

Gwadar port's unrealised potential

EDITORIAL (January 10, 2011) : Talking to journalists the other day, the Balochistan Chief Minister, Nawab Aslam Raisani, made a strong plea for using the Gwadar Port for Afghan Transit Trade. He said that he had asked the 'relevant authorities' to supply fuel to the Nato forces in Afghanistan through this port, and that the provincial government is ready to provide security to Nato supplies.

Mindful of the fact that the roads are in disrepair - according to him, because of heavy Nato containers and oil tankers movement along the route - he said that Nato countries would need to invest \$1.5 billion in road construction for easy transportation of oil to Afghanistan via Gwadar.

The Chief Minister obviously is concerned about the underutilisation of the port, which has a great potential to serve as a regional transit hub, creating substantial business and employment opportunities in the province. Unfortunately, the project has failed to take-off in a big way. Two major hurdles have hindered its progress. One is an unsavoury controversy surrounding the awarding of operating rights contract to the Port of Singapore Authority. The other problem, as the CM pointed out, pertains to the poor state of roads connecting the port to the Chaman border crossing into Afghanistan.

Considering that the US and its allies are committed to start troop drawdown in July this year, his suggestion that the Nato countries invest as much as \$1.5 billion in the construction of roads sounds rather unrealistic at first. But not so in view of the fact that the US and its allies have to undertake a huge reconstruction and rehabilitation effort to restore a semblance of stability to the war-devastated Afghanistan. The task will take several years to complete, and is likely to go beyond the final withdrawal date of December 2014.

Of course, there is the Torkham border route as well, which Nato has been using more regularly than the Chaman crossing. But the latter route offers a shorter and convenient passage to all parts of Afghanistan, hence the idea may be worth its while for the Nato nations to pursue. The government, nonetheless, must not wait for the Western nations for help to realise the full potential of the port, on which rest its dreams of making Gwadar the gateway to the resource-rich Central Asian Republics.

It is also to serve as an important link for China with West Asia as well as Africa from where it plans to bring oil, drastically reducing the transportation time and cost as compared to the alternative routes. Things being what they are, the government needs to make two quick decisions: one about the port contract, which reports suggest, is about to change hands from Singapore to China; and the other regarding the upgrade of the road system in accord with international standards. Only when these issues are resolved, will the Gwadar Port become truly functional, bringing the much-awaited benefits to all concerned.

All Day

APP -- چین کے تجارتی وفد کی کالا باغ کے مقام پر نئی سٹیل مل قائم کرنے میں دلچسپی
چین کے تجارتی وفد کی کالا باغ کے مقام پر نئی سٹیل مل قائم کرنے میں دلچسپی

اسلام آباد - 13 جنوری (اے پی پی) چین کے تجارتی وفد نے کالا باغ کے مقام پر نئی سٹیل مل قائم کرنے میں دلچسپی ظاہر کی ہے۔ اس سٹیل مل کی سالانہ پیداوار ایک ملین ٹن ہو گی۔ ذرائع کے مطابق مکڑوال اور چی چالی کے مقام پر لوہے کے ذخائر موجود ہیں جس کو اس مل کے ذریعے بروئے کار لایا جا سکتا ہے۔

All Day

Pak-China trade jumps by US \$ 2 bln to US \$ 8.7 bln -- APP

Pak-China trade jumps by US \$ 2 bln to US \$ 8.7 bln

BEIJING, Jan 28 (APP): In the past one year - 2010 - Pakistan-China bilateral trade has registered an overall growth of 28% and touched the figure of US\$ 8.7 billion, while in 2009, the volume of the two sides trade was US \$6.7 billion. Masood Khan, Pakistan's Ambassador to China, while welcoming the swift increase in the volume of bilateral trade said that the most remarkable growth had been in Pakistan's exports which increased last year by 37.44%; while imports from China also grew by 25%.

The Ambassador attributed the growth in Pakistani exports to the enhanced market of cotton yarn and mineral products in China.

"The trend seems to be pretty stable," he noted.

"Despite the encouraging growth pattern, we would not sit on our laurels. There is a long way to go as we have to achieve the US \$15 billion mark and move beyond it in the near future," Masood Khan said.

Pakistan and China have resolved to increase their trade to US\$ 15 billion in the shortest possible time. The recent trend of growth in Pakistan-China bilateral trade has put the two countries on a fast track to achieve this target.

In 2010, the biggest spurt in Pakistani exports to China has been in cotton yarn, home textiles, garments, ores and mineral products, copper and copper scrap, leather goods, fish products, electrical goods, and medical and surgical instruments.

To give a fresh stimulus and to promote Chinese investment in Pakistan, the second meeting of Pakistan-China Free Trade Commission (FTC) was held in November last year.

Furthermore, during Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to Pakistan last month, the two sides decided to launch in the first quarter of this year the second phase negotiations of Pak-China FTAs with the objective to enhance trade liberalization and to promote economic and trade growth of the two countries.

Pakistan has requested China for unilateral tariff concessions for 268 of its product lines. If these concessions are agreed, Pakistani exports to China will increase even more rapidly.

Pakistan exports to China, cotton yarn and fabrics, synthetic yarn and fabrics, garments, home textiles, chromium and other ores, fish and fish products, vegetable and animal products, marble, granite and stone products, medical instruments, sports goods, carpets etc.

From China, Pakistan imports, polyester and silk fabrics, polyester staple fabrics, fertilizers, tyres, mobile communication equipment, gas turbines, motorcycle parts, combustion piston engines, electrical appliances, iron and steel products, and various other forms of machinery.

Premier Wen Jiabao and Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani in recent meetings had agreed to take a series of measures to improve the balance of trade in Pakistan's favour by encouraging frequent visits of Chinese purchase missions to Pakistan, Pakistani traders' and trade associations' participation in major Chinese Trade Fairs and Expos.

It has also been decided by the two sides to hold seminars as well as to enhance visa facilitation.

Pakistan has also proposed to China for the development of an efficient Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) to realize the full potential of the FTAs.

All Day

Pakistan Oilfields Profit Rises 57% on Higher Output -- APP

Pakistan Oilfields Profit Rises 57% on Higher Output

By Khurram Anis - Jan 28, 2011 4:49 PM GMT+0500

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Business ExchangeBuzz up!DiggPrint Email .Pakistan Oilfields Ltd., the nation's third-biggest energy explorer, posted a 57 percent increase in second-quarter profit after oil and natural gas production rose.

Net income in the three months ended Dec. 31 climbed to 2.97 billion rupees (\$34.7 million), or 12.55 rupees a share, from 1.9 billion rupees, or 8 rupees, a year earlier, the Rawalpindi-based company said in a filing to the Karachi Stock Exchange

today. Sales rose to 6.74 billion from 4.77 billion rupees a year earlier.

"An increase of 9 percent in average light crude oil prices also helped gains," Umer Bin Ayaz Mujtaba, an analyst with JS Global Capital Ltd., wrote in a report to clients on Jan. 26. The company's gas production increased 83 percent and oil output 23 percent from a year earlier, he said. Mujtaba has a "hold" recommendation on the stock.

Energy demand in Pakistan, which imports more than 80 percent of the oil used in the country, is growing at 5 percent annually. Pakistan is targeting \$15 billion in investment to develop its oil and gas industry by 2014 to help reduce its import bill.

Pakistan Oilfield shares fell 0.3 percent to 328 rupees as of 4:05 p.m. local time on the Karachi Stock Exchange.

Crude oil in New York climbed 12 percent to an average of \$85.24 a barrel in the three months ended Dec. 31 from a year earlier, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

All Day

'Pakistan, Bosnia need to improve economic ties' -- Commerce report 'Pakistan, Bosnia need to improve economic ties'

RAWALPINDI - Pakistan and Bosnia need to improve political and economic relations to promote bilateral trade and investment as the current volume of trade is far below the respective potential of both countries.

Ambassador of Bosnia Herzegovina in Pakistan Arman Limo made these remarks while talking to President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Syed Ali Raza Saeed Shah during his visit to RCCI here. Vice President Dr Shimail Daud, members executive committee and renowned businessmen of the city were also present on the occasion.

The Ambassador said that both the countries have common religious and cultural relations that should be promoted to strengthen trade and economic ties. He said Bosnia is organising the second International Investment Conference Sarajevo Business Forum 2011 on April 6-8, 2011 in Sarajevo. He invited Pakistani businessmen to participate in this event to explore more business opportunities.

Arman Limo said that Pakistani businessmen should consider Bosnia for joint ventures in the area of common interest. Pakistani products including rice, surgical instruments, sports goods and textile etc. have good potential in Bosnian trade markets and Pakistani businessmen should establish direct trade links in Bosnia to grab better market share, he added.

The Ambassador said that Bosnia is an ideal place for the foreign investors and has a great potential for tourism as well. Islamic states must invest in each others states and Pakistan and Bosnia can play a very vital role in this regard, he proposed. He invited business community for trade with Bosnia and suggested to divert their business activities using Bosnia as Gate Way for exporting and capturing the European international trade markets.

Speaking on the occasion President RCCI Syed Ali Raza said that Pakistan and Bosnia has still unexplored market for businessmen of both countries. He said frequent exchange of business delegations and establishing direct B2B contacts are the options which should be used to exploit untapped bilateral trade and investment potential in both countries.

Ali Raza said that Pakistan and Bosnia have low trade volume which should further be enhanced through emphasizing on non-traditional items for the mutual benefit of the people of two countries.

He said Pakistani products including rice, sports goods, surgical instruments, pharmaceutical, leather & textile products etc. can be exported to Bosnia and

proposed that Bosnian businessmen should look into the opportunities to develop business relation in the identified areas. President RCCI also invited the honourable chief guest to participate in the upcoming RCCI Trade Expo.

All Day

Bestway Group invests \$230 million in UBL -- Business Recorder

Bestway Group invests \$230 million in UBL

LONDON (January 29, 2011) : The Bestway Group, the UK based conglomerate founded and chaired by Sir Anwar Pervez, has announced that it has increased its shareholding in United Bank Limited (UBL) to 51.07% by acquiring an additional 20% of the shares from the Abu Dhabi Group.

HSBC provided fully integrated advisory and financing solutions and acted as sole bank in the deal. All regulatory approvals from SBP, CCOP and SECP have obtained. UBL is Pakistan's second largest private bank. In 2002, a consortium consisting of Bestway Group and Abu Dhabi Group acquired 51% of UBL shares together with management rights and control of the bank through the Government of Pakistan's privatisation process.

The consortium currently owns 61.37% of the bank with Bestway Group at 31.07% and Abu Dhabi Group at 30.30%. After this investment, the management rights and control of the bank will continue to remain within the same consortium. No changes are being made in the senior management or in the board of directors. Zameer Chaudry, Chief Executive of Bestway Group said.

"This is a strategic long term investment for Bestway Group. We are delighted to make this acquisition as we believe that UBL is a solid bank with a huge potential for the future". Chaudry stated, "This investment is a testimony of Bestway Group's long term commitment to UBL and Pakistan".

Mark Haines, HSBC's Head of Corporate Banking in the Thames Valley commented: "Bestway Group is a long-standing customer and a thriving business. This funding demonstrates our ongoing commitment to the company, and is a great example of how HSBC can help customers to take advantage of international growth opportunities."

UBL has an asset base of \$7.6 billion, advances of \$4.3 billion, deposits of \$5.98 billion, CAR of 14.4% and EPS of 8.7x. UBL has a vast network of over 1,100 branches in Pakistan and a strong presence in Middle East, North America, Europe, China and Central Asia. It has a UK based subsidiary, United National Bank which has six branches in UK. UBL provides employment to over 14,500 people and serves over 5 million customers.

Since 2002, UBL has achieved numerous milestones in all aspects of its business. With a wide ranging dynamic portfolio of globally competitive products and services, and a proven track record spanning over half a century, UBL today is at the forefront of the banking sector in Pakistan as well as in the region.

In looking to the future, Chaudry said, "UBL shall continue to focus on strengthening its balance sheet through acquisition of low cost deposits and improvement in asset quality, as well as grow its international business in a secure and selective manner". "Overseas Pakistanis play an indispensable role in the development of Pakistan. Bestway Group is proud to be a part of non resident Pakistani diaspora and we hope to develop UBL into a conduit for bringing in more investments into Pakistan from other non resident Pakistanis", said Chaudry.

Bestway Group is among the top ten family businesses in UK with annual turnover of £2.1 billion. Bestway Group's wholesale operations are the 2nd largest in the UK with an 18% market share. It trades from 61 warehouses, covering over 5.5 million sq ft of selling space, offering a product range of over 25,000 items and serving over 120,000 independent retailers and foodservice customers nationally. The Group also provides employment to over 5,000 people in UK.

Bestway Group's wholesale operations continue to expand. In June 2010, the Group acquired the Bellevue business from the Bensons in Scotland. In October 2010, the Group opened a new state of the art warehouse in Aintree, Liverpool. A month later, in November 2010, Bestway Group acquired the Martex business in

Scotland from CJ Lang. In a short period of six months, the Group added six warehouses to its existing portfolio, taking the total to 61 warehouses. Bestway Group's cement operations ie Bestway Cement Limited is the 2nd largest cement manufacturer in Pakistan. It has four state of the art cement plants with a total capacity of 6 million tonnes per annum and employs over 3,000 people. The company is also the largest exporter of cement to Afghanistan and India.-PR

All Day

ISLAMABAD: The Kingho Group being the largest private group of China has expressed its keen interest to Invest in Thar Coal project. -- The Express Paper

ISLAMABAD: The Kingho Group being the largest private group of China has expressed its keen interest to Invest in Thar Coal project.

A seven-member delegation of M/s. China Kingho Group, headed by Executive Vice President Ma Xiaomin, visited Board of Investment (BOI) to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan in coal sector and development of coal fields of Thar, Badin, says a statement issued here.

Minister of State and BOI Chairman Saleem H.Mandviwalla stressed that in order to sustain economic growth, Pakistan needed to develop its indigenous energy resources rapidly.

Proposed investment in development of Thar coal mines would provide benefits like strategic energy resource, import substitution of expensive raw furnace oil (RFO), lower power tariff for coal-fired power plants, and improve socio economic development in Thar region.

It will also lead to skilled job creation and transfer of technology, he remarked.

Director Mineral and Natural Sources, Azhar Khan told that Thar coal field in Sindh is spread over more than 9000 sq km and is bestowed with 175 billion tons of lignite coal, which can fuel power generation of over 100,000 MW for more than two centuries.

EDG Board of Investment Humayun Khan Sikandari informed that Thar coal field has been declared SEZ, and the investor will enjoy Corporate Income Tax Holiday of 5 years and 10 years for Developers of the Zone.

The head of delegation Kingho Group of China, told the BOI officials that through years of effort, has achieved a diversified but integrated development pattern which is composed of coal mining, washing and sorting, production, transportation and sales of coal, together with iron ore mining, chemical metallurgy, salt chemicals, building materials, logistics, and hotel and tourism businesses.

China Kingho Group being the largest private group has manpower of 64,000 and possesses 22 billion tonnes of reservoirs of coal and 800 million tonnes of iron ore, he said.

All Day

Power distribution system: Pakistan and ADB ink \$242 million deal on improvement -- Business Recorder

Power distribution system: Pakistan and ADB ink \$242 million deal on improvement

ISLAMABAD (January 29, 2011) : Pakistan and Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday signed an agreement to invest 242 million dollars in improving power distribution system in the country. The signing ceremony was held here at Economic Affairs Division. The agreement was signed by Sibtain Fazal Halim, Secretary Economic Affairs Division and Rune Stroem, country director ADB, while the project agreement was signed by the representatives of all the 8 Distribution Companies (DISCOs).

The loan is meant for Tranche-2 of the Power Distribution Enhancement Investment Programme under Multi-tranche Financing Facility (MFF). ADB's total MFF programme is of 810 million dollars (US \$800 million OCR and US \$10 million ADF). The programme is comprised Multi-tranches and the same will be implemented in ten years period. The objective of the project is to rehabilitate, augment and expand power distribution systems and remove system bottlenecks in the project area.

The project shall add 3,380 Megavolt-Amperes (MVA) of transformer capacity, 387 km of new distribution lines, and improve security of supply to customers by moving toward compliance with regulatory security standards governing planning and operation of the distribution system and reliability improvement on the lower voltages. The project is expected to be completed by March 21. Speaking on the occasion the ADB's country director said that energy conservation and energy efficiency is the fastest and cheapest way of increasing electricity supply. "This project will not only reduce electricity lost during delivery to the customers but also improve the quality of service by helping to get rid of technical bottlenecks," he added.

All Day

Swiss envoy for more trade with Pakistan -- APP

Swiss envoy for more trade with Pakistan

By our correspondent

Saturday, January 29, 2011

LAHORE: Swiss government is trying to strengthen trade relations with Pakistan, the Swiss Ambassador to Pakistan Christoph Bubb said speaking at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Friday.

He said the Swiss Business community was ready to make further investments. Switzerland was one of the largest foreign investors in Pakistan, the envoy said.

Transfer of technology for textile industry was a viable investment option for Swiss businesses. Several Swiss companies were already operating in Pakistan and doing a successful business, which is enough to prove that the Swiss investment has a bright future in this country, he said.

Bubb expressed the hope that Swiss investment would see a boost in coming months due to liberal investment policies.

All Day

ICBC leads charge as Chinese banks go global -- AFP

ICBC leads charge as Chinese banks go global

By Boris Cambreleng (AFP)

BEIJING — ICBC, the world's largest bank by market value, is proving the most aggressive Chinese bank in expanding abroad, serving Chinese firms that are increasingly active globally after the financial crisis.

Of the country's "big four" banks, ICBC is leading the way as Chinese lenders restart plans that were put on hold by the global crisis and seize new opportunities left in its wake.

Bank of China fulfilled that role in the 1980s, but times have changed as Chinese firms have been widely encouraged to invest abroad and Beijing seeks to boost the global profile of the yuan, the experts say.

"BoC and ICBC are roughly at parity in terms of overseas activity. But it does indeed appear that ICBC is emerging as the most international of the Chinese banks," IHS Global Insight analyst Adam Breen told AFP.

For Andy Xie, an independent economist based in Shanghai, the process is the logical result of the global expansion by Chinese companies, which are branching out to secure vital natural resources and explore new markets.

"Even Chinese companies of medium size are going global. If Chinese banks don't offer them services offshore, then they might switch to other banks like HSBC that have both a China presence and an international presence," Xie said.

This month alone, ICBC opened branches in Paris, Amsterdam, Madrid, Milan and Brussels -- following on from existing offices in London, Moscow, Frankfurt and Luxembourg.

In December, it extended its reach to Pakistan. The month before, reports said ICBC was eyeing a takeover of South Korea's Kwangju Bank. It already has two branches in Seoul and one in the port city of Busan.

In addition the bank took advantage of this month's high-profile visit to the United States by President Hu Jintao to announce it had signed a \$140 million deal to buy a majority stake in the US subsidiary of Bank of East Asia.

If the agreement gets approval from US banking regulators, ICBC will become the first Beijing-controlled financial institution to acquire retail bank branches in the United States.

ICBC, which employs 386,000 people worldwide and has more than 200 million customers, now has more than 160 branches outside mainland China and more than 16,000 in the country, according to its website.

Experts say Chinese banks' global expansion is only just beginning.

"It is rapid expansion only from a very low base," explained Michael Pettis, a professor of finance at Tsinghua University in Beijing.

"China is the second-largest economy in the world but in terms of outward direct investment, it is probably eighth or ninth."

At first, the banks will serve Chinese companies looking to invest in or buy local businesses, before they target foreign enterprises doing business with the Asian economic powerhouse, experts say.

Eventually, they will be viable competitors to local banks, mainly by offering more cost-effective service, Pettis told AFP.

"The Chinese banks might become competitive in a few years, and they will probably be competitive where the Japanese were competitive in the 1980s and that is because they provide low funding cost," he said.

ICBC chairman Jiang Jianqing told the Wall Street Journal at last week's World Economic Forum that the bank's focus for now would be "mainly on emerging markets, which have good prospects for growth".

"For the American market, we are walking in a very careful way," Jiang said.

Breen, a specialist on China's banking sector, said the "big four" should focus on developing economies, "where competition is lower, economic growth potential is greater, and the existing domestic banks are less sophisticated".

In developed countries, "their best option is to purchase existing banks in those sectors if they want to expand there," Breen said.

But he cautioned that "major regulatory obstacles" could block Chinese banks' path in nations such as the United States, where most analysts expect ICBC to face a lengthy process to win approval for the Bank of East Asia deal.

All Day

Pak-China trade jumps by US \$ 2 bln to US \$ 8.7 bln -- APP

Pak-China trade jumps by US \$ 2 bln to US \$ 8.7 bln

BEIJING, Jan 28 (APP): In the past one year - 2010 - Pakistan-China bilateral trade has registered an overall growth of 28% and touched the figure of US\$ 8.7 billion, while in 2009, the volume of the two sides trade was US \$6.7 billion. Masood Khan, Pakistan's Ambassador to China, while welcoming the swift increase in the volume of bilateral trade said that the most remarkable growth had been in Pakistan's exports which increased last year by 37.44%; while imports from China also grew by 25%.

The Ambassador attributed the growth in Pakistani exports to the enhanced market of cotton yarn and mineral products in China.

"The trend seems to be pretty stable," he noted.

"Despite the encouraging growth pattern, we would not sit on our laurels. There is a long way to go as we have to achieve the US \$15 billion mark and move beyond it in the near future," Masood Khan said.

Pakistan and China have resolved to increase their trade to US\$ 15 billion in the shortest possible time. The recent trend of growth in Pakistan-China bilateral trade has put the two countries on a fast track to achieve this target.

In 2010, the biggest spurt in Pakistani exports to China has been in cotton yarn, home textiles, garments, ores and mineral products, copper and copper scrap, leather goods, fish products, electrical goods, and medical and surgical instruments.

To give a fresh stimulus and to promote Chinese investment in Pakistan, the second meeting of Pakistan-China Free Trade Commission (FTC) was held in November last year.

Furthermore, during Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to Pakistan last month, the two sides decided to launch in the first quarter of this year the second phase negotiations of Pak-China FTAs with the objective to enhance trade liberalization and to promote economic and trade growth of the two countries.

Pakistan has requested China for unilateral tariff concessions for 268 of its product lines. If these concessions are agreed, Pakistani exports to China will increase even more rapidly.

Pakistan exports to China, cotton yarn and fabrics, synthetic yarn and fabrics, garments, home textiles, chromium and other ores, fish and fish products, vegetable and animal products, marble, granite and stone products, medical instruments, sports goods, carpets etc.

From China, Pakistan imports, polyester and silk fabrics, polyester staple fabrics, fertilizers, tyres, mobile communication equipment, gas turbines, motorcycle parts, combustion piston engines, electrical appliances, iron and steel products, and

various other forms of machinery.

Premier Wen Jiabao and Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani in recent meetings had agreed to take a series of measures to improve the balance of trade in Pakistan's favour by encouraging frequent visits of Chinese purchase missions to Pakistan, Pakistani traders' and trade associations' participation in major Chinese Trade Fairs and Expos.

It has also been decided by the two sides to hold seminars as well as to enhance visa facilitation.

Pakistan has also proposed to China for the development of an efficient Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) to realize the full potential of the FTAs.

All Day

Pakistan's FTA with Indonesia to boost trade -- source: rupeenews.com

Pakistan's FTA with Indonesia to boost trade

Sunday, 30 January 2011 21:47

Economy

Trade between the ancient Pakistanis of the Indus Valley and the ancient Indonesian has been going on for centuries. Islam spread to Indonesia by Arab traders who on many occasions left the Mekran Coast of Pakistan.

The term "India" has always been ephemeral. For many Europeans Indonesia was "India". Indo-nesia used to be called the Dutch Indies or "Dutch India" which competed with British India which competed with "Indo-China" or French "India" (Vietnam).

Indonesia is the largest Islamic country in the world. Its Muslims are devout and humbly. Indonesia has been a great partner and supporter of Pakistan. In fact during the reign of President Sukarno relations were extremely close. Jakarta helped Pakistan defend itself in 1965. Indonesia had placed its entire fleet of submarines in the hands of the Pakistan Navy.

As a young boy, this author had requested the Indonesia Embassy for this picture of President Sukarno and had it placed in his room as a poster.

The brutal overthrow of the elected Sukarno by th CIA implant Suharto reduced the government to government contacts but there is deep rooted affinity for the Pakistani people in Indonesia—especially the older Indonesians.

The President of the SCCI Ghulam Mustafa Chaudhary said goods made in Sialkot such as sports equipment, surgical instruments, leather products, martial arts uniforms and musical instruments could find a good market in Indonesia. "The main hurdle is the lack of a direct link between business communities of the two countries.

The Indonesian Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan Ishak Latuconsina confirmed that the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Indonesia and Pakistan would soon. This has been in the works for many years, and its implementation will be a boon for traders in both countries.

The Indonesia Ambassador was addressing a meeting of the Sialkot business community at the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI). Ambassador Ishak vowed to make efforts to boost trade between the two countries. He affirmed that he would fully support and ensure easy access of Pakistani products to Indonesian markets.

The Ambassador invited the Sialkot business community to do business in Indonesia and also participate in industrial exhibitions and trade fairs being held in Indonesia. He also agreed with SCCI proposal regarding the regular exchange of updated trade information and mutual trade delegations to enhance trade between the two countries.

The biggest Islamic nations must increase their trade and worl to increase prosperity between the people.

source: rupeenews.com

All Day

IDB to finance Pak power project -- ARAB NEWS

IDB to finance Pak power project
By ARAB NEWS

Published: Jan 31, 2011 01:18 Updated: Jan 31, 2011 01:18

JEDDAH: The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has signed an agreement to extend its long-term lease finance (Ijara) facility of up to \$90 million for the development of the Uch-II combined cycle independent power plant project in the Baluchistan province of Pakistan.

International Power PLC of the UK is sponsoring the project, which will add a net generation capacity of 375 MW to the national grid under a 25-year contract with the National Transmission and Distribution Company of Pakistan and thereby make a significant contribution to improving the power supply situation of the company. The deal was signed on behalf of the IDB by its Vice President (Operations) Birama Boubacar Sidibe. Besides IDB, the project is also expected to receive long-term debt finance from the Asian Development Bank, International Finance Corporation and Export-Import Bank of Korea.

All Day

Pakistan to invite fresh bids for 3.5 mil mt/year LNG supply mid-Feb -- APP

Pakistan to invite fresh bids for 3.5 mil mt/year LNG supply mid-Feb
Karachi (Platts)--31Jan2011/650 am EST/1150 GMT

Pakistan is to invite fresh bids for the supply of around 3.5 million mt/year of LNG by mid-February to meet the country's energy needs after its law ministry told the government to scrap the deal with GDF-Suez, a petroleum ministry official said Monday.

"The ministry of petroleum will float a tender to invite companies to participate in bidding for the import of LNG, and setting up of an LNG terminal mid-February," Imtiaz Kazi, a secretary at the ministry, added.

Pakistan is facing an acute energy shortage and is suffering a shortfall in excess of 1 Bcf/day as consumption is around 5.2 Bcf/day against output of 4.2 Bcf/day.

The government last week at a meeting of country's apex decision-making body, the Economic Coordination Committee, or ECC, headed by finance minister Abdul Hafeez Shaikh decided to scrap deal with GDF-Suez.

In February 2010, the ECC, then headed by former finance minister Shaukat Tarin, awarded an LNG supply contract to GDF-Suez. Under the deal, Netherlands-based 4Gas was to set up an LNG terminal, while GDF was to supply the gas.

But Pakistan's Supreme Court in April 2010 annulled the deal and directed the government to start the bidding process afresh.

The deal awarded to GDF Suez was for a medium-term supply contract for 2.75 million mt/year over six years. The contract price was 3.95% Brent plus 75% of the maximum of the US' Henry Hub and the UK's National Balancing Point, plus \$1.58/MMBtu.

Later, the ECC also approved a second contract with GDF Suez for another 1.5 million mt/year of LNG for long-term supplies at 15.2% of Brent plus \$0.50/MMBtu for a period of 20 years, subject to further price improvements through a final round of negotiations with GDF.

The long-term price formula would be fixed for 10 years and be renegotiable for the second 10-year term.

Meanwhile, fresh bids could delay the process by another year, exacerbating Pakistan's existing gas shortfall of almost 1 Bcf/day and creating further hardships

for consumers, an industry observer said.

The country's gas supply shortage would be 3.18 Bcf/day in 2014, as projected gas supply would be 4.28 Bcf/day against demand of around 7.46 Bcf/day.

--Haris Zamir, newsdesk@platts.com

All Day

Obama should offer Islamabad a much more expansive US-Pakistani relationship if it helps win this war.” -- WASHINGTON

February 2, 2011 (2 days ago)“Obama should offer Islamabad a much more expansive US-Pakistani relationship if it helps win this war.” — File Photo
WASHINGTON: The Obama Administration should offer Pakistan a civilian nuclear energy deal as well as a trade program under a “much more expansive” US relationship with the key regional country as part of efforts to win more Pakistani cooperation toward a successful outcome of the Afghan conflict, a prominent American expert argued Tuesday.

In a policy brief, Michael E. O’Hanlon, who is director of research for the Foreign Policy program at the Brookings Institution, endorses the Obama Administration’s policy to build a relationship of trust with Pakistan but underlines that bold new measures are needed to get greater and sustained Pakistani cooperation in the anti-terror fight along the Afghan border.

“Two major incentives would have particular appeal to Pakistan. One is a civilian nuclear energy deal like that being provided to India, with full safeguards on associated reactors,” says Dr O’Hanlon, who has also authored a book on Afghanistan.

He advocates that “Pakistan’s progress on export controls in the wake of the A.Q. Khan debacle has been good enough so far to allow a provisional approval of such a deal if other things fall into place as well, including Islamabad’s compliance with any future fissile production cutoff treaty.”

On the importance of US striking a free trade accord, the expert says struggling economically; Pakistan needs such a shot in the arm.

“A trade deal could arguably do even more than aid at this point,” he observes.

However, O’ Hanlon stipulates, that Pakistan should be given these deals if the US comes out successful in Afghanistan as he claims that the Afghan militants use Pakistani tribal regions to sustain insurgency and need to be tackled strongly by Pakistan.

The expert suggests if Afghanistan turns around in a year or two, the deals can be set in motion and implemented over a longer period.

Favoring the current US policy toward Pakistan, O’ Hanlon notes in the policy brief, that “part of the right policy is to keep doing more of what the Obama administration has been doing with Pakistan -building trust, as with last fall’s strategic dialogue in Washington; increasing aid incrementally, as with the new five-year, \$2 billion aid package announced during that dialogue; encouraging Pakistan-India dialogue (which would help persuade Islamabad it could safely move more military forces from its eastern border to its western regions) and coordinating militarily across the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region. But President Barack Obama needs to think bigger.”

The clarification that the US-led ISAF mission will continue until 2014, and indeed beyond, at the November Lisbon summit was a step in the right direction but more is needed.

“Obama should offer Islamabad a much more expansive US-Pakistani relationship if it helps win this war.”

Entitled “Improving Afghan War Strategy,” the policy brief also emphasizes promoting Afghan political organizations built around ideas and platforms, not individuals and ethnicities, in a change from longstanding American policy that could improve the quality of governance in the country.

The brief also proposes taking pressure off the bilateral US-Afghan relationship on the issue of anticorruption, largely by creation of an international advisory board

consisting of prominent individuals from key developing countries like Indonesia and Tanzania that have had considerable success improving their own nations' governance in recent times.

All Day

'UK working hard to promote Pakistan's investment climate' -- APP
'UK working hard to promote Pakistan's investment climate'

LAHORE (February 02, 2011) : The British Government is working hard to promote the investment climate of Pakistan, and the British High Commission in Pakistan may soon organise an investment conference in United Kingdom to highlight the economic potential of Pakistan.

This was stated by Dr Peter Tibber, the British Deputy High Commissioner during his visit to the Lahore Stock Exchange. Dr Peter Tibber was welcomed to the Exchange by Aftab Ahmad Chaudhry, the MD/CEO of Lahore Stock Exchange. The visiting dignitary also held a detailed meeting with the Board of Directors and the past Chairmen/Vice Chairmen of the Exchange and a cross section of the multinational CEOs during the visit.

The delegation also comprised of Alastair King Smith-British Deputy Political Counsellor. Farid Malik, CSO/COO LSE, briefed the visitors about the role and function of LSE. He also highlighted the role of LSE in the development of the capital market in the country.

He stated that LSE was the first stock exchange in the country to introduce electronic trading back in 1997 and had gone to indigenously develop its own trading platform called ULTRA. This trading platform had subsequently been sold to Karachi, Islamabad and Ghana Stock Exchanges. LSE was also the only stock exchange to focus on retail expansion by setting up regional trading floors.

He emphasised that stock exchange markets in Pakistan offer a favourable and open environment to foreign investors. Highlighting this fact, he informed that according to NCCPL figures, foreign investors now hold 8 percent of total market capitalisation and more than 30 percent of fleet-float of local equities is held by foreigners.

The MD LSE, Aftab Ahmed Chaudhry highlighted various steps taken by the Exchange in recent times to enhance the confidence and trust of the investors in the functioning of the Exchange as a frontline regulator. Especially, the Exchange is committed to provide transparent and fair dispute resolution mechanism for adjudicating the disputes arising between the member/broker of the Exchange and investors.

For this purpose, the Exchange has revamped the Office of Chief Regulatory Officer of the Exchange. "Enormous investment opportunities in Pakistan are still untapped and are available for foreign investors," he stated. He impressed upon the visitors to play proactive role in apprising the foreign investors about the opportunities of investment in Pakistan in the prevailing business environment.

Peter Tibber lauded the efforts of LSE for playing pivotal role in the development of the capital market. He informed the LSE Board members that efforts are being made to arrange a conference in the coming weeks for apprising the business community in UK about the investment opportunities available in Pakistan.-PR

All Day

Construction of new Gwadar Airport: Centre releases Rs 90 million to CAA, Senate told -- Daily Times

Construction of new Gwadar Airport: Centre releases Rs 90 million to CAA, Senate told

RECORDER REPORT

ISLAMABAD (February 03, 2011) : The federal government has released Rs 90 million to Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for the construction of new Gwadar International Airport under public sector development programme (PSDP). In a written reply to the House on Wednesday, Defence Minister Chaudhry Ahmed Mukhtar said that an amount Rs 50 million was released during 2008-09 and Rs 40 million in 2009-10.

Giving year-wise utilisation of the allocated amount of Rs 90 million during 2008-09 and 2009-10, he said that Rs 5 million was utilised for topographic survey, Rs 2.500 million for soil investigation, Rs 50 million for design consultancy, Rs 1.300 million for purchase of vehicles, Rs 1.275 million for salary of staff, 0.829 million for press advertisement and Rs 29.096 for civil works during the said period. Meanwhile, the minister also told the House that a total of 174 employees had been reinstated by PIA under Sacked Employees Reinstatement Ordinance-2009 (SERO-2009).

He said that out of 174 reinstated employees, a total of 36 employees were entitled to receive financial benefits, which implies total financial impact of about Rs 420 million. He clarified that so far no employee had been reinstated in PIA under Sacked Employees Reinstatement Act 2010 (SERA-2010). To a question, he said that facility of non-accompanied personal effects (cargo facility) was being provided to all airports, including Peshawar Airport, which was part and parcel of cargo operations.

State Minister for Interior Tasleem Qureshi informed the House that as many as three million illegal immigrants are residing in Pakistan other than Afghans refugees while only few Afghan nationals were repatriated on the report of security agencies after cancellation of their registration.

He said that the figures had been provided by the National Alien Registration Authority (NARA) adding that the number of African national is 50,000 out of which 30,000 to 35,000 are living in Karachi, Islamabad and Rawalpindi along with nearby villages of the twin cities while the rest are living in other cities. To a question Qureshi said that in accordance with the provision of Foreigners Act, 1946 the foreigners illegally residing in Pakistan in contravention of the said law are apprehended by the local police as well as Federal Investigating Agency (FIA).

In 2008, he said FIA had registered four cases against Africans illegally residing in the country and in 2009 two cases were registered, while since 2010 only one case was registered, he added. Meanwhile Qureshi informed the House no amount was paid to the UN Commission for the investigation into the assassination of Benazir Bhutto, however, he added that the government did bear the boarding and lodging besides ticket expenses of the visiting members of the commission.

To another question, he said that a total of 11789 cases of violence against women were registered in the country since January 2009. Giving details, he said that 1656 cases were registered in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while 8433 in Punjab, 680 in Sindh, 333 in Balochistan, 272 in Islamabad, 362 in AJK and 62 cases were registered in Gilgit-Baltistan during the said period.

He said that nine women police stations have been established at Karachi, Larkana, Hyderabad, Peshawar, Abbotabad, Islamabad, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Faisalabad where female police officers are dealing with the women cases. Besides, he added that Ladies Complaints Units (LCUs) have also been established in ICT Islamabad at Margalla and I-9 Police Station which are functioning.

Minister for Narcotics Control Arbab Muhammad Zahir told the House that over 640 drugs and narcotics peddlers were arrested last year. Of these, he added that 193 were convicted by the courts while trial of the remaining 382 persons is underway.

All Day

Iranian gas price will be double to that of local gas, NA told -- Daily Times

Iranian gas price will be double to that of local gas, NA told

* Naveed Qamar says security threats hampering exploration of oil and gas in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

By Ijaz Kakakhel

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly was on Wednesday informed that the imported Iranian gas would cost the country double as compared to existing gas prices. Currently, the gas price is about \$5 per mmbtu while keeping in view the existing oil prices in international market (\$100 per barrel), the price of Iranian gas would be about \$10 to \$12 per mmbtu. Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Syed Naveed Qamar, while answering questions, said that the gap between demand and supply of gas was widening and hence could not be imported at higher prices. The government has signed agreement on Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project.

Every country has to complete its pipeline distribution works within its boundaries. Pakistan has to lay down gas pipeline from Iranian border to Gwadar and then from Gwadar to Nawab Shah. The minister informed the House that Iran had linked gas price with 77 percent international crude oil price in international market. For Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project, the government had hired consultants, carried out surveys and soon the work on the project would be kicked off. To another query the minister informed the National Assembly that Balochistan had oil reserves but even then, domestic oil demand could not be met. He said 85 percent oil demand was met through imported oil. In order to increase indigenous production of oil and gas, the government carried out massive exploration during the year 2010. However, after the 18th Amendment, the shares of provinces have increased by 50 percent, and the provinces have to come forward for the exploration of oil and gas.

The minister said that gas reserves were discovered in Zin block, Balochistan areas and its exploration required huge investments.

The majority of oil and gas blocks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan were found in security-threatened areas, which were causing problems for the government in its exploration. However, he assured that the Oil and Gas Development Company Limited would carry out exploration work in Balochistan with the assistance of Pakistan Army and security forces.

All Day

ADB to provide loan for Pakistan's first wind farm, Project, to be completed in 2012 -- PPI

ADB to provide loan for Pakistan's first wind farm Project, to be completed in 2012, will provide 56.4 megawatts electricity as compared to current 6 megawatts.

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank will be providing a loan to help fund the first privately owned and financed wind farm in Pakistan. The output from the plant will provide much-needed additional power for Pakistan, improve the country's energy security, and lower reliance on fossil fuels.

Zorlu Enerji Elektrik Uretim will use the \$36.8 million loan to install wind turbines to increase the output of its wind farm – located in the southern Sindh province, 100 kilometers northeast of Karachi – from the current 6 megawatts to a total 56.4 megawatts.

“Acute energy shortages, caused by low investment, are cutting into Pakistan's economic growth,” said Michael Barrow, Director in ADB's Private Sector Operations Department. “This deal should provide a bankable template for future privately funded wind projects, and send a signal that Pakistan's wind sector is attractive for private sector investment and financing.”

Pakistan relies heavily on imported fossil fuels for the bulk of its energy needs. However, this is costly, puts a heavy burden on Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves, and leaves the country vulnerable to supply disruptions and global price fluctuations. Investment in new capacity has lagged, whereas demand has surged by over 40% over the past five years, resulting in regular brownouts in all major urban centers and the introduction of power rationing. This has forced shops and industries to close early, undermining Pakistan's economy. The Government of Pakistan is now engaged in a major drive to expand its energy sources, including tapping renewable energy resources such as wind, given around 50,000 megawatts of capacity are available in the south of the country alone.

“We estimate that three to five projects will come on line following ADB's support for Zorlu Enerji's wind farm,” said Siddhartha Shah, Senior Investment Specialist in ADB's Private Sector Operations Department.

Zorlu Enerji, listed on the Istanbul Stock Exchange, owns and operates Turkey's largest wind farm. It is 68% owned by Zorlu Holding AS, one of the largest conglomerates in Turkey.

The existing 6 megawatt wind farm project is currently dispatching power to the Hyderabad Electric Supply Company. Once the second construction phase is complete – expected in 2012 – the 56.4 megawatt wind farm will supply power to the national grid through a 20-year take-or-pay power purchase agreement with the National Transmission and Dispatch Company. The approved tariff will ensure that the electricity is priced competitively, with the rate dropping over time as project debt is paid down.

“The project will have multiple benefits including helping realize the government's target of 6% renewable energy in the total power mix by 2030, and contributing to employment opportunities and economic growth in one of the poorest regions of the country,” said Mr. Shah.

The total cost of the project is \$147 million with 30% financed through equity provided by Zorlu Enerji and the rest through US dollar-denominated loans from ADB, the International Finance Corp., the ECO Trade and Development Bank and a Pakistan rupee loan from Habib Bank. ADB's loan will carry a tenor of 12 years with a two-year grace period.

ADB has taken the lead in supporting the Pakistan Government's efforts to attract private sector capital into the power sector. Initiatives include financing the country's first private sector run-of-river hydropower project – the New Bong Escape Power Project in 2009, as well as financing three combined cycle power plants using domestic gas; Fauji Kabirwala Power Company Limited, Foundation Power

Company Daharki Limited, and Uch-II Power Private Limited

All Day

BEIJING: From January to December 2010, Pakistan's exports to China increased by nearly US \$ 500 million and their overall growth rate was 37.4 per cent. -- BEIJING

BEIJING: From January to December 2010, Pakistan's exports to China increased by nearly US \$ 500 million and their overall growth rate was 37.4 per cent.

According to the figures released by China Customs, the total Pakistani exports to China last year were US \$ 1.7 billion compared to US \$ 1.2 billion in 2009.

Since 2006, Pakistani exports to China has been gradually climbing. The total volume of Pakistan-China trade rose by US \$ 2 billion to US \$ 8.7 billion approximately.

Last year, textiles, ores and mineral products, leather, chemicals and plastics, sports goods, iron and steel, surgical instruments showed the trend of faster growth rates.

In 2010, Pakistan's imports from China also increased by US \$ 1.4 billion and the total volume of imports from China stood at US \$ 6.9 billion. The trade deficit right now for Pakistan is US \$ 5.2 billion.

"The two governments have agreed on a series of measures to reduce the trade deficit" said Ambassador Masood Khan on Friday adding that in this regard, China would be sending purchase missions to Pakistan to identify suitable Pakistani products for Chinese markets.

He pointed out that Pakistani traders and businessmen will be attending major trade exhibitions in Kunming, Guangzhou, Xi'an, Urumqi, Kashghar, Dalian, and Beijing.

Trade seminars would also be held to create greater space for Pakistani products in China.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has requested assistance from China in vocational and technical training in the areas of value added textiles, gems and jewelry, ceramics, surgical instruments, leather and light engineering.

At the last meeting of the Free Trade Commission (FTC), China agreed to consider the proposal and invite Pakistan to identify specific training needs in these areas.

Pakistan has also requested China to give unilateral tariff concessions to 268 Pakistani product lines.

Pakistan is the second largest trading partner of China in South Asia.

All Day

GILGIT: The Chinese government has provided Rs5 million for the education of Ugur students studying in Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) and Rawalpindi. -- The Express Tribune paper

GILGIT: The Chinese government has provided Rs5 million for the education of Ugur students studying in Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) and Rawalpindi.

Abdur Rehman Bukhari, the General Secretary of the Gilgit-Baltistan Chinese Overseas Association (G-BCOA), said on Wednesday, "The Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan handed over the money in a ceremony in Islamabad."

Known as Ugur, the Muslims community of China now settled in G-B and Rawalpindi had migrated from China's Sinkiang province before partition. The money will be spent on the education of students studying in G-B and Rawalpindi, meaning those of Ugur origin will not have to worry about tuition fees for at least one year, said Bukhari. He added that the funds for 2011 had been provided in advance.

There are nearly 5,000 Ugur families in Pakistan, many of whom have maintained ties with their relatives in Kashgar and other parts of Sinkiang. Bukhari said that around 500 students would benefit from the money and that G-BCOA would verify the data of students enrolled in various Pakistani schools before depositing their fees.

In 2010 the Chinese embassy in Pakistan arranged a post-Eid party for Ugurs in Gilgit. The party was attended by officials of the Chinese Road and Building Company and dozens of representatives of G-BCOA.

Published in The Express Tribune, February 3rd, 2011.

All Day

Pak businessmen urged to avail investment opportunities in GCC -- APP Pak businessmen urged to avail investment opportunities in GCC

4 February 2011 DUBAI — Pakistani businessmen in the UAE have been advised to take advantage of the immense opportunities in the UAE and the Gulf region as well as in several sectors of the emerging markets,

“Pakistan has everything to offer. It is matter of building confidence in ourselves,” Jamil Ahmed Khan, Pakistan Ambassador to the UAE, told members of the Pakistan Business Council, Dubai.

“With 40 per cent of the world’s liquidity, the Gulf region has so much to offer to the world. Major growth is also taking place in the region’s defence sector,” the ambassador said, asking PBC members to tap on these opportunities and draw maximum benefit from them.

Khan said that as a result of fast economic growth at home, India will not be in a position to provide labour to the Gulf region in next six to seven years. “This gap can be filled by Pakistan,” he said adding that the Pak businessmen can also benefit from the investment that would be taking place in countries on the silk route.

Khan said that he had arranged meetings with the CEOs of Korean and Turkish companies operating in the UAE. Korea alone has \$50 billion investment in the UAE. These companies need men and material for their projects and Pakistan can meet their manpower needs, he said.

He said that the funds have been approved for additional equipment and manpower at the Pakistan Embassy and the Consulate to expedite the issuance of machine-readable passports and NADRA identity cards.

“We are in the process of giving contract for the works and expect the project to benefit the community in about six weeks,” Khan told Khaleej Times on Sunday.

Pakistan Consul General Tariq Iqbal Soomro said the introduction of an evening shift for passports and NADRA cards at the consulate had reduced the pressure on the morning shift and allowed the community to visit the consulate at their convenience.

Tahir S. Schon, President of the Council, said they planned to publish a regular newsletter and a business directory. At present the Pakistan Business Council of Dubai has over 300 members comprising of active Pakistani Businessmen and companies from various trade and Industrial sectors in UAE.

He said that the council has eight events scheduled for this year. They are: SAARC and PBC joint networking breakfast in February, Business with China and the Far East seminar for traders in March, Opportunities in the GCC interaction with all the top GCC Business Councils in April, family outing in May, a seminar on Islam and Business in June, presentation on UAE inheritance law in July, Eid get together and musical evening in September, and Pakistan Business Mela in October.

Certificates were distributed among 12 senior members of the Council.

All Day

Zardari urges construction of smaller dams on war footing -- APP

Zardari urges construction of smaller dams on war footing

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday advised to undertake completion of small dams on war footing as this would not only help the development of land and water resources to harness their full potential but would also generate employment opportunities for the poor besides distribution of state lands of the command areas amongst poor women.

The president said this during a presentation given to him at the Presidency regarding the progress made so far in building small and medium dams in various parts of the country. The presentation was attended by Secretary General to the President Salman Faruqi, Sindh Minister for Finance Syed Murad Ali Shah, Sindh Minister for Irrigation Jam Saifullah Dharejo, WAPDA Chairman Shakil Durrani, President's spokesperson Farhatullah Babar and senior officials of the concerned federal and provincial departments.

President's spokesperson, Farhatullah Babar, said that in line with the vision of the president to concentrate on building a number of small to medium dams, the presentation was in continuity of the previous meetings held to review the progress made so far in this regard.

Babar said that the president during the meeting emphasised upon the adoption of sprinkler irrigation and solar pumps irrigation. He said the government has envisioned to take advantage of public-private partnership in such projects to ensure efficiency, effective monitoring and early completion of the projects.

The briefing informed that financial assistance of \$700 million from Exim Bank of China has been arranged. It also informed that 200,000 acres of land would come under command areas of the three dams, namely Derawat, Nai Gaj, and Naulong. The president hoped that the involvement of Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) and Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research China (IWHR), being the specialised organisations, would help in utilising full benefits of small/medium dam projects.

All Day

Pak-US group agrees to add 10,000MW to national grid -- APP

Pak-US group agrees to add 10,000MW to national grid

Hanif Khalid

Monday, February 14, 2011

ISLAMABAD: The Pak-US energy sector working group has discussed a five-year public sector power generation enhancement plan (PSPGEP) 2010-15 whereby 10,000MW new capacity would be added to the national grid.

The plan, for the first time lays down various locations, technologies and fuel that will be used to achieve the envisaged additions, says an official document made available to The News here on Saturday.

According to the document, the plan firmed by the Pakistan Electric Power Company (Pepco) has been discussed between the Pakistan and US teams for concept clearance. It says as the National Power Plan 1994 is also under review by the Pepco and National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) for updating till 2030, the PSPGEP would add on to it rather would act as a catalyst.

To obviate the capacity-specific de-rated position, the implementation and execution of eight schemes have been discussed between the two working group leaders, Secretary Water & Power Javed Iqbal and David Goldwyn and David Lipton.

Among these schemes, the power plants that are under execution by the Northern Power Generation Company Limited (NPGCL) or Genco-III include the new combined cycle power plant project at Nandipur with the power generation capacity of 425MW and new combined cycle power plant project at Chichoki Mallian with the capacity of 525MW while the Central Power Generation Company Limited (CPGCL) or Genco-II is executing the combined cycle power plant replacement project at TPS Guddu with the capacity of 747MW.

The prospective power plants contemplated for replacement of old and inefficient machines and taken up with the US side for support included 350MW at NGPS Multan, 350MW at SPS Faisalabad and 200MW combined cycle plant at TPS Shahdara.

The projects will be executed by Genco-II. The future projects to be executed by Genco-III include 120MW combined cycle plant at TPS Sukkur and 200MW combined cycle plant at TPS Quetta.

"The implementation of exhaustive power generation programme being capital intensive has been suggested for financing through a combination of internal and external investments originating from the domestic Public Sector Development Programme, public-private partnership, grants/loan from MLBs/US-supported aid agencies and bridge financing modes," the document says.

According to the document, the US side was informed that during the preceding years the Gencos remained deprived of firming up power generation building capacities as no significant addition of higher capacity power plants could be made in the system.

All Day

China 2nd largest global economy and opportunities for Pakistan ((Important)) -- By Mehmood-UI-Hassan Khan

China 2nd largest global economy and opportunities for Pakistan ((Important))
Feb 15 2011.By Mehmood-UI-Hassan Khan

According to recent official figures of the Japanese government and the IMF (2011), China has surpassed Japan and succeeded to become world second largest economy after the US. The country of 1.4 billion souls has achieved it after three decades of spectacular socio-economic growth. During this period despite global economics recessions and financial crunches, China's economy stood firm, stable and sustainable.

The above diagram clearly verifies that China has been eclipsing Japan economically and now its GDP stand at US\$5.879 trillion which is grater than Japan's GDP US\$5.474 trillion. Many international economists around the globe are forecasting that China will pass the United States as the world's biggest economy as early as 2030. America's gross domestic product was about \$14 trillion in 2009.

In recent years, China has started to reshape the existing global economic order and system by virtue of its growing dominance of international trade, its huge deposits of foreign exchange reserves and United States government debt and its voracious appetite for oil, coal, iron ore and other natural resources.

The above given diagram indicates China's leading trade partnership with many countries around the globe. China is already a major driver of global growth. China the new economic superpower has begun to assert greater influence in Asia, Africa and Latin America by promoting bilateral trade, investments and joint ventures of multibillion dollars.

Beijing has also determination to shape global dialogues on a range of issues and it asserts that the dollar must be phased out as the world's primary reserve currency. And while the United States and the European Union are struggling to grow in the wake of the worst economic crisis in decades, China has continued to climb up the economic league tables by investing heavily in infrastructure and backing a \$586 billion stimulus plan in 2009-2010. According to the latest data of the World Bank (January, 2011), China's economy is forecast to expand about 10 percent in 2011 continuing a remarkable three-decade streak of double-digit growth.

According to the Washington-based institute for international economics in terms of purchasing power, China overtook the U.S. as the world's largest economy in 2010. It further elaborated that in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms the size of China's economy was U.S. \$14.8 trillion in 2010, compared to the U.S. economy's \$14.6 trillion. It is now the world's biggest auto market and the largest energy consumer.

New Chinese model of economic growth

During the recent time of global economic and financial crises the government of China introduced new economic growth model due to which it has succeeded to mitigate the bad effects of ongoing global economic recession on its macro-economy.

- (a) Role of the state, concentrates much more on increasing domestic demand for the products of the expanding industrial base.
- (b) Relies on building trading ties with the countries in its immediate neighborhood.
- (c) Paradigm shift in structure of the economy.
- (d) Mega projects of urbanization in order to discourage migration process
- (e) Exports-oriented policies and mechanism
- (f) Equitable exchange rate management
- (g) High levels of domestic savings invested in United States Treasuries.
- (h) Active participation of private sector
- (i) Renewal of agricultural sector especially in western provinces such as Xinjiang and Gansu.

Vast opportunities for Pakistan

Pakistan and China have jointly declared 2011 as “Pak-China friendship year” in recognition of 60 years of exemplary, all-weather friendship that has stood the test of time. Being the second largest economy of the world offers vast opportunities for the government and private sector in the country in the fields of energy, construction, agriculture and science and technology etc. China has already become the second leading economic partner of Pakistan and its entrepreneurs are making huge investments in the country. The Chashma power plants, heavy mechanical and electrical complexes and Gwadar deep sea port are the prime examples of Chinese huge investments in Pakistan.

During the recent visit of Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao both countries signed 17 agreements, four MoUs and one joint venture worth \$15 billion for investment in various sectors of the economy. Moreover, both the countries agreed to initiate a new 5 year development plan.

The public-private sector of Pakistan is keen to extend ties with Chinese firms in the field of energy in order to overcome its severe energy shortage. Many Chinese companies such as Harbin Power Engineering Company Ltd., Dongfang Electric Corp., CWE, Sinohydro Corp., Zhongyuan Engineering Group, Gezhouba Group, CMEC, and CMC are working in the energy sector of Pakistan. Chinese private companies are engaged with 40 projects amounting \$5 billion of hydropower, thermal power, nuclear power, and electricity transmission and transformation. Chashma Nuclear Power Plant II and the Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Station and the Sardhi wind power project are the prime examples of extended Pak-China energy cooperation. Remarkably, a project of \$6.5 billion generating 2,300MW of electricity through wind turbines and solar panels was also recently signed.

The bilateral trade between the two countries was \$6.8 billion in 2008, which was higher by 30 per cent as compared to the 2007. Bilateral trade volume in the first five months of 2010 increased by 31 percent and Pakistan's exports to China grew by 72 percent, as compared to the same period 2009. It is expected that trade between Pakistan and China is likely to surge to \$18 billion in the next 5 years.

Pakistan needs to extend bilateral ties in the fields of agriculture, seafood, basic raw materials, coal and marble. It must set up joint ventures with Chinese private companies with buy-back arrangements due to which our labours can learn Chinese technology, increase productivity as well increase yield per acre, and export backed arrangements with China will help us to further increase its exports to China.

Expected cooperation

Sectors

Defence production, Reko-Diq Copper Mining project in Balochistan, energy generation, technology development, industrial base and software park building and communications infrastructure to promote ICT sector, including e-government, e-commerce and e-enterprise.

According to the central bank of China (January, 2011) rose by \$199 billion to \$2.85 trillion, the biggest quarterly gain since 1996. Pakistan and China agreed to start currency swap which could be win-win situation for both the countries.

Concluding Remarks

Pakistan and China are strategic friends and now being the second largest economy of the world prospects are very bright to further strengthening of bilateral trade relations between the two countries in the days to come. The government of Pakistan must protect the Chinese interests as well as investments in the country. Joint ventures with China hold the key of success for Pakistan.

All Day

UNDP to build 100,000 houses for flood affected people of Sindh

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APP

UNDP to build 100,000 houses for flood affected people of Sindh
KARACHI, Feb 21 (APP) - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will build 100,000 residential units (houses) to provide shelter to flood affected people in Sindh. This was stated by Administrator of UNDP Ms. Helen Clark while talking to media on Sunday at village Bagho Tewno near Khairpur Nathan Shah, some 300 kms from here after handing over ownership documents of two- room houses under the rehabilitation programme for the flood affected people of the province. She said the cost of one house is US dollars 1000.

She said that so far, dollars 80 to 90 million have been spent from committed US dollars 120 million in aid for flood affected people in the province.

She said UNDP is working with the federal and provincial government to work out the need for housing in the flood affected areas.

The UNDP Administrator said that 800,000 houses have been damaged in Sindh alone and added that other donors including World Bank and donor countries were mobilising funds for the rehabilitation of the flood victims.

Ms. Helen, who is second in command after Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and a former prime minister of New Zealand said that she was pleased to see that locals were working to rehabilitate their houses in collaboration with funding agencies and government.

Meanwhile, she was informed that there was dire need for supply of more water pumps to flush out the water from flood-hit areas.

A director of UNDP, Ajay Chavvar, Sindh Minister for Rehabilitation Muzaffar Shujra, Provincial Advisor to Chief Minister on Economic Affairs, Qaiser Bengali and Local MPA Imran Leghari were also present on the occasion.

All Day

Tokyo, Feb 22 (ANI): Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari said that Japan should extend similar kind of cooperation to his country on peaceful uses of nuclear energy like that of India. -- ANI

Tokyo, Feb 22 (ANI): Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari said that Japan should extend similar kind of cooperation to his country on peaceful uses of nuclear energy like that of India.

"If Japan is willing to cooperate with India in nuclear technology and is giving nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, I do not see any reason why we should not deserve the same," The Nation quoted Zardari, as saying.

On being asked whether he would raise the question of nuclear technology cooperation during his meeting with the Japanese counterpart, Zardari said: "I do not know what questions would be raised during discussions. It depends upon the circumstances there."

Both India and Pakistan are not signatories to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, and the talks between Japan and India have raised concerns among survivors of the 1945 US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, who fear that such negotiations could splash water on global efforts for a world without nuclear weapons, the paper said.

Japanese firms, however, have keen interest in providing nuclear power generation technology and related equipment to India, which plans to build 20 new nuclear power plants by 2020.

Zardari refuted report media reports that Pakistan has more nuclear weapons than India, saying, "There is always a difference between facts and fantasy." Zardari, who has already arrived in Japan, is scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister Naoto Kan and meet with Japanese business leaders and companies doing business with Pakistan. (ANI)

All Day

APP -- وزیراعظم گیلانی کی جنوبی کوریا کے سفیر سے گفتگو

وزیر اعظم گیلانی کی جنوبی کوریا کے سفیر سے گفتگو

Friday, 22 April 2011

وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی کی جنوبی کوریا کے سفیر سے گفتگو

اسلام آباد - 21 اپریل (اے پی پی) وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی نے جنوبی کوریا کے تجارتی شعبہ پر زور دیا ہے کہ وہ پاکستان کے توانائی، سیٹیل، گاڑیوں اور مواصلات کے شعبوں میں براہ راست سرمایہ کاری کریں۔ اس میں جنوبی کوریا کے سفیر چونگ جو چونی واور مشترکہ منصوبے شروع کریں۔ جمعات کو وزیراعظم ہا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے وزیراعظم نے اس خواہش کا اظہار کیا کہ لوٹی گروپ جیسی کورین کمپنیاں کراچی اسلام آباد موٹر وے کی تعمیر میں حصہ لیں۔

All Day

Zardari's Japan visit brings tangible benefits for Pakistan -- APP

Zardari's Japan visit brings tangible benefits for Pakistan

By Munir Hussain

ISLAMABAD, Feb 24 (APP): The visit of President Asif Ali Zardari to Tokyo has given a new impetus to bilateral relations as political and business leaders of Japan finalized proposals for investment in various sectors in Pakistan. During his visit, President Zardari met with Japanese business leaders, who showed keen interest in making further investment in industrial, infrastructure, energy and railway sectors in Pakistan. Japan is the fourth largest investment partner of Pakistan.

During the visit, Tokyo offered over Rs. 14 billion interest-free loan to Pakistan for rebuilding roads and bridges destroyed in the devastating floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This loan is repayable after 40 years at a nominal interest rate of 0.01 per cent and will be utilized for building 400 kilometers of rural roads, 120 kilometers of provincial roads and over two kilometers of bridges that were washed away during the floods.

President Zardari held talks with Japanese Emperor Akihito, Prime Minister Naoto Kan, Foreign Minister and Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry and explored avenues to strengthen the already existing bilateral ties in multifaceted fields.

The Japanese investors agreed to set up special captive power plants in a special economic zone and offered trade concessions to Pakistan.

The two sides agreed to begin joint ventures in food and agriculture, energy, water resources, infrastructure development and for establishing of a special economic zone near Karachi over an area of 2,000 acres for investment by Japanese entrepreneurs.

Emperor Akihito and Prime Minister Kan appreciated and recognized Pakistan's role in the war on terror and noted numerous sacrifices of its security forces and people.

The visit laid the groundwork for a tripartite conference of corporate leaders of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Japan to further explore the prospects of joint economic collaboration in the border regions for the uplift of tribal areas as a means of fighting militancy.

For decades Japan has been assisting Pakistan in social, health and education sectors. Japan has also played a key role in holding the first meeting of Friends of Pakistan in Tokyo.

During his meetings, President Zardari stressed on establishing a regular dialogue mechanism at the level of foreign ministers, for enhanced market access through FTA and GSP plus trade concessions, educational and vocational training for FATA (Federally Administered Tribal Areas), enhanced Japanese ODA and support for upgradation of infrastructure in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for facilitating trade on the Pak-Afghan border and beyond.

President Yamaha Motors told President Asif Ali Zardari during a meeting in the Japanese capital that Yamaha Motors Pakistan will spend \$150 million and set up a new plant at a 50-acre plot in Bin Qasim.

Yamaha Company would bring advanced technology to Pakistan initially manufacture 22,000 motorcycles of 125-150 cc with EFI engines per year and during next ten years the annual production of its factory will reach 750,000. The project is expected to create 45,000 jobs.

February 25, 2011

Fri

All Day

China, Pak to enhance military ties -- APP

China, Pak to enhance military ties

25. February 2011

China and Pakistan have announced a packed military exchanges' schedule in 2011. This would include two joint military exercises, Chinese media quoted visiting Pakistan Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee chairman Gen Khalid Shameem Wynne as saying on Wednesday. The two countries would participate in a multinational naval drill in March besides two bilateral army and air force exercises. Chinese People's Liberation Army chief Gen Chen Bingde told the Pakistani general that China is willing to work with his country to develop the mechanism of defence and security talks, deepen strategic cooperation and contribute to the peace, stability and common development in the region and the world, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

All Day

Kuwait rendezvous: President, Saudi prince discuss regional situation -- APP

Kuwait rendezvous: President, Saudi prince discuss regional situation

By APP

Published: February 28, 2011

President Asif Ali Zardari meeting Prince Nayef bin Abdel Aziz Al Saud at Bayan Palace in Kuwait. PHOTO: APP

President Asif Ali Zardari met Saudi Second Deputy Prime Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud in Kuwait on Saturday night to discuss bilateral relations and the current situation of the region.

The late-night meeting was held at the Bayan Palace after the two attended Kuwait's golden jubilee celebrations.

President Zardari visited the Gulf state on a special invitation from Kuwait's Amir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, to attend celebrations marking his country's independence day.

Pakistan's Ambassador in Kuwait Iftikhar Aziz said that the president also urged upon the Kuwaiti leadership to increase the number of Pakistani skilled labourers in the country.

Talking to PTV, Aziz said the President discussed bilateral ties and the enhancement of trade between both the countries with the Amir of Kuwait, the crown prince as well as other dignitaries.

He said that the president's visit should prove to be productive by attaining more investment opportunities. Aziz said that more than 153,000 Pakistanis are currently working in Kuwait, who send \$450 million remittances annually to Pakistan.

March 3, 2011

Thu

All Day

Swiss chamber attracting Pak textile producers -- app

Swiss chamber attracting Pak textile producers
Amanullah khan

Karachi —A large trade delegation from Pakistan is scheduled to visit Switzerland in May to explore business opportunities and boost bilateral trade between the two countries; this was announced by the Consul General of Switzerland, Didier Boschung at a meeting with office bearers and members of Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI). The Swiss diplomat also invited the KATI industrialists to also become a part of the delegation which is being organized by Swiss Business Council (SBC) with the collaboration of Swiss Asian Chamber Zurich and Swiss Consulate General Karachi.

“I am optimistic that the business alliance of these two bodies will open new doors and create new business opportunities to further stimulate economic ties between the two countries”, Boschung said. He said that textile machinery is the major import into Pakistan from Switzerland and the Swiss manufacturers have received very good response in the largest textile machinery exhibition – Megatech 2011 recently held at Lahore Expo Centre.

He said that about 99 per cent of all companies in Switzerland are belonged to the SMEs sector and provide 67 per cent of all jobs. He further said that the bilateral trade between the two countries was reached to half a billion Swiss francs in 2008 but it fell down to 360 million francs in 2010 due to economic slow down. He however said that the Switzerland is the 5th largest foreign investor in Pakistan .

Boschung said that Switzerland has joined Schengen Space in 2008 and the businessmen and visitors can enter into Switzerland with the Schengen Visa. He informed that applications for Schengen visa can be submitted to the Embassy of Switzerland in Islamabad via the Fedex/Gerry's visa services in Karachi or directly at the visa counter of the Embassy.

All Day

China begins construction of Fast Attack Craft for Pak Navy -- APP

China begins construction of Fast Attack Craft for Pak Navy

China Pakistan Navy

Posted On: Mar 04, 2011

A file photo. BEIJING (PTI): China recently began the construction of two state-of-the-art fast attack missile crafts for the Pakistan Navy in addition to several naval frigates it is building for its close strategic partner.

The keel-laying ceremony of Fast Attack Craft FAC(M) of Pakistan Navy was held at Xingang Shipyard in China's Tianjin city.

Pakistan Navy has signed a contract with China Shipbuilding & Offshore International Company Limited (CSOC) for construction of two state-of-the-art missile crafts which will be equipped with latest weapons and sensors.

According to the arrangement, one craft would be built in Tianjin while the other would be constructed at Pakistan's Karachi docks.

The first craft was expected to join the force in October this year. There is no word about the financial arrangements for the construction of the two vessels.

China, a major supplier of weapons systems to Pakistan, is involved in a host of defence projects with its close ally.

These included development of new fighter aircraft JF-17 Thunder which is being produced in both the countries with engines supplied by Russia.

China is also constructing a number of naval frigates for the Pakistan Navy which so far took delivery of three frigates and the fourth one is being constructed with Chinese cooperation in Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works.

The commencement of the construction of the new missile boats followed the visit of Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of the Pakistan Army, Gen. Khalid Shameem Wynne last week to take part in the eighth round of security dialogue between the two countries.

The talks focussed on finalisation of new projects to expand their defence cooperation as well as steps for timely completion of ongoing projects.

All Day

US asked to fund Bhasha Dam under KLL -- APP

US asked to fund Bhasha Dam under KLL

Mehtab Haider

Friday, March 04, 2011

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has formally requested the USA to provide \$7.5 billion for 40 development projects, including the Diamer Bhasha Dam, under the Kerry Lugar Law (KLL). The funding for this crucial hydropower project may be made part of financing plan for the next financial year 2011-12, it has been learnt.

Initially, Islamabad made a request for 39 development projects with estimated cost of over \$12 billion and Bhasha Dam was not part of that wish list. "But recently, Pakistan made a fresh request to include construction of this mega project as part of \$7.5 billion funding coming over the next five years in shape of KLL," one of the top officials of economic team revealed while talking to a select group of journalists here on Thursday.

Dwelling upon the lingering controversy over Raymond Davis episode that harbours the potential of derailing bilateral ties between the two countries, the official confided that John Kerry during his latest visit to Pakistan asked the concerned authorities about specific measures required to be taken by Washington to end this confrontational atmosphere between the two countries.

He said that Pakistan forwarded 40 projects of four major areas including energy, food security, human resource development and others. "If USA agrees to provide

much less amount even \$5 to \$10 million for construction of \$11.5 billion Bhasha dam it will help to lure other multilateral and bilateral donors in a great way," the official added. He said that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) had asked the government to evolve consensus on Diamer Bhasha Dam among the federal government, four provincial governments and Northern Areas and also made payments for land acquisition. The Council of Common Interest has granted its approval for Bhasha dam and payment of compensation for land acquisition is also underway, he maintained.

When asked about the slow release of funds under KLL, the official said that the process of donor funded projects took more time as completion of mechanism starting from opening up assignment account, arrangement of counterpart funds in Pak rupee and proposal for request (RFP), bidding and many other hectic requirements consumed a lot of time. "It is an achievement that USA has agreed to provide around \$874 to \$900 million through government's sponsored agencies and ministries concerned out of total \$1.5 billion per annum under KLL," he further said.

He said that USA had provided \$180 million during the last financial year that included \$75 million for Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), \$45 million for HEC and \$65 million for Malakand IDPs. During the ongoing financial year, USA has provided \$60 million for Post Flood Recovery and was going to provide \$190 million for Citizen Damage Compensation of flood affected areas. Pakistan and USA have also assigned \$40 million for Gomal Zam dam and \$26 million for Satpara dam and these funds are expected to be released soon. He said that the government had estimated to receive around \$4 billion during the current fiscal year but it is likely to face a shortfall owing to Islamabad's inability to arrange counterpart funding in the wake of financial constraints.

All Day

Multi-million dollars LNG import project in doldrums -- app

Multi-million dollars LNG import project in doldrums

By: Ahmad Ahmadani | Published: March 05, 2011

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ISLAMABAD – The fate of multi-million dollars Mashal Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) integrated import project is in doldrums as it has been delayed for yet another time on technical grounds, sources informed on Friday.

Sources in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources told The Nation that one other major reason in the delay in re-tendering of the project was site of its change as site from onshore to offshore operations so the proposed multi million dollars LNG supply project has been delayed because of technical hitches.

“Since this requires highly technical studies to proceed on with the proposed project, therefore, new technical studies have to be completed before re-tendering of the project”, sources added.

Zaar Qadir, Spokeperson of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources on Friday while talking to The Nation informed that by early June 2011 necessary requirements regarding award of re-tendering of multibillion dollars import of LNG and setting up Liquefied Natural Gas terminal project would be completed. He said the government has decided to change the site from on shore (Port Qasim Karachi) to a new offshore site. “ I am hopeful that after the completion of both Met Oceanographic Study and Environmental Impact Assessment Study (EIAS), the concerned authorities will be able to award the tender”, he said adding that this due process would take two months to complete the above said required studies.

Over a question, spokesperson of Petroleum Ministry however seemed hopeful and replied that during first half of 2013, the Government of Pakistan would be able to commission the tender. “ It would be an open tender where any party either new or old can participate”.

Sources in Petroleum Ministry privy to this development informed that after the debacle of GDF-Suez and Dutch firm 4Gas LNG supply deal, the cash strapped PPP-led government would float a tender to invite companies to participate in a bid for import of LNG and setting up Liquefied Natural Gas terminal project in light of Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet to float tenders for multimillion dollars Mashal Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) integrated import project in June 2011.

It may be recalled that on February 11, 2011, Imtiaz Qazi Secretary Petroleum Ministry while talking to this correspondent informed that the tender would be floated in mid of February, 2011 through international media and private parties would be invited. Over a question, he said that bid would be invited in three phases, first bid will be for met ocean graphic study as it is not a fix terminal and will be located in off-shore, second bid will be for environment impact assessment study (EIAS) and third bid will be for initiating physical work, he added.

All Day

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Barrister Masood Kausar Saturday said that Pakistan and Turkey enjoys remarkable people to people cordial relations, but there is need to further cement these friendly ties in boosting economic cooperation among both -- app

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Barrister Masood Kausar Saturday said that Pakistan and Turkey enjoys remarkable people to people cordial relations, but there is need to further cement these friendly ties in boosting economic cooperation among both the brotherly countries.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held here in connection with officially handing over of Honorary Consul Generalship of Turkey to Senator Salim Saifullah Khan.

Turkish Ambassador, Mr. Mustafa Babur Izlan, Former honorary Consul General, Brig (R) Mehmood Jan, Diplomats from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and other countreis, parliamentarians and high ranking officials attended the ceremony.

Governor Barrister Masood Kausar said Pak and Turkey are two brotherly countries having much similarity in culture, tradition and history. Both the countries, he

continued, stood behind each other and supported the cause of each other at time of need and crisis.

Infact, he added, Pakistan is mostly at the receiving end at time of need in crisis like natural disasters or military adventures with neighboring country.

Turkey remained the first country which provided help and assistance to Pakistan in the wake of devastating earthquake and floods. People cannot forget practical support of Turkey to Pakistan in 1965 and 1971 wars, he added.

However, its time to boost economic relations between Pakistan and Turkey, Governor reiterated.

Speaking on the occasion, Turkish Ambassador, Mr. Mustafa Babur Izlan said brotherly relations between Turkey and Pakistan are strengthening with every passing day.

"It is gratifying to note that in the development of relations between our two brotherly countries, a stage has now been reached where this relationship can serve as a model for many other states to follow," he added.

Turkish Ambassador added that built upon such sound foundations, the cordial relations between Pakistan and Turkey have stood the repeated tests of time. Politically, we have been supporting each other in all international forums.

Mustafa Babur said he and his Turkish fellows always consider Pakistan as their next home.

He said its time to vow on this auspicious occasion that we shall spare no efforts to further strengthen the fraternal ties between our two countries through mutual cooperation in all fields.

New Honorary Consul General of Turkey, Senator Salim Saifullah Khan in his speech said his priority will be further strengthening already existing strong cultural and religious bonds between people of Pakistan and Turkey.

He said he will also endeavor to explore avenues for joint ventures of Pakistan and Turkey for the economic stability and prosperity of our country. He said we should have to learn and benefit from the experience and success of Turkey who has recovered from a very problematic situation to a strong economic country.

He also called for a special meeting to discuss opportunities through which Pakistan can benefit from Turkey.

Earlier, Turkish Ambassador for handover exequatur to newly Honorary Consul General of Turkey, Salim Saifullah Khan. He also hoisted Turkish flag at the resident of Senator Salim Saifullah Khan.

Cheema said that according to an industrial survey, 17-year-old machinery was being used by the Pakistani industrial sector, which consumed 3,000 megawatt extra electricity. Similarly, in the agriculture sector, outdated machinery was used in tubewells, which cost higher, he said and added that if the energy conservation programmes would not start, Pakistan could face severe loadshedding. He called for a change in lifestyle for energy conservation plans and said that the work, which could be done in daylight, should not be delayed. Dr Arafa Syed said that the Wapda employees got free electricity thus they did not bother for energy conservation. She said rulers after coming into power forget the needs of public.

Punjab University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Mujahid Kamran said that in Pakistan, successive governments continued the policies on nuclear programme while the rest of policies and projects were closed. He said if the successive governments would not have disturbed the power generation programmes, then there would have been more mega dams constructed in Pakistan.

Former commerce minister Humayun Akhtar Khan said previous political and dictatorial governments were responsible for power crisis in Pakistan. He said if the PPP would construct the Kalabagh Dam, they would forgive their all corruption and misdeeds. He said the PPP must educate the people of Sindh that the KBD would be favourable and beneficial for them. He said their government had approached the Chinese government for energy generation project for Thar coal but it did not respond.

All Day

Brazil to invest in Ethanol and Bio Fuel sector in Pakistan -- APP

Brazil to invest in Ethanol and Bio Fuel sector in Pakistan

RAWALPINDI: Brazil would invest in Ethanol and Bio Fuel sector in Pakistan to overcome the prevailing energy crisis of the country. The Brazilian Embassy would facilitate the Pakistani business community to enhance the bilateral trade between the two countries.

This was stated by the Brazilian Ambassador Alfredo Leoni while talking to the traders and industrialists during his visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) here on Wednesday.

Alfredo said that his country has developed Bio fuel and Ethanol sector and eager to assist Pakistan in this sector. He said that his country was fully aware of the energy crisis of Pakistan and keen to help her friend in the said sector.

The Ambassador said that Brazil is the third largest sugar producer of the world and can help Pakistan to curb the sugar crisis as well. He stressed the need of the continuous contacts of the business communities of the both countries to gear up the trade relations. He ensured his full cooperation in this regard.

Speaking on the occasion President RCCI Ali Raza said that Brazil has achieved immense progress in agriculture , mining and service sectors. "Brazil must help Pakistan for the betterment of the said sectors in the country", he added. President RCCI said that trade volume between the both country is around \$170 million which is very low, it is need of the hour to promote the trade activities between the two friend countries.

All Day

KARACHI: The Karachi Electric Supply Company (KESC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a Chinese company to convert two of its boilers at the Bin Qasim Thermal Power Station from furnace oil to coal, said KESC Manager Strategic Planning a -- APP

KARACHI: The Karachi Electric Supply Company (KESC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a Chinese company to convert two of its boilers at the Bin Qasim Thermal Power Station from furnace oil to coal, said KESC Manager Strategic Planning and Business Development Ammar Ali Talaat.

The conversion aims to reduce KESC's reliance on furnace oil and will result in cost savings for the company and the consumers in the form of tariff reduction, he said while speaking at an energy awareness conference, organised by KESC at NED University here on Saturday.

He pointed out that Pakistan can save approximately \$1 billion if power plants are converted to coal from furnace oil.

Published in The Express Tribune, March 6th, 2011.

All Day

KESC to install 300MWcoal-based power plant -- APP

KESC to install 300MWcoal-based power plant

our correspondent

Sunday, March 06, 2011

Karachi

The Karachi Electric Supply Company (KESC) has partnered with a British company for its Thar coal power project as the foreign company would do the mining while the KESC would install a coal-based power plant of 300 Megawatt (MW) whose capacity will be enhanced to 1200 MW in future.

Participants of an energy awareness conference, held here on Saturday, were informed that the KESC had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a Chinese company for the development of Sonda-Jherruck Integrated Coal Mine and Power Plant Project in District Thatta. The annual production of this project would

be 1.8 million tonnes of coal.

The conference held at the NED University of Engineering & Technology was aimed at creating awareness among the university students about need to shift from traditional energy resources to renewable energy. The KESC was the main sponsor of the event

Addressing the NED University students on the use of coal power as an alternative energy source in Pakistan, a KESC official Ammar Ali Talaat, said the KESC had earlier signed another MoU with a Chinese company to convert two of its existing boilers of Bin Qasim Thermal Power Station from furnace oil to coal.

The conversion aims to reduce KESC's reliance on furnace oil and result in cost savings for the company and for power consumers in the form of tariff reduction.

The KESC official said that coal was keeping pace with consumer electricity demand and according to a recent study coal would still account for about 45 to 50 per cent of world's power generation in 2025.

Pakistan has huge reserves of coal and it provides the best solution for its energy crises, said the KESC official.

The speaker at the conference pointed out that in Pakistan the potential 3000 MW power plants run on furnace oil and if measures are taken to convert these power plants to coal, the country will be in a position to save approximately one billion dollars.

All Day

Pak firm offers dates to Spanish chain -- app

Pak firm offers dates to Spanish chain

By our correspondent

Sunday, March 06, 2011

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani firm has offered a major Spanish retail chain to import dates from Pakistan, a statement said.

Harvest Tradings Chief Executive Officer Ahmad Jawad offered supply of Pakistani dates to the visiting El Corte Ingles Group delegation, headed by Borja de la Cierva. El Corte Ingles is the 34th largest retail chain in the world the statement said.

Pakistan is the fourth largest producer of dates and is rated among the largest producers of date palm in the world with over 150 different varieties, Jawad said in the statement.

He urged with the Food and Agriculture Ministry to devise a strategy to promote value added date exports and date processing through private and public sector partnership.

"The projected target of date exports from Pakistan till June 2010 was 160,000 tonne worth \$55.0 million, but due to packaging delays we could not achieve target," he said.

All Day

Pak-Bosnian trade may rise five times: envoy -- app

Pak-Bosnian trade may rise five times: envoy

Mehtab Haider

Saturday, March 06, 2011

ISLAMABAD: The bilateral trade between Pakistan and Bosnia can be increased five times over the medium-term from the current two million euros per annum, Bosnian Ambassador to Pakistan Armin Limo said in an interview with The News.

Islamabad can use Bosnia to send its products to different European countries, he said. "Pakistan can send its products to Bosnia directly. Currently Pakistani made-ups are reaching our homeland through other countries that results in increased prices," the Ambassador said during the one-hour talk at the Bosnian embassy.

He said that they could help Pakistan in areas of energy and defence production as Bosnia possessed expertise in these two sectors. He said that Bosnia possessed expertise in construction of mega dams, transmission lines and grid stations and Pakistan could utilise its experience to overcome its energy crisis.

“During the era of former Yugoslavia, our Army was one of the biggest in the region so defence production is also remarkable. We can provide assistance to Pakistan in this regard.”

Limo said that Bosnia was making efforts to become part of EU and improved bilateral ties with Pakistan could help the country to boost its exports in years ahead when Bosnia would possibly join the 27-member bloc.

The Ambassador said that they were arranging Sarajevo Business Forum (SBF) from April 6 to 8 in Bosnia this year in which 30 to 40 businessmen from Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad and other cities would participate. “This year’s Sarajevo Business Forum will feature projects from energy, infrastructure, tourism, agriculture, wood industry, education, construction and banking,” he said.

The first SBF was held last year in which investors identified 157 projects worth \$15 billion for cooperation. The Ambassador said that this year organisers were aiming to attract even larger number of international investors willing to support projects or enter joint business ventures.

Limo said that they would invite Pakistan’s minister for tourism to attend the forum, which aimed to attract foreign investment for the country.

He said that the five independent states that had been part of former Yugoslavia now possessed population of over 20 million and Pakistan could boost trade ties with them by enhancing its exports of textile, rice and surgical and sports goods.

In the upcoming SBF, he said, more than 600 delegates would participate with whom Pakistani businessmen could develop networking to boost business.

The Ambassador said that the two countries’ good relations needed to be translated into enhanced economic cooperation. He recalled that former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto visited Bosnia in 1994 when they were passing through their most difficult time. He said they could not forget that gesture of Pakistan’s political leadership.

Bosnia and Herzegovina and its neighbouring countries are safe, stable and an excellent gateway to the EU countries, he claimed. They have modern legislation adapted to the highest international standards ready to accept foreign investors, he concluded.

All Day

.PPAF sets up wind turbines, solar panels for power generation Monday, 07 March 2011 16:09 0 Comments ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), in partnership with Aga Khan Planning and Building Services- Pakistan (AKPBS-P), has set up w -- app

.PPAF sets up wind turbines, solar panels for power generation Monday, 07 March 2011 16:09 0 Comments ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), in partnership with Aga Khan Planning and Building Services- Pakistan (AKPBS-P), has set up wind turbines and solar panels to provide environmentally friendly electricity to approximately 6,500 people in 29 villages of district Thatta in Sindh province.

According to PPAF sources, the AKPBS-P, with the support from PPAF, the World Bank and the contribution by the village residents in the form of unskilled labour, installed 29 wind turbines, 29 solar panels and streetlights in various villages located in Thatta, which were without electricity for decades.

The immediate benefit of electrification is improved lighting, which is much brighter, cheaper and safe than that provided by kerosene lamps, the sources added.

They said that by utilizing local and renewable energy resources instead of diesel for power generation, not only protect the environment but also stimulates economic benefits for an improved quality of life.

A key reason why this village has not yet benefited from an electric grid connection is its geographical isolation that offered an extremely low return on investment made in grid extension. This challenge required a local and cost-effective solution which was provided by PPAF.

All Day

Call to build mega dams, including KBD -- app

Call to build mega dams, including KBD

Jawwad Rizvi

Monday, March 07, 2011

LAHORE: Pakistan needs construction of mega dams, including the Kalabagh Dam, on an immediate basis in order to meet its ever increasing energy requirements. There is a need to start work on other energy generation resources besides taking concrete steps for energy conservation.

These views were expressed by the participants of a seminar on 'Energy conservation: public and new trends' here at a hotel on Sunday. The seminar was organised by the Mir Kalilur Rahman Memorial Society (MKRMS) and hosted by MKRMS chairman Wasif Nagi.

Speaking on the occasion, Chenab Group Chairman Mian Muhammad Latif said that the textile sector was playing the role of the backbone of the national economy by creating 19 million jobs but it was badly affected by the energy crisis, which had crippled it. He said that due to the crisis, majority of textile units were operational just for two days a week, adding that the crisis had deepened in the Punjab after the 18th Amendment. He said due to the energy crisis, 8,000 workers were unemployed during last the two years just from his textile unit. He said globally, the industry was prioritised with regard to energy supply while in Pakistan, it was neglected.

Qayum Hajzi criticised the government for not prioritising the industry in the energy supply. He suggested the industry to follow efficient energy consumption pattern and opt for energy conservation methods.

Chairman Electrical Engineering Department University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Dr Muhammad Kamran said that there was a need to focus on hydel generation instead of thermal generation as electricity produced from furnace oil was costlier than others. He called for energy conservation programmes in various departments along with reviewing the electricity distribution mechanism. He

said the work should initiate on the energy generation projects.

Prof Dr Nadeem Hayat Malik said the health sector was also affected due to the energy crisis. He said hospital equipment was also damaged due to fluctuations in voltage and interrupted power supply, seeking uninterrupted power supply to the health sector, especially hospitals.

Former managing director Pepco Thair Basharat Cheema said that there was a need to create an awareness among the public about the energy consumption and conservation. He said the per unit electricity cost generated from Bhasha Dam would be Rs8 during the first 10 years. He said in the first 10 years, the cost of energy from any hydel power project was always higher. He said China itself was facing energy shortage, how it could provide cheap electricity to Pakistan. He said it was negative propaganda that China was ready to supply energy to domestic users at Rs500 per house. Similarly, Iran never offered free power supply to Pakistan, he said, adding that in the past, Iran offered power supply at 3 cent per unit and was now asking 11 cents.

All Day

Pakistan to provide Tajikistan easy access to its sea ports: Zardari -- **APP**

Pakistan to provide Tajikistan easy access to its sea ports: Zardari
ISLAMABAD, March 7 (APP):

President Asif Ali Zardari said on Monday that Pakistan was ready to assist Tajikistan to provide an easy access to its ports, especially the Gwadar Port. In this context, he said, "we are ready to discuss the conclusion of a Trilateral Transit Trade Agreement between Pakistan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan." Addressing a banquet held at Aiwan-e-Sadr here in the honour of Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, Zardari said that Pakistan was ready to discuss frameworks that would facilitate trade and economic relations between the two countries.

"We are keen to create an interface between the private sectors of the two countries," the President said.

The President said that Pakistan-Tajikistan relations were rooted in the centuries old bonds of history, faith, culture and traditions and it was a matter of great satisfaction that this relationship was strengthening with every passing day.

"The mutual feelings of friendship trust and confidence are reassuring," he said.

Highlighting the shared objectives and aspirations of the two countries, the President noted that the two countries were determined to work closely to strengthen the whole range of bilateral relations.

He said that Pakistan and Tajikistan were determined to work together to promote stability, peace and development in the region.

The President said that the foundation of the relationship was laid by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto nearly 17 years ago when she had sent him as a special envoy of Pakistan to Tajikistan.

The President said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto had a vision of promoting regional trade and connectivity.

He said, "had those policies been continued, we would have been at much better position today and had not faced many problems such as the present energy crisis."

The President, on this occasion, also emphasized that the people, intelligentsia, civil society, business community and media should step forward and take ownership of the policies for the sake of ensuring their continuity.

The President said that the present government was picking up the threads to enhance and further strengthen Pak-Tajik relations and pursuing the policies that would promote regional trade and enhance collaboration to meet the challenges facing the region and bringing in socio-economic development.

Appreciating close partnership of the two countries within the frameworks of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Economic Cooperation Organization, Organization of the Islamic Conference and the United Nations, the President said, "we will continue to strive to strengthen our partnership with Tajikistan."

He said it was a matter of great satisfaction that the two countries share a vision of regional development and connectivity.

CASA-1000 project aimed at providing 1000 megawatts of electricity to Pakistan

through Afghanistan was a concrete step for the realization of such vision, he said. The President said Pakistan was keenly interested in enhancing air and road links to Tajikistan.

He said that their region faced challenges of extremism, terrorism, narcotics and organized crime. "We have to work closely to overcome these challenges in order to promote peace and stability in our region."

Talking about regional situation, the President reiterated that Pakistan would extend all assistance to Afghan brothers in their quest for peace and prosperity, based on the time tested principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

The President also thanked the government and people of Tajikistan for their generous humanitarian assistance for flood victims in Pakistan last year.

The President hoped that the visit of Tajik President to Pakistan would become a new milestone in the brotherly relations between the two countries.

In his remarks, Tajik President Emomali Rahmon assured of his government's commitment to enhance trade and energy connectivity to bring regional prosperity. He said that Tajikistan had enough hydel resources to provide electricity to not only Pakistan and Afghanistan but also to other regional countries.

Emomali Rahmon said the two countries needed to strive for multidimensional relations whose indestructible foundations were built by their forefathers.

He said his generation was raised in the spirit of Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

The Tajik President expressed satisfaction at the strengthening bilateral relations and said their ties would be a model for other countries.

All Day

US to give 40pc aid via non-govt sectorBy Our Staff Reporter | From the Newspaper -- APP

US to give 40pc aid via non-govt sectorBy Our Staff Reporter | From the Newspaper

March 7, 2011 (4 days ago)Mr Grossman, on his first two-day visit to Pakistan, held a meeting with Finance Minister Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh. - File Photo

ISLAMABAD: With more than 75 per cent payment of the Coalition Support Fund (CSF) still due, Pakistan and the United States agreed on Sunday to channel 60 per cent assistance under the Kerry-Lugar-Berman Act through the government and 40 per cent in civil society initiatives.

Pakistan sought a clear system of information-sharing from Washington and a joint mechanism for oversight of the funding to be disbursed by the US through civil society organisations.

New US Special Representative to Pakistan and Afghanistan Marc Grossman will hold discussion on the joint oversight mechanism with the top political leadership on Monday against the backdrop of the diplomatic row over the Raymond Davis issue.

Mr Grossman, on his first two-day visit to Pakistan, held a meeting with Finance Minister Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh.

The Pakistani side is also reported to have expressed concern over an inordinate delay in setting up reconstruction opportunity zones (ROZs) in the tribal region because of legal hitches in the US.

The government believes the proposed zones might already have lost their 'opportunity' value. According to sources, the visiting envoy was told that more than 75 per cent of the payments for providing services to the coalition forces under the CSF were pending despite the implementation of a verifiable system for reconciliation of bills.

Mr Grossman promised to personally look into the billing claims and the verification process for speedy payments, the sources said.

An official statement said Mr Shaikh gave a detailed account of economic reforms undertaken to improve the economic conditions and highlighted budget priorities, including resource mobilisation, expenditure cut, tax measures and control of

inflation.

The minister gave an overview of the state of the economy when the government had taken over and said economic growth had been lost because of non-reconciliation of development with reforms and the whole macro-economic framework had been affected.

He apprised the US envoy of difficult decisions he had to take for transition of the economy towards development after last year's floods and increase in international oil prices.

Mr Grossman praised the economic measures and expressed the hope that they would benefit the people.

He said relations between Pakistan and the US were not only beneficial to both countries but also imperative for the region.

Praising Pakistan's focus on development of the energy sector, he said it was fundamental for the economic and social development of any country.

The American representative stressed the need for developing relations in terms of people-to-people contacts.

The finance minister said the main objective of the strategic dialogue was to shift the relationship from government to the people's level and strengthen it at the grassroots.

The two sides also discussed the establishment by the United States of an enterprise fund for better access of Pakistani products to the United States market.

All Day

Despite the Capital Development Authority's (CDA) reluctance, the government has directed it to take control of the Pak-China Friendship Centre. The decision was confirmed in a letter sent to CDA by the prime minister's Secretariat here on Monday. -- The Express Tribune

Despite the Capital Development Authority's (CDA) reluctance, the government has directed it to take control of the Pak-China Friendship Centre. The decision was confirmed in a letter sent to CDA by the prime minister's Secretariat here on Monday.

"It is an honour for the civic body to take responsibility of the Pak-China Friendship Centre," said CDA Spokesperson Ramzan Sajid.

He said that the CDA Chairperson Imtiaz Inayat Elahi had requested the director of the Jinnah Convention Centre to carry out necessary paperwork for the acquisition.

Sajid said the centre will be run following operational rules and procedures of the Jinnah Convention Centre, which is currently used to host various government and privately-sponsored events.

A CDA official on condition anonymity said that private firms are required to pay hefty amounts to hold events at the Jinnah Convention Centre and if the Pak-China centre is operated following the similar rules, "its returns can significantly reduce the financial constraints faced by the civic body". However, other CDA officials said it will be a difficult task for the civic authority to run such a large centre and arrange interesting cultural shows and exhibitions.

Inaugurated by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani, the Pak-China Friendship centre was constructed on December 18 at a cost of Rs3 billion. Spread over 12 acres of land, the centre houses an art auditorium with seating for 800, an exhibition centre, multipurpose hall, and a conference room seating 250.

Published in The Express Tribune, March 8th, 2011.

All Day

Haqqani seeks investment in power sector -- app

Haqqani seeks investment in power sector

NEW YORK, March 8 (APP): Highlighting Pakistan's growing electricity needs, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Hussain Haqqani told American and Pakistani businessmen on Monday that his government was planning further structural reforms in the economy to attract investments both foreign and domestic. "The power sector offers a preferred area for investment," Haqqani said at a gathering billed as this year's biggest investment roadshow—"Pakistan Day Conference 2011". "Pakistan is looking for investments in power production," he said, while pointing that the country was short by about 5,000 MW in peak season.

Citing facts and figures, Ambassador Haqqani said Pakistan's economy remained resilient in the face of multiple challenges posed by rising food prices, oil prices, the catastrophic floods in 2011, global financial crisis and the cost of fighting war against terror.

"All foreign investment in Pakistan is fully protected by law and in addition to this; Pakistan has signed bilateral agreements for protection of investment with 47 countries and Avoidance of Double Taxation with 52 countries, including the US," Ambassador Haqqani told the well-attended conference.

The Pakistan envoy said new incentives and further liberalization measures include: (1): The capital markets are being developed along modern lines with the assistance of Asian Development Bank.

(2): The establishment of the Securities and Exchange Commission has improved the regulatory environment for stock exchanges, corporate bond market and the leasing sector.

(3): Pakistan is home to over 600 foreign companies, which means Pakistan

facilitates liberal investment policy.

(4): There has been stabilization in policies which is extremely vital for investors.

(5) Pakistan has a liberal foreign exchange regime with few restrictions on holding foreign exchange and bringing it in or out of the country.

(6): There are no limits on the inflow or outflow of funds for remittances of profits, debt service, capital, capital gains, returns on intellectual property, or payments for imported inputs.

(7): The facility for contracting foreign private loans is available to all those foreign investors who make investment in the approved sectors.

(8): Foreign controlled manufacturing concerns are allowed to borrow on the domestic market according to their requirement.

(9): There is a greater degree of transparency in procurement practices. International tenders are properly advertised.

(10): There is no restriction on payment of royalty / technical fee etc. in the manufacturing sector.

(11): Zero import duties on capital goods. The import tariff on agriculture machinery (not manufactured locally) for registered corporate agricultural projects will be zero-rated.

(12): The investors who invest in the newly opened sectors can import plant, machinery & equipment (not manufactured locally) at discounted rate of customs duty which is 5% and also avail first year allowance @ of 50% of the cost of plant, machinery & equipment.

(13): Zero import duties on raw materials used in the production of exports;(13) Foreign investors are allowed participation in industrial projects, on the basis of 100% foreign equity, without any permission from the Government.

(14): The manufacturing sector is open to foreign investment.

(15): Oil and gas is another sector in which investor can have offshore and onshore exploration. They can invest in refinement, pipelines and storage facility.

(16): Full repatriation of capital gains, dividends and profits.

(17): There is no requirement to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Provincial Governments for the establishment of projects, and,(18): Regulatory reforms have led to the establishment of a legal framework for licensing and regulating private housing lenders.

"The financial sector of Pakistan is regarded as one of the best performing sectors in our region," Ambassador Haqqani said. "The banking sector has shown robust performance. Other sectors with untapped potential like horticulture dairy, construction, infrastructure development, manufacturing and tourism can also prove highly profitable for any prospective investor. The initiative taken to set-up Special Economic zones (SEZs) and other industrial Zones will further harness the investment potential in the country."

All Day

ISLAMABAD: Country can generate over 350,000 MW electricity through wind against the total demand of about 21,000 MW in peak summer, urging the need for solid steps to explore the potential. -- app

ISLAMABAD: Country can generate over 350,000 MW electricity through wind against the total demand of about 21,000 MW in peak summer, urging the need for solid steps to explore the potential.

Official sources in Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) told APP that Pakistan has numerous resources to get energy and around 57,000 MW electricity could be generated only from Ghara-Keti Bandar corridor where average wind speed is more than seven meter per second throughout a year.

They said the corridor has potential which is twice of India and other sites in Balochistan, Punjab, and Northern Area which are being identified for power generation.

The sources said Pakistan is among the world's highest and fastest rising urbanisation and electricity is available to only 57 percent of the population while natural gas to 21 percent.

Only 45 percent of rural population have access to grid electricity and there is

extreme shortage of electricity and gas leading to load shedding.

Economic growth is also suffering due to gas and power load shedding, leading to closures of industries, they added.

They said the total installed and dependable capacity of the country's power sector is 20,231 MW.

11,735 MW could get from public sector while 8,496 MW from private sector, they added.

"By switching to alternative energy means, we can reduce dependence on imported oil, running into billions of dollars and undermining economic development," they observed.

It is pertinent to mention that USA has wind power installed capacity of 25,170 MW, Japan 1,880 MW, India 9,645 MW, Greece 985 MW, Egypt 365 MW, Iran 85 while Pakistan has only 6 MW so far.

The government has set up AEDB in 2003 for implementing policies programs and projects through private sector in the field of alternative energy.

All Day

Pak-Tajik presidents' determine to further strengthen relations in all fields -- SANA

Pak-Tajik presidents' determine to further strengthen relations in all fields

South Asian News Agency (SANA) · March 8, 2011 ·

ISLAMABAD, (SANA): President Asif Ali Zardari and his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rehmon have reiterated their determination to further strengthen Pak-Tajik relations in all fields of life.

Addressing the foundation of stone laying ceremony of Tajik Embassy in Islamabad on Tuesday both the leaders also expressed their commitment for working together for peace and stability in the region.

President Asif Ali Zardari said Pakistan is keen to strengthen infrastructure and energy connectivity besides further promoting trade and economic cooperation with Tajikistan.

He said Pakistan also wishes to closely cooperate with its centuries long neighbour to promote stability, peace and prosperity in the region.

He expressed the confidence that the current visit of the Tajik President will open new avenues of cooperation and give a stimulus boost to the rapidly growing relations between the two countries.

Tajik President in his remarks also expressed hope that his visit will go a long way in further stimulating relations with Pakistan. He said we have developed strong relations with Pakistan and it will remain major focus of Tajik foreign policy also.

The Tajik President expressed gratitude for Pakistan's support in overcoming tyranny in his country few years back and hosting intra-Tajikistan dialogue in Islamabad to resolve the issues.

He said he has held fruitful and constructive meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari which will help given new boost to our relations. He said Tajikistan intends to further develop multi-faceted relations with Pakistan which could mutually benefit the peoples of both the countries.

All Day

صدر زرداری اور صدر ممانوف کی ملاقات، کراچی اور گوادر تاجک مصنوعات کی درآمد
-- Jang کیلئے اتفاق
صدر زرداری اور صدر ممانوف کی ملاقات، کراچی اور گوادر تاجک مصنوعات کی درآمد کیلئے اتفاق

سیکیورٹی اور توانائی کے شعبوں 'مواصلات'، 'معیشت'، 'اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) پاکستان اور تاجکستان نے تجارت میں باہمی تعاون بڑھانے اور کراچی و گوادر سے تاجک مصنوعات کی درآمد کیلئے دوطرفہ تعاون سے اتفاق کیا ہے جبکہ تاجکستان نے پاکستان اور بھارت کے درمیان مذاکرات کی بحالی کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہوئے دونوں ممالک پر زور دیا ہے کہ وہ بات چیت کے ذریعے اپنے اختلافات کو حل کریں۔ صدر آصف زرداری اور تاجکستان کے صدر امام علی رحمانوف نے پیر کو ایوان صدر میں مذاکرات کے بعد مشترکہ پریس کانفرنس توانائی اور مواصلات کے شعبوں میں تعاون اور رابطے بڑھانے کو اپنی 'سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے باہمی تجارت ترجیح قرار دیا۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے پہلے ون آن ون ملاقات کی جس کے بعد وفود کے ہمراہ ڈیڑھ گھنٹے تک بات داخلہ اور مواصلات کے وفاقی وزراء کے علاوہ سیکرٹری خارجہ اور دیگر اعلیٰ حکام نے 'چیت ہوئی۔ تجارت صدر آصف زرداری کی معاونت کی جبکہ تاجک وزیر خارجہ اور تاجک صدر کے وفد میں شامل دیگر حکام نے صدر امام علی رحمانوف کی معاونت کی۔ تاجک صدر نے اس یقین کا اظہار کیا کہ ان کے دورے سے دوطرفہ تعلقات کو تقویت ملے گی۔ تاجک صدر نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان سیکیورٹی اور توانائی کے شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے کی وسیع گنجائش ہے، ہم نے 'ثقافت'، 'تجارت'، 'معیشت' توانائی اور دیگر شعبوں میں تعاون کے حوالے سے تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ انہوں نے 'انفراسٹرکچر'، 'دوطرفہ تجارت' ایک سوال پر کہا کہ کاسا 1000 انرجی پراجیکٹ علاقائی تعاون کا ایک اہم منصوبہ ہے جو اپریل 2011ء میں مکمل ہونا تھا مگر نہیں ہوسکا اور ہم نے اتفاق کیا ہے کہ اس منصوبے کی رفتار تیز کرنے کیلئے کوششیں کی جائیں گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ تاجکستان کراچی اور گوادر کے راستے اپنی برآمدات بھیجنے میں دلچسپی رکھتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ صدر زرداری کے دورہ دوشنبے کے منتظر ہیں جس کے دوران اہم علاقائی معاملات پر بات چیت ہوگی۔ صدر زرداری نے تاجک ہم منصب کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان اور تاجکستان کے تاریخی اور مذہبی رشتے ہیں اور دونوں ممالک کے عوام ایک دوسرے سے گہرا 'درمیان صدیوں پرانے ثقافتی لگاؤ رکھتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے تاجک صدر کے ساتھ اپنی بات چیت کو انتہائی مفید قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ ہم نے معیشت اور سیکیورٹی میں تعاون بڑھانے پر تبادلہ خیال 'تجارت'، 'انفراسٹرکچر'، 'دوطرفہ تعلقات' بشمول توانائی کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان تاجکستان کو اس کی مصنوعات کی درآمد کیلئے ٹرانزٹ میں مکمل تعاون دینے کیلئے تیار ہے۔ ایک سوال پر صدر زرداری نے بتایا کہ انہوں نے پاکستان اور تاجکستان کے درمیان سڑک اور پی آئی اے کے لینڈنگ رائٹس اور پین بجلی کے منصوبوں پر تفصیلی بات 'واخان کوریڈور' ریل کے رابطوں چیت کی۔

All Day

Pak, GCC ink MoU on strategic talks -- app

Pak, GCC ink MoU on strategic talks

Published: March 09, 2011

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ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Tuesday signed a MoU providing institutional framework to formally launch Pakistan-GCC strategic dialogue in Abu Dhabi.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar led the Pakistan delegation at the ministerial-level meeting chaired by H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Minister of the UAE. UAE is the current chair of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). All GCC member States participated in the meeting. Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah of UAE and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar signed the MoU launching the Pakistan-GCC strategic dialogue. The MoU provided the institutional framework for this dialogue.

Addressing the meeting, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs underscored the "immense potential of mutually beneficial partnership" between the GCC and Pakistan. She added that further strengthening Pakistan-GCC relations would remain "a cardinal principle of Pakistan's Foreign Policy".

Khar stressed on the Islamic/Arab collective strength. She added that the GCC-Pakistan institutional relationship would provide new impetus towards optimising and realising the "tremendous potential that our geographic proximity, solidarity and economic complementary confer on us." She called for early finalisation of the Pakistan-GCC free trade agreement.

The Minister of State requested the GCC countries to continue to support flood affectees by contributing to Pakistan's Citizen Compensation Fund.

The UAE Minister for Foreign Affairs welcomed the commencement of Pakistan-GCC Strategic Dialogue, adding that Pakistan had always been an important ally for the GCC. The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister said that Pakistan had "immense potential".

All Day

Pakistan is planning of buying six more submarines with options for joint development of future submarines with China. The reason for that is, because Pakistan is seeking for ways to strengthen its under-sea warfare capabilities. -- a))

Pakistan is planning of buying six more submarines with options for joint development of future submarines with China. The reason for that is, because Pakistan is seeking for ways to strengthen its under-sea warfare capabilities.

For now it is unknown what the class of the submarines is, but according to anonymous information Islamabad required an advanced under-sea vessel with air independent propulsion (AIP) system. This system will give the submarine the capability of staying submerged for longer and operating noiselessly.

The federal Cabinet of China was asked by the Defence Ministry to approve the purchase of the submarines in order to counter the "rising threats" for Pakistan. At the moment the Pakistan Navy has five active diesel electric submarines and 3 midget submarines. The submarines include Agosta-90b which are going to be equipped with MESMA AIP system, and Agosta-70.

Pakistan's Defence Ministry informed the Cabintet for the force imbalance in the country's Navy when it comes to the number of ships and submarines used in the fleet. The Navy is planning to acquire six AIP conventional submarines which will be able to operate in multi-threat environment under tropical conditions. After this deal is approved, the Pakistan Navy and China Shipbuilding and Offshore Corporation are expected to sign a contract for the joint development and production of submarines.

The "urgent naval requirements" aren't discussed for the first time as they were an issue discussed by President Asif Ali Zaradari during his visit to China in 2009. This problem was also discussed during Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visitation to Pakistan in December 2010.

The Naval Headquarters are pursuing the purchase of submarines from Chinese authorities due to the fact that they will receive full firm support for the submarine project. According to the proposed contract, four submarines will be manufactured at a Chinese Shipyard while the other two will be constructed in Pakistan.

The Co-development will not only include projecting and manufacturing, but also training of Pakistani personnel, upgrades of Pakistan Navy's shipyard and other things. At the moment Pakistan is finalizing a deal of inducting 36 J-10 fighter aircraft from China in a deal which has an estimated worth of over USD 1.4 billion. Islamabad and Beijing are also collaborating to build an advanced fighter — JF-17 or 'Thunder'.

All Day**Pak-US programme benefitting Pakistani educators -- app**

Pak-US programme benefitting Pakistani educators

ISLAMABAD, Mar 9 (APP): The Pak-US cooperation in education has led to sharing of best practices between the education sectors of the two countries and benefitted around 200 educators from Pakistan. The Pakistani Educational Leadership Project that focuses on; Science, English, Mathematics, Leadership, Research and Evaluation, ICTs and Environment is aimed at exposing educators to cross cultural educational initiatives for professional up-gradation and sharing of best practices between Pakistan and the United States of America.

Under the Pakistani Educational Leadership Programme, 160 Secondary Pakistani Educators have participated from all provinces and areas of Pakistan. Another 40 educators will be visiting the Summer Institute in summer this year, raising the number to 200.

The programme in Pakistan is managed by the Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) - 'Centre for Education & Consciousness' (www.itacec.org) and its recently established Institute for Professional Learning (IPL) affiliated to the University of Education (UoE) and the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

The core areas of the week-long American Reciprocal Program in March included Adaptability of the Institute's content to Pakistan's demographic and geographic challenges, lessons learned about grant themes and applicability to conditions on the ground.

The concluding Session of the Week-Long Reciprocal Programme was attended by Joint Education Adviser (JEA) Project Wing Arif Majeed Ministry of Education and Micah Risher US Embassy, Project Director PELI and Baela R Jamil Director programmes ITA,IPL.

Participants shared experiences on diversity, multiculturalism and tolerance, professional development and peace education.

The programme has been running successfully for 8 years and has received appreciation from Pakistani Counterpart Institutions for its valuable contribution to quality assurance and professional development in Pakistan - sensitive to local contexts, emergencies and heritage.

The Pakistani Education Leadership Project (PEL) Project and Institute (PELI), funded by the U.S Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, was launched in 2003.

All Day**World has interest in Pakistan's economic potential: Haqqani --****APP**

World has interest in Pakistan's economic potential: Haqqani

WASHINGTON, March 9 (APP): Pakistan's tremendous economic potential remains attractive for investors around the world despite international focus on security situation in the region, Islamabad's ambassador to the United States said. Ambassador Husain Haqqani told CNBC channel that Pakistan is "far more stable than people give it credit for" in the midst of attention to security and political issues. "Because Pakistan is a democracy, it is a fledgling democracy, there is a lot of noise. We are fighting terrorism and, at the same time, maintaining economic growth," said the envoy, who also underscored the vast investment opportunities existing in various sectors of the economy at a conference in New York. Haqqani noted in the interview that Pakistan's economic growth is going to be "relatively down" this year, partly due to devastating floods last summer.

"But other than that, the economy continues to move in the right direction. We are on track for economic reform, (although) we will be affected by high oil prices (as) we are a major oil importer."

"As a country that is at war (against terrorists) and has a fallout from the war in Afghanistan, we are a country that gets more attention because of security and political reasons than for economic reasons."

"But the country's economic potential remains something that a lot of people are interested in."

Islamabad is working to change the unfair tax structure of the past through steps like introduction of a general sales tax across the board in the country to try to recover more money from people who are liable to income tax.

He said the Pakistanis living below poverty line and those living on meagre income cannot be expected to pay taxes and this way only those earning enough are left to pay taxes.

Just as America witnessed a long battle over federal income tax imposition at the turn of the 20th century, Pakistan is also going through a similar process.

"Give us some credit. We will get there. We understand that that is the way forward. You cannot fuel an economy, you cannot have federal spending without people being taxed. We have to find a solution to both (tax) resistance and evasion."

Responding to a question about Raymond Davis, who is under detention since he killed two men in Lahore in January, the ambassador said Pakistan believes in dealing with the issue in accordance with the law. In the context of resolution of the issue, he also noted the importance of respect for sentiments of the Pakistani people.

"The important thing to understand is what Davis did is not conducive to good U.S.-Pakistan relations" in the current environment, with a lot of disapproval of the United States.

In answer to another question, Haqqani felt that both countries are conscious that the relationship is the single most important relationship in that entire region right now.

"On that hinges America's success in the war against al-Qaeda and the Taliban and stability of the vast region," he said, hoping that controversy over one individual would not be allowed to undermine the relationship.

All Day

Zardari, Gul agree to enhance cooperation in diverse fields -- APP

Zardari, Gul agree to enhance cooperation in diverse fields

* President calls for increasing bilateral trade with Turkey to \$2 billion by 2012

KUWAIT: President Asif Ali Zardari and Turkish President Abdullah Gul on Saturday agreed to facilitate the two countries' private sectors for increased joint ventures in trade and communication and to gain maximum benefit from their geo-strategic locations.

Zardari and Gul travelled back in the same car from the Loyalty Parade Avenue, a 50-minute drive to the Bayan Palace, after which talks between the two leaders also continued for more than half an hour at the Turkish president's villa.

The leaders, who are in Kuwait to celebrate the 50th independence day of the oil-rich country, exchanged views on wide-ranging regional and international issues, besides the situation in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

Zardari called for increasing bilateral trade with Turkey to \$2 billion and beyond by 2012, through encouraging public as well as private sectors to collaborate in key sectors such as infrastructure, engineering, telecom, mining and technology. He reiterated his call for urgent up-gradation of the existing railway line between the two countries for running of fast cargo trains in order to boost trade.

The president said that he had already proposed that the new fast cargo train be named 'Gul Train' after the name of the Turkish president. He said that during his recent visit to Japan, he had invited the Japanese investors to invest in the 'Gul

Train project' and had offered them to raise equity for it through the local stock market.

Gul said that Pakistan and Turkey enjoyed social relations that were rooted in centuries of old bonds of history, culture and religion. He expressed satisfaction over the frequency of interaction at the leadership level.

The Turkish president lauded the sacrifices rendered by the Pakistani nation and its armed forces in the war against terrorism, adding that the recent successes of Pakistan in the fight against terrorists had made them proud.

He expressed satisfaction over Pak-Turk defence cooperation and suggested increased military to military interaction, joint military exercises, training and related research and development.

On the Pak-Afghan-Turkey trilateral process, Zardari said Pakistan was committed to consolidating the gains made in engagement on Afghanistan to bring peace, stability and development in the country.

Zardari thanked Gul for Turkey's generous assistance to Pakistan at a time when the country had been ravaged by the worst floods in its history.

In the meantime, the president joined Kuwait's Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and world leaders in celebrating Kuwait's golden jubilee celebrations.

Around 40 heads of state and government, envoys and special representatives gathered at the 'Loyalty Parade' - the hallmark of the festivities, held at Kuwait city's north. app

All Day

ADB hopes Pakistan will benefit from CARs cooperation -- APP

ADB hopes Pakistan will benefit from CARs cooperation
our correspondent

Thursday, March 10, 2011

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) hopes that Pakistan can benefit from the regional cooperation through connectivity with the Central Asian Republics (CARs) in areas of oil, gas, electricity, communication links and trade facilitation and related initiatives and peace building process in Afghanistan will result in enhancing the regional cooperation.

An initiative of 10-member countries — Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) — that was also joined by Pakistan a few months back, possessed the potential to include projects of significance, such as, the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan and India (TAPI) gas pipeline, import of crude oil for utilising facilities of refineries, electricity and initiatives under the National Trade Corridor (NTC) for establishing road, rail and air links with Afghanistan and beyond CARs.

A three-member mission of ADB, led by Director Regional Cooperation of Bank, Ms Hattori, is visiting Pakistan to explore ways and means for the possibility for making part of Islamabad's specific projects for CAREC initiatives under its 2020 vision, which is currently preparation. Talking to the media here on Wednesday, along with ADB's representative in Pakistan Rune Storem, Ms Hattori, said that the CAREC initiative, resulted into undertaking crucial projects of \$15 billion in last 10 years which were currently being implemented with advance stage, and now this forum for enhancing regional cooperation would focus on three main areas of energy security, communication and trade facilitation and next 10 year strategy would be placed with the consultation of all 10 member states.

Rune Storem said that the TAPI was at quite advanced stage as gas price agreement was on cards. The regional states have made significant progress and the stage is set when it will be on the ground, he maintained.

He said that the ADB planned to provide financing for Peshawar-Torkham road in 2012 that would help to grant easy transportation of goods. He said that CAREC-SAARC cooperation was the dream of future as it was not yet on the negotiation table of member countries. He said that the member countries had decided to select non-controversial areas in order to enhance cooperation on the basis of better economic returns.

All Day

Pakistan, China aim to enhance tariff concessions to 90 percent -- APP

Pakistan, China aim to enhance tariff concessions to 90 percent

Thursday, March 10, 2011

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China will begin bilateral talks in the second phase of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on Thursday (today) for enhancing tariff concessions from existing 36 percent to 90 percent, a senior official of the commerce ministry said on Wednesday.

A two-day dialogue at the federal capital will finalise the modalities of FTA for the next phase and will also review the first phase of the FTA, the official told The News.

Pakistan and China signed a free trade agreement on Nov 24, 2006. The base year for tariff reduction or elimination was 2006 for China and 2006-07 for Pakistan.

The commerce ministry official said that both sides achieved the set target of 36 percent tariff elimination on tradable items in the first phase of FTA.

The second phase of FTA will aim at tariff concessions of up to 90 percent for the next five years ending in 2017. The remaining 10 percent will be included in "no concession list", said the official.

Both sides will also chalk out a strategy to convert the region into free trade area by 2017, he added. The first installment concession of this second phase will begin from 2013.

Besides this second phase of FTA, the commerce ministry will continue to pursue Chinese authorities for concessions on an already forwarded list of 286 items, he added.

China has placed 2,681 tariff lines in category-I, 2,604 tariff lines in category-II, 604 tariff lines in category-III and 529 tariff lines in category-IV.

The category-V with 1,132 tariff lines will have no concession.

Pakistan has placed 2,423 tariff lines in category-I, 1,338 tariff lines in category-II, 157 tariff lines in category-III, 1,768 tariff lines in category-IV, 1,025 tariff lines in category-V and 92 tariff lines in category-VI.

Pakistan's trade deficit with China swelled from \$2.95 billion in 2006-07 to \$4.01 billion in 2007-08, fell to \$3.39 billion in 2008-9 and again rose to \$3.43 billion in 2009-10.

The commodities which registered a phenomenal growth from China include machinery and parts, chemical elements and compounds, fertiliser manufactured, yarn and synthetic fibres and construction material. —Aftab Maken

All Day

President for early finalization of Pak-China currency swap agreement

-- app

President for early finalization of Pak-China currency swap agreement
ISLAMABAD, Mar 10 (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari Thursday emphasized upon the early finalization of currency swap agreement between Pakistan and China saying that such arrangements should also be concluded with Turkey and Sri Lanka to promote and facilitate bilateral trade with these countries. The President expressed these views while chairing a meeting on the proposed currency swap arrangements, here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr on Thursday.

The meeting was attended among others by Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs Dr. Abdul Hafeez Sheikh, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Governor State Bank of Pakistan Shahid Kardar, Chairman Board of Investment (BOI) Saleem H. Mandviwala, Chairman All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) Gohar Ejaz, Chairman Pakistan Business Council Asad Omar, senior government officials and Spokesperson to the President Farhatullah Babar.

Briefing media Spokesperson to the President Farhatullah Babar said that the Governor State Bank gave a detailed briefing on the progress made so far regarding currency swap arrangements between the People's Bank of China and the State Bank of Pakistan.

He said that the proposed arrangement was being examined from a legal perspective.

Talking about similar arrangements with Turkey and Sri Lanka, he said that Turkish authorities have responded positively towards considering such arrangement with Pakistan.

He said that a high level delegation from Pakistan recently visited Sri Lanka and held meetings with the Governor State Bank of Sri Lanka and Secretary Finance and held discussions on broadening economic cooperation between the two countries.

It may be recalled that during the visit of President Zardari to Sri Lanka in November last, he had offered assistance to Sri Lanka in cement, sugar and dairy industry and had urged the business community to take advantage of liberal trade policies of the country, through joint ventures and investment.

The President then addressing a business forum, comprising leading business personalities and corporate leaders, had emphasized upon the need to explore new and unconventional phase of economic cooperation marked by more trade, currency exchange and banking interchanges.

The President had also proposed currency swap arrangement between Pakistan

and Sri Lanka to reduce pressure on foreign exchange reserves of the two countries, Farhatullah Babar said.

Similarly the Turkish Prime Minister during his visit to Pakistan in October 2010 had welcomed currency swap arrangements with Pakistan, he continued.

During today's meeting, the President recalled his meetings with the leaderships of China, Turkey and Sri Lanka and their interest for entering into such arrangement with Pakistan.

Later, Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs Dr. Abdul Hafeez Sheikh briefed the meeting about his recent meetings with the IMF officials.

All Day

US Embassy Supports Pakistan's Youth Leadership -- app

US Embassy Supports Pakistan's Youth Leadership

ISLAMABAD: The United States Embassy in Islamabad supported a youth leadership conference in Islamabad for Pakistani students, during which they gain leadership skills to help them create positive change in their communities.

The conference, entitled "Giving Youth Tools to Become Change Makers," was co-sponsored by the Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network and organized by alumni of U.S.-government funded exchange programs.

The three-day event brought together 30 students (ages 16-18) from Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, and Islamabad. The students held discussions on problem solving, democracy, conflict resolution, and youth empowerment.

Speaking at the closing of the conference on March 6, Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer Saad Bokhari said, "Our message for the youth of Pakistan is that we will continue to support you by teaching leadership skills, critical thinking, and respect for tolerance to help you serve the needs of your communities."

The Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network, launched in September 2008 by alumni of exchange programs in the United States, builds upon the shared values of the people of Pakistan and the U.S. to promote trust and understanding.

All Day

Coal termed future of Pakistan -- APP

Coal termed future of Pakistan

KARACHI: Pakistan has huge reserves of coal and it provides the best solution for its energy crises, speakers at an energy awareness conference said Saturday.

Ammar Ali Talaat manager strategic planning and business development KESC said coal is keeping pace with consumer electric demand and according to a recent study coal will still account for about 45-50 percent of world's power generation in 2025.

KESC has signed MoU with a Chinese company to convert two of their existing boilers of Bin Qasim Thermal Power Station from furnace oil to coal. The conversion aims to reduce KESC's reliance on furnace oil and result in cost savings for the company and the consumers in the form of tariff reduction. The KESC has partnered with a British company who will do the mining while KESC will put up a power plant of 300 megawatt, which will be enhanced to 1200 megawatt in the future. The speakers pointed out in Pakistan the potential 3000 megawatt power plants run on furnace oil and if measures are taken to convert these power plants to coal, the country will be in a position to save approximately one billion dollars. ppi

All Day

The first round of negotiations between Pakistan and China for the second phase of tariff concessions began in Islamabad on Thursday -- APP

ISLAMABAD:

The first round of negotiations between Pakistan and China for the second phase of tariff concessions began in Islamabad on Thursday.

Senior Joint Secretary Commerce Himayat Ullah Khan, the leader of Pakistani representatives at the meeting, expressed satisfaction with the implementation status of the first phase of a free trade agreement (FTA). "However, we feel there is a need to conduct an empirical evaluation to help us understand some of the issues which we could address better in the second phase of negotiations," asserted Khan.

The Chinese delegation, led by Deputy Director General Trade H E Zhu Hong, also met with Federal Minister for Commerce Makhdoom Amin Fahim. The commerce minister highlighted that the country's economy was under tremendous strain due to multiple factors such as the war against terror, global economic meltdown and the worst floods in Pakistan's history in August.

Fahim said that one of the main concerns of the stakeholders was the growing trade deficit with China.

The minister was told the first phase of negotiation is expected to conclude by the end of 2012.

Published in The Express Tribune, March 11th, 2011.

jang -- کرغیزستان گوادرندرگاہ سے فائدہ اٹھانے، پاکستان کی پیشکش کرغیزستان گوادرندرگاہ سے فائدہ اٹھانے، پاکستان کی پیشکش

بشکک (ایجنسیاں) پاکستان اور کرغزستان نے باہمی تجارت بڑھانے، علاقائی استحکام اور پارلیمانی وفود کے تبادلوں پر اتفاق کیا ہے جبکہ پاکستان نے کرغزستان کو گوادرندرگاہ سے فائدہ اٹھانے کی پیشکش کی ہے۔ وزیراعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی نے بدھ کو یہاں کرغزستان کے صدر روزہ اوتن بایوفا سے ملاقات کی، ملاقات میں مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کے فروغ اور علاقائی و عالمی امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے ملاقات کے دوران اس بات پر بھی اتفاق کیا کہ باہمی تجارت بڑھانے کے ساتھ ساتھ توانائی و ڈھانچے کی تعمیر اور افغانستان میں استحکام کیلئے ملکر کام کریں گے۔ وزیراعظم گیلانی نے کہا کہ دوطرفہ تجارت کے فروغ سے دونوں ممالک کو فائدہ ہوگا اور یہ بات انتہائی اطمینان بخش ہے کہ کرغزستان سمیت وسطی ایشیائی ریاستوں سے پاکستان کے تعلقات مسلسل بڑھ رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گوادرندرگاہ میں گہرے پانی کی بندرگاہ خطے کیلئے تجارتی مرکز بن سکتی ہے اور کرغزستان کی حکومت اس سے فائدہ اٹھا سکتی ہے۔ اس موقع پر میزبان صدر اوتن بایوفا نے کہا کہ مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کے ذریعے دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان دوطرفہ تعلقات کا نیا دور شروع کیا جائیگا، کرغزستان گوادرندرگاہ کے ذریعے عالمی منڈیوں تک رسائی چاہتا ہے اور اس مقصد کیلئے مواصلاتی ٹرانسپورٹیشن اور سڑکوں کے رابطوں کو بہتر بنانے کیلئے اقدامات اٹھانے جارہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی افغانستان میں امن اور تعمیر نو کیلئے کوششیں قابل تحسین ہیں۔

All Day

پاکستان اور تاجکستان کے درمیان زراعت، صحت اور کھیل کے شعبوں میں تعاون کے 3 معاہدے -- JANG

پاکستان اور تاجکستان کے درمیان زراعت، صحت اور کھیل کے شعبوں میں تعاون کے 3 معاہدے

صحت اور کھیل کے شعبوں میں ■ اسلام آباد (رپورٹ حنیف خالد) پاکستان اور تاجکستان کے درمیان زراعت تعاون کے 3 معاہدے طے پا گئے ہیں۔ معاہدوں پر دستخط کی تقریب وزیراعظم ہاؤس اسلام آباد میں ہوئی جس میں وزیراعظم گیلانی اور تاجک صدر امام علی رحمن نے بھی شرکت کی۔ قبل ازیں دونوں رہنماؤں نے دو توانائی اور مواصلات کے ■ سرمایہ کاری ■ معیشت ■ طرفہ امور پر تبادلہ خیال بھی کیا اور تجارت شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ پاکستان کی طرف سے وزیر زراعت و خوراک اسرار اللہ سیکرٹری صحت نرگس سیٹھی اور سیکرٹری کھیل عزیز احمد بلوچ نے معاہدوں پر دستخط کئے۔ دریں اثناء وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی اور تاجکستان کے صدر امام علی رحمن نے دونوں ملکوں کے مابین دفاع سلامتی معیشت تجارت سیکورٹی کے میدان میں تعاون بڑھانے کا فیصلہ کیا دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان ایوان وزیراعظم میں اہم مذاکرات ہوئے جس کے بعد وزیراعظم نے مہمان صدر کے اعزاز میں عشائیہ دیا جس میں چیف آف آرمی سٹاف جنرل ■ وزراء کے علاوہ جوائنٹ چیفس آف سٹاف کمیٹی کے چیئرمین جنرل شمیم وائیں چیف آف انٹرسٹاف انیر چیف مارشل ■ چیف آف نیول سٹاف ایڈمرل نعمان بشیر ■ اشفاق پرویز کیانی قمر سلیمان اور دوسری شخصیات نے شرکت کی۔ وزیراعظم گیلانی نے کہا کہ تاجکستان اور پاکستان میں تاریخی ثقافتی رشتے میں صدر امام علی رحمن کے دورے سے دو طرفہ تعلقات مزید مستحکم ہونگے دونوں ممالک ای سی او اور آئی سی یو این جیسے

All Day

Pak-China FTA expansion in June

Pak-China FTA expansion in June

ISLAMABAD, Mar 22 (APP): Pakistan and China will discuss expansion of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries in the coming June with an aim to boost bilateral trade. "The concerned officials from Pakistan would visit Beijing in June and hold detailed discussions with their counterparts on the issues of eliminating the tariffs and prepare a comprehensive package for the implementation of the second phase of the FTA," a top official of the Ministry of Commerce told APP.

The first phase of the FTA is scheduled to end on December 31, 2012, which will be followed by the second phase from January 2013, the official added.

The respective organizations of the two governments have finalized the modalities for the negotiations for the implementation of second phase of the FTA during a two-day long session held in Islamabad during the second week of this month. According to Ministry of Commerce sources, both the countries will eliminate tariffs on around 90% products, both in terms of tariff lines and trade volume within a reasonable period of time on the basis of consultation and accommodation of the concerns of both the countries.

Meanwhile, Joint Secretary Commerce Rehmatullah Khan told APP that during the upcoming discussions on FTA, efforts would be made to minimize the trade gap between the two countries.

According to trade data, the overall trade between the two countries in 2010 was \$8.67 billion, showing an increase of 28 per cent. Chinese exports to Pakistan stood at US\$6.9 billion, showing an increase of 36 per cent while its imports from Pakistan were recorded at US\$1.78 billion, showing upward trend of 37 per cent, he added.

"During the recent negotiations, both the sides have realized that the growing trade gap needs to be minimized," Rehmatullah remarked.

He said that China was a huge economy and was having trade surplus with all partner countries, adding that the FTA proposals would be formulated in a way to help Pakistan boost exports to China to minimize the gap.

He said that enhancing trade volume between the two countries was a healthy sign, adding that negotiations for the second phase would also deal with this particular issue.

It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan and China signed Free Trade Agreement in June 2006 which came into effect from July 2007. The FTA was aimed at reducing tariffs on each other's imports in two phases.

All Day

Pakistan eyes \$350b GCC trade

Pakistan eyes \$350b GCC trade

Posted on March 22, 2011

by admin786| Leave a comment

[Translate]

By Nissar Hoath

ABU DHABI — Pakistan is set to increase its trade volume with GCC countries from the current \$59 billion to \$350 billion by 2020 with the UAE being the largest partner.

Pakistan's Ambassador to UAE Jamil Ahmed Khan, a career diplomat, said the trade relations between Pakistan and the region have been thriving despite of economical turbulences worldwide.

"The trade relations between Pakistan and the UAE was on the rise due to economic changes. Trade with the UAE and other GCC countries are going to take a lead in accordance to surveys and studies. The volume of trade is going to enhance from \$59 billion to \$350 billion by the year 2020," Khan told Khaleej Times in an exclusive interview.

He said Pakistan being so close to the UAE should participant in enhanced trade activities, and Pakistan's traders and exporters need to work on this vision so they are able to match their output with the requirements of UAE and other GCC countries in the coming nine years.

"The embassy will be all out to guide them through in their endeavour to upgrade their system for the enhancement of export from Pakistan," he promised.

About the two-way trade with the UAE, he said the Emirates was the third highest partner with Pakistan worldwide, and will soon be the first highest partner in the near future.

"We have approximately a \$7 billion two-way trade volume between the two countries. This is annual average figure," he said.

Khan, who also served in the United Nations in different parts of the world as an special envoy, said there had been "a gradual increase [in the trade exchange] until the recession hit the entire world," and that time there was a slight decline otherwise there has been almost an eight per cent of increase in the trade volume between the two countries. It was from 2001 until the recession hit the world in 2008 and onward." He added the UAE has been the largest investor in Pakistan for a quite some time.

"Even now we see it as one of the highest investors in Pakistan. The UAE investment we see in Pakistan, it covers many fields. We have investors like Al Dhabi Group, etisalat, petroleum companies and so on. There are many UAE investors in Pakistan now."

Remittances boom

When asked about remittances from 1.5 million Pakistani expatriates in the country, Khan said there has constant increase making the UAE the world largest remitter.

"We have now surpassed all the countries all over the world in terms of remittances from overseas Pakistanis. We [in the UAE] are the number one country in the world in remittances, sending almost \$2 billion to Pakistan [on an average annually]. Now we have even crossed Saudi Arabia," he explained.

Shaikh Khalifa Coastal Refinery

On the long-awaited Shaikh Khalifa Coastal refinery of Abu Dhabi's International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC) planned for construction in Balochistan, Khan said there have been delays due to some feasibility and procedural matters that are going on.

"We are strongly hoping that this refinery will finally be established in the near future. The process is still going on." The Shaikh Khalifa Point Refinery is a joint venture between IPIC, the international investment wing of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNCO), and Pak-Arab Refinery Company (Parco), a joint venture between Pakistan and Abu Dhabi. The project was set for inauguration in 2007 but has been delayed for various reasons.

In 2009, IPIC indicated it said it will delay or postpone the investment plan for the construction of the refinery in insurgency-hit Balochistan province of Pakistan due to some due to some problems and issues.

Agro industry

When asked about attracting investors from the GCC in the country's agro-industry, the ambassador said: "Pakistan could be a food basket for the entire GCC region, and we have already got not only requests but we have allocated thousands of acres of lands to various groups for agricultural farming for the purpose of having the secure food supply chain. We also have the understanding that more and more groups are coming to Pakistan to have chunk of land to become the food basket of not only the UAE but the entire GCC."

Khan said Pakistan has the capacity with surplus wheat last year. "We have surplus rice this year, and we had surplus rice and wheat last year. This year we are going to have, according to the estimates, surplus cotton. So we have everything in agricultural field in surplus. We can provide the surplus food to this region."

Referring to investments in mineral resources, the ambassador said Pakistan was already an important partner with the region in terms of downstream oil and gas projects. "We are already providing the region the assistance in terms of their downstream projects [in oil and gas]. In terms of upstream, we could think of doing it at a later stage. It requires a lot of investment from the side of any country that thinks of upstream, but downstream yes we are already there. We are already so many petroleum products and provide to the region," Khan concluded.
nissar@khaleejtimes.com

Source: Khaleej Times

March 23, 2011

Wed

All Day

China announces 500 scholarships -- APP

China announces 500 scholarships

Our correspondent

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

Islamabad

China has announced 500 scholarships for Pakistani students for the next three years, whereas the number of scholarships will be increased each year. This was announced by Chinese Embassy Cultural Counsellor Yang Linhai.

He made the announcement while addressing a conference on 'Pak-China Friendship Year 2011' cultural activities reception and opening ceremony of Chinese experience centre. The event was organised by the Confucius Institute, National University of Modern Languages (NUML), here on Tuesday.

Yang Linhai appreciated the efforts of the NUML Confucius Institute. He lauded the performance of the Chinese and Pakistani students and said that the students studying Chinese language in the country are the future diplomats who can play their dynamic role in intensifying deeper understanding of the two countries as both the countries are good neighbours to each others.

"The leadership of both the countries has focused on the student-to-student relationships. For this purpose we are supporting Pakistani student delegations to visit China," he said.

Addressing on the occasion NUML Rector and Chairman Council of Confucius Institute Professor Dr. Aziz Ahmad Khan highlighted the efforts and achievements of the Confucius Institute for which the institute has been ranked first all over the world.

All Day

(The writer is a London-Lahore based businessman and a Pakistan Muslim League -- Dr Ashraf Chohan MPA

(The writer is a London-Lahore based businessman and a Pakistan Muslim League (N) MPA from Gujranwala)

Without leadership, people are crowds but with leadership crowds can become a nation. Although Muslims migrated from the Western side of the present Pakistan and Eastern Europe ruled India for nearly a thousand years, but during the English rule Muslims became less educated, financially weak and population in the Indian sub-continent. It was the leadership of Mr Jinnah who became their voice and negotiated with the English rulers to create a large country which had two parts on each side of India. Had the country only followed the leader after the death of Mr Jinnah, the then Pakistan was in an excellent strategic position to sustain as a strong nation and develop beside India and could have maintained equal relations, hence would have been in a much better position to resolve the mutual disputes. It is very sad that Pakistan had no immediate leader after Mr Jinnah who could have taken over the responsibility of building the nation. An ambitious Army General took over power soon after the birth of the country. The newly formed constitution was disregarded. No institution could build itself. Dictatorial rule overruled all the existing infrastructure which was left by the English rule.

Although Mr Bhutto managed to enjoy very popular support and won two elections, but today the nation cannot remember him for anything else but creating a severe conflict in the UN and isolated Pakistan internationally and within the country became so unpopular that he had to be removed by the Army and then, unfortunately, he was hanged. Presently, although the media is promoting certain people who do not enjoy a single seat in Parliament and we have to see faces giving lectures to the nation, but they are not in a position to win their own seats in Parliament. Believe me, this only happens in Pakistan. These so-called leaders, promoted by the media, are perhaps the establishment, namely Imran Khan, a few ex-Army generals, Islamic parties, but the fact remains that in the country the two largest parties include Pakistan Peoples Party who conducted the last election under the leadership of Benazir Bhutto and yet have to see and go through a test of the leadership of Mr Zarbri. Of course the other largest party is PMLN led by Mr Sharif. After these two parties the nation has given a mandate to National Awami Party, MQM, PMLQ and then a few independent or very small parties.

The present and immediate future of this country centres around Mr Sharif. His past performance speaks for itself. He started his politics in 1985 and became very popular Chief Minister of the Punjab and developed the Punjab during this period, which is part of the history. He became Prime Minister twice, but only for a very short period. Even then he was able to make a mark in the history of the country while tremendous efforts to develop the nuclear deterrent which has helped Pakistan to sustain against mighty India and will continue doing so in the time to come. Mr Sharif was known as a person who would do and deliver and without having any pennies in the Exchequer he started developing roads and motorways which are being extended throughout the country. His other efforts to boost the economy cannot be ignored.

The countries which have developed for their own defence and more importantly for their systems to look after their nationals have been able to do so because of democracy, independence, justice and an opportunity for all. None of the countries have developed through dictatorship and the remaining so-called dictators and kingdoms are being demolished one after the other after three very lengthy martial laws. It was Mr Sharif who had the heart and courage to meet his arch-rival, the leader of the Peoples Party in London in 2007 and managed to sign a contract, famously known as the COD, so that at

least the two major parties would resist any further difficulties and also managed to take on board a few other smaller parties as well. This document is still resisting Army rule and is a major blockage in front of military intervention. Although the Peoples Party backed out immediately after the birth of this contract, but yet the same party refers to this document whenever it suits them.

In the past days, Mr Sharif had been under tremendous stress due to failure of the Peoples Party Government to amend the allegations of serious corruption, mismanagement, unjustified appointments and wastage of huge resources. The Sharif worked very hard to restore the judiciary. He had to go on the road for long marches and this was not without threat to his life. He gave a number of notices to the present Government and warned them to improve the government. It was very easy for PMLN to join PMLQ and other smaller parties and had formed their own government and had removed the corrupt government of the Peoples Party but Mr Sharif believed that the party which has the majority must complete the tenure of five years. Very recently he gave an agenda list to the government to improve the standards for the government and alleviate poverty, work for power generation, assure a supply of gas, electricity, water and decrease the prices of commodities. The Government led by PPP gave no attention to these demands.

This hard work took its toll on the health of Mr Sharif and, unfortunately, last week he some heart problems and he had to be admitted in a London hospital in an emergency. Thank God that it was only a minor problem which has been successfully rectified and Mr Sharif has returned home.

Pakistan needs a leader like him much more than before. Pakistan is facing internal and external attacks, continuing to kill Pakistani nationals and violate borders. Internally there is repeated bombing on religious and security establishments. On top of that there are regular interruptions in the supply of gas and electricity. The bills of these suppliers have sky-rocketed, joblessness is at a peak and it has become extremely difficult for the poorest to make both ends meet. In this situation, Pakistan needs Mr Sharif desperately to come forward again and take charge of the government and solve all these problems which are gradually getting more complicated.

We thank God for restoring a full recovery to Mr Sharif and soon he shall return to the country to lead the nation.

Kind Regards,
Chaya Mistry
Secretary to Dr Ashraf Chohan MPA

All Day

Pakistan progresses with two gas pipelines projects -- APP

Pakistan progresses with two gas pipelines projects

Saad Hasan

Sunday, March 27, 2011

KARACHI: Pakistan is moving ahead with its plans to build two trans-national pipelines for the import of gas to meet its increasing energy needs, top government officials said on Saturday.

Both Iran-Pakistan (IP) pipeline and the much longer Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline are vital for the country, which has seen cuts in gas supply to factories, they said.

"Let me assure you there is no pressure on me to slow down work on the IP," said Hilal Raza, the Managing Director Interstate Gas Company (ISGC), which is spearheading the two projects. "Turkmen gas is not a substitute for Iranian gas. We need both of them."

The United States and Asian Development Bank (ADB) support the 1,700-kilometer TAPI pipeline.

President Zardari along with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and Indian Petroleum Minister Murli Deora signed the inter-governmental agreement for \$7.6 billion TAPI last year.

Renewed interest of Pakistan's government in TAPI created an impression that it might abandon the IP project because of US opposition to it.

The two pipelines will bring 2.075 billion cubic feet per day of gas into Pakistan. As per the official schedule, the first flows from Iran are expected in December, 2014, while TAPI will be completed by the end of 2016.

Raza said that demand for gas, which meets Pakistan's 50 percent energy needs, was too much. "Imports from these two pipelines and the LNG (liquefied natural gas) will all be absorbed by the system."

Domestic gas production stands at 4 BCFD. The demand has crossed 5 BCFD, according to some estimates.

A round of talks among representatives of the four nations involved in TAPI pipeline concluded in Islamabad on Friday. The talks are in the initial stages and price of Turkmenistan's gas is yet to be decided.

"The next meeting will be held in Delhi from April 25. Right now, the four countries are working on composition of gas, schedule for completion of the project and other documentation," said Raza.

About the IP pipeline, he said that the gas sales purchase agreement or GSPA had been signed with Iran and only the feasibility study needed to be completed.

There have been continuous delays in award of consultant contract for engineering design of the 1900-km IP pipeline. The contract for bankable feasible study and route survey was supposed to be completed in June 2010.

Additional Secretary Zafar Iqbal said that it was too early to suggest how the country intends to finance the two projects.

The cost of IP pipeline will come to around \$1.5 billion. It will zigzag 1900 kilometers from Iran's South Pars field to Sindh. Different routes are being considered for the project, but the most likely path is through Gwadar district, Balochistan.

The security of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline remains a big issue. Baloch militants who demand greater provincial autonomy attack gas pipeline infrastructure regularly.

But the cost of protecting the TAPI pipeline, which will pass through Afghanistan, would be much more and add up to consumer tariff.

All Day

Pak-Sweden relations strong'

Pak-Sweden relations strong'

By Saad Saud

Islamabad - Sweden has provided Pakistan \$ 100 million aid to Pakistan during the previous year for socio-economic and religio-political development. Ambassador of Sweden in Pakistan, Ulrika Sandburg while addressing a press conference here on Thursday in 'Meet the Press' program said that Sweden government believes in trade not aid and our bilateral relations are strong with Pakistan in trade and both the countries have strong mutual collaboration and co-operation.

She said that Sweden has given \$ 282 million assistance to Pakistan for earthquake relief and rehabilitation activities. Sweden has also provided military aid to Pakistan to safeguard its sovereignty and integrity, she said. Swedish trade companies are working in Pakistan moreover Swedish Trade Minister visited Pakistan in November and 20 Swedish trade companies were introduced and brought huge trade opportunity to Pakistan, she said.

She said that Sweden has partnership with Pakistan in the sectors of IT and Health. During 2011 Sweden has extended collaboration in the sectors of IT, technology, textiles, she said. Swedish Ambassador said that currently 20,000 students are studying in Sweden out of which 3,000 students are completing PhD and 6,000 students are studying in Masters in Swedish universities, she said.

The remaining students are graduation level students in the colleges adding that Sweden educational expenditures are lower as compare to U.S, U.K educational degree costs and the Swedish educational degree has equivalent value in the international market.

Ulrika Sandburg further elaborated that Sweden demands peace and stability in the region and terrorism must be condemned in each form. She said that Sweden condemned drone attacks.

She said "we have to combat terrorism in accordance with international and humanitarian law and you have to fight terrorism in accordance with the global strategy against terrorism. While talking on Swedish policy on Kashmir issue she said that the Kashmir issue must be resolved with peaceful dialogue between India and Pakistan.

Ulrika Sandburg said that Sweden respects all the religions and inter-faith harmony has significant importance to end religious extremism.

March 28, 2011

Mon

All Day

GCU to celebrate 60 years of Pak-China friendship

GCU to celebrate 60 years of Pak-China friendship

Staff Report

LAHORE: The Government College University (GCU) Lahore is going to celebrate 60 years of Pak-China friendship today (Monday) in collaboration with the government of Punjab. Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Liu Jian, would be the chief guest while the provincial ministers, parliamentarians and government officials would also be present at the celebration.

The university has organised a special ceremony on the topic of "Pak-China Friendship – Past, Present and Future," which would be addressed by the Chinese ambassador, Pak-China Bureau CEO, Zafaruddin Mahmood, provincial Minister Chaudhry Ghafoor, GCU Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr Ikramul Haq, and international relations experts, including Professor Hassan Askari and Professor Anwar Mahmood Khan.

All Day

CM lauds Pak-China friendship -- APP

CM lauds Pak-China friendship

Our Correspondent

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has said that Pak-China friendship is based on mutual respect and trust and has stood the test of time.

Addressing a function to mark 60 years of Pak-China diplomatic relations at the Chief Minister's Secretariat, he said that China was a sincere friend of Pakistan and played an important role in its progress. He said that the friendship between the two countries was an example to the rest of the world. He said that China had helped Pakistan in natural calamities and other testing times.

Ambassador of China in Pakistan, Liu Jian, Punjab Assembly Speaker Rana Muhammad Iqbal Khan, provincial ministers, advisors, Members of National and Provincial Assemblies, intellectuals, columnists, senior government officials and people from various walks of life were also present. He said the Chinese nation had achieved a remarkable progress through its hard work and commitment and China had become the second largest economy of the world. He said that China has achieved a prominent status in the world through austerity, proper setting up of priorities and tireless efforts and the credit for all this achievement goes to the senior Chinese leadership. He said he would visit China next month on the invitation of the Chinese Prime Minister during which agreements of cooperation would be signed in energy, infrastructure and other sectors.

Chinese Ambassador Liu Jian said that Pakistan and China had exemplary relations and their friendship was higher than the Himalayas and deeper than oceans. He said that China would continue to cooperate with Punjab in energy, infrastructure and other sectors.

Earlier, the Chinese ambassador held a meeting with Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif and discussed matters of mutual interest. He also expressed his best wishes for the early recovery of Quaid Pakistan Muslim League-N Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. He gave a cheque of Rs 3 lakh to the chief minister as a token for the provision of computers in Daanish schools.

All Day

Pak-China friendship exemplary: Chinese Ambassador -- APP

Pak-China friendship exemplary: Chinese Ambassador

LAHORE, March 29 (APP): Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Liu Jian Tuesday said Pak-China friendship is an exemplary bi-lateral relationship which can be emulated by other countries of the world. He was talking to media after his visit to Punjab Institute of Languages, Art and Culture. The Ambassador appreciated the decision of governments of Pakistan and China to declare 2011 as 'Pak-China friendship year'. Liu Jian said that Chinese people have always shown interest in Pakistani culture and stressed that youth of both the friendly countries must be provided greater opportunities for learning each other's languages and knowing the respective cultures.

He said that he had wished to become ambassador of China to Pakistan when he had visited here about three years ago and expressed his pleasure on the fulfilment of his wish.

Earlier, the Chinese ambassador visited Punjab Art Gallery, FM95 Radio station. "Pak-China friendship may live long", said the ambassador on air. Ch Abdul Ghafur, Punjab Food Minister was also present on the occasion.

All Day

Pak-Indian IT Firms Bilateral Trade of \$ 5 billion

Pak-Indian IT Firms Bilateral Trade of \$ 5 billion

March 29th, 2011 Leave a comment Go to comments

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Pakistan and India can boost their mutual trade in Information and Technology (IT) sector up to colossal US\$ 5 billion through joint-ventures, investment and exchange of expertise.

This was stated by Jehan Ara President Pakistan Software Houses Association in the exclusive interview on her return to Pakistan after leading a delegation of country's top-notch figures of IT industry.

Briefing about her business trip, she said Pakistanis and Indian IT titans have decided to carry on their efforts for developing an "India-Pakistan e-land" at the border where people can meet, interact, teach, learn and jointly develop intellectual property.

They will work to convince their respect governments to allow telecommunications access to work across borders. They will continue to investment in young people, facilitate exchanges, and provide education and skilling to enable them to achieve their potential, Jehan Ara said.

Pakistani and Indian IT committee of Aman Ki Asha has successfully held the bilateral talks separately on both sides of borders in December and March aimed at enhancing trade ties in the field of IT, which is one of six sectors with great trade attraction between two countries.

"Indian IT market is huge with volumetric exports but it is lacking of high quality of services, in contrast, Pakistani market is small comparatively but has gained tremendous reputation with its products and services," she said and added "these two countries will aid each other to enhance their quantum and quality of IT services and products."

Pakistani IT firms are experts of gaming and animation whereas Indians are master service providers of IT-enable services, she said. How will it conducive the India set up their BPO's in Pakistan and exchange expertise of gaming and animation from Pakistan, she further explained.

There are lots of hurdles to set up software houses in each other countries by the two states but it is an easy solution to make a joint platform in third country such as UAE, Singapore or Malaysia, she said.

Visa policy by both states to IT entrepreneurs is very strict with tough conditions. Besides, there is no bank of Pakistan in India and Indian in Pakistan to ensure letter of credits (LCs) facility and exchange of money by the two sides. Therefore, these measures must be resolved by the both government to facilitate entrepreneurs of their countries, she said.

The third venue is the most viable option for IT entrepreneurs of India and Pakistan as a matter of fact that they could start work on mutual project at the earliest, which will pave the way towards real business and trade opportunities at cities of each other countries, President Pasha said.

She added the real growth in trade between the two countries particularly in the field of IT could multiply significantly when India and Pakistan establish and operate their offshore offices at each other lands.

She said the two countries have large young populations whose energies can, with proper education and skills training, be utilized productively in order to reap the 'demographic dividend' and build collaborative projects between the youth of both countries.

These countries have much to offer each other, with Pakistan providing a host of IT graduates that India could utilize by building collaborative development centers and India providing skills development to the significant IT product companies in Pakistan. The companies could also jointly tap the huge domestic market in both countries and global opportunities for IT solutions especially in emerging markets in the Middle East, Africa and South America, Jehan Ara said.

Aman ki Asha IT Committees

India: Dr Ganesh Natarajan (Mission Leader), Chairman CII National Committee on IT & ITES, Vice Chairman and CEO, Zensar Technologies; Mr Harsh Manglik, Chairman, NASSCOM & Co-Chairman-India & Geography Managing Director Accenture; Ms Nandita Mohan Gurjar, Senior Vice President & Group Head – Human Resources Infosys Technologies Pvt. Ltd, Mr Pradeep Udhas, Executive Director, KPMG Advisory Services Pvt Ltd.; Dr Uma Ganesh CEO Global Talent Track Ltd Ms Prameela Kalive, Vice President & Business Head, Zensar Technologies; Mr Rahul Mohod, Chief Executive Officer iResolvIT Pty Limited, Sydney; Mr Govind Das Sharma (Mission Manager), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Rasika Waikalkar, Coordinator, Young Indians

Pakistan: Jehan Ara, President, Pakistan Software Houses Association for IT & ITES (P@SHA); Humayun Bashir, Country Head, Pakistan IBM; Yusuf Jan, Co-Founder, Mixit Technologies; Ashraf Kapadia, Managing Director Systems Ltd; Ali Jameel, Executive Director, TRG; Naseer Akhtar, President & CEO, Infotech Pvt Ltd; Salman Akhtar, CEO, Techlogix; Ziad Bashir, Chairman, Arwen Technologies, Nadeem Elahi, Country Manager TRG; Salim Ghauri, President, NetSol Technologies, Sultan Hamdani, COO, Maison Consulting Pvt Ltd

All Day

Pakistani and Chinese air forces are currently conducting joint exercises -- Hindustan Times

Pakistani and Chinese air forces are currently conducting joint exercises at an undisclosed location in Pakistan, according to a media report. Combat aircraft, pilots and technicians of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) and China's People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) are taking part in the joint exercises codenamed "Shaheen-1", Geo News reported.

This is the first time that an air force contingent from China is participating in a military exercise in Pakistan.

The exercises have been designed to share mutual experiences, hone professional skills and get maximum benefit from the expertise of the two troops, the report said.

The visit also coincides with the year 2011 being celebrated as the "Year of Pakistan-China Friendship."

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) پاکستان اور ملائیشیا نے دوطرفہ تجارتی و اقتصادی تعلقات کو فروغ دینے کیلئے مشترکہ بزنس کونسل قائم کر دی۔ پاکستان کے سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے چیئرمین سلیم ایچ مانڈوی والا اور ملائیشیا کی جانب سے بین الاقوامی تجارت و سرمایہ کاری کے نائب وزیر مخرض بن تن مہاتیر نے کو الالمپور میں مشترکہ بزنس کونسل کا اعلان کیا۔ تقریب میں ملائیشیا میں پاکستان کے ہائی کمشنر مسعود خالد، خیبر پختونخواہ کے صوبائی وزیر صنعت و تجارت سید احمد حسین شاہ، وزیراعلیٰ سندھ کے مشیر برائے سرمایہ کاری محمد زبیر موتی والا، چیئرمین پاکستان ملائیشیا مشترکہ بزنس کونسل محمد سلیم فتح دین، پنجاب سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر سادات مظفر، نیشنل انڈسٹریل پارک کے چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر زبیر حبیب، ڈی جی سرمایہ کاری بورڈ اصغر عباس رضوی اور ملائیشیا کے سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے ایڈوائزر، نیشنل چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے صدر سید فیروز شاہ اور نجی شعبے کے نمائندوں نے شرکت کی۔ اس موقع پر ملائیشیا کے بین الاقوامی تجارت و سرمایہ کاری کے نائب وزیر نے تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے مشترکہ بزنس کونسل کے قیام کو ایک تاریخی اقدام قرار دیا اور کہا کہ اگرچہ پاکستان اور ملائیشیا کے درمیان دوطرفہ تجارت میں اضافہ کا رجحان ہے لیکن دوطرفہ تجارتی تعلقات کو بڑھانے کے وسیع مواقع موجود ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ مختلف شعبوں بشمول زراعت، مینوفیکچرنگ اور انفرااسٹرکچر کے شعبوں میں موجود مواقع سے بھرپور استفادہ کیا جائے گا۔ پاکستان کے سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے چیئرمین سلیم ایچ مانڈوی والا نے کہا کہ مشترکہ بزنس کونسل کی تشکیل سے دونوں ممالک کے نجی شعبوں کو روابط کے قیام کا پلیٹ فارم میسر آئے گا، جس سے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان دوطرفہ تجارتی اور سرمایہ کاری تعلقات کو فروغ ملے گا۔ دریں اثناء ملائیشیا نے پاکستان سے غذائی اجناس اور مصنوعات درآمد کرنے اور لائیو اسٹاک کے شعبہ میں پاکستان سے معاونت حاصل کرنے میں دلچسپی ظاہر کی ہے۔ ملائیشین وزیر زراعت عمر بن نوح نے کو الالمپور میں پاکستان سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے چیئرمین سلیم ایچ مانڈوی والا سے ملاقات کی۔ ملاقات میں دوطرفہ تعلقات سمیت باہمی دلچسپی کے مختلف امور زیر غور لائے گئے۔ اس موقع پر چیئرمین سرمایہ کاری بورڈ نے ملائیشیا کی جانب سے پاکستان سے پھل، سبزیاں، چاول، ڈیری مصنوعات، مچھلی، گندم اور کائٹن سے تیار مصنوعات کی درآمدات بڑھانے پر زور دیا۔ ملائیشین وزیر نے کہا کہ ان کا ملک پاکستان سے غذائی مصنوعات درآمد کرنے اور لائیو اسٹاک کے شعبہ کی ترقی کیلئے پاکستان سے معاونت حاصل کرنے میں دلچسپی رکھتا ہے۔ سلیم ایچ مانڈوی والا نے اس سلسلے میں سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کی جانب سے ہر ممکن تعاون فراہم کرنے کی یقین دہانی کرائی۔ دریں اثناء چیئرمین سرمایہ کاری بورڈ نے ملائیشیا کی حلال ٹولپمنٹ کارپوریشن، ایس ایم ای کارپوریشن، ایسوسی ایٹڈ چائنیز چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری اور نیشنل چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری ملائیشیا کے عہدیداران سے بھی الگ الگ ملاقاتیں کیں، جن میں دوطرفہ تجارتی و سرمایہ کاری تعلقات کو فروغ دینے کے طریقوں پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔

April 6, 2011

Wed

All Day

KARACHI (Azhar Ali Khan): British Prime Minister David Cameron on Tuesday said that Pak-UK bilateral trade volume would be enhanced to 5 billion pounds by 2015. Addressing media men in a joint press conference with Pakistani Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raz

KARACHI (Azhar Ali Khan): British Prime Minister David Cameron on Tuesday said that Pak-UK bilateral trade volume would be enhanced to 5 billion pounds by 2015. Addressing media men in a joint press conference with Pakistani Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Cameron urged the need to explore trade avenues. Citing illiteracy as the prime reason behind, he said, "Illiteracy is one of the core reasons behind extremism," adding the UK would help promote education in Pakistan. He said Pakistan has lost much against war on terror and this menace has also affected his country as well. "Pak-UK friendship is unbreakable," he reiterated.

APP -- چیمر کی کاوشوں سے حیدرآباد میں روسی انویسٹمنٹ ہو رہی ہے، گوہر اللہ
 چیمر کی کاوشوں سے حیدرآباد میں روسی انویسٹمنٹ ہو رہی ہے، گوہر اللہ

حیدرآباد (بیورو رپورٹ) آل پاکستان سی این جی ٹیلرز ایسو سی ایشن کے وفد نے چیئرمین سپریم کونسل غیاث الدین پراچہ اور نائب صدر کراچی چیمر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری جنید اسماعیل کی قیادت میں حیدرآباد چیمر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے صدر گوہر اللہ سے ملاقات میں سی این جی ٹیلرز کے مسائل پر گفتگو کی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چیمر آف کامرس کا دورہ کرنے کا مقصد سی این جی ٹیلرز ایسو سی ایشن کے مابین لائٹن کو مضبوط بنانا ہے تاکہ سی این جی ٹیلرز کے مسائل کے حل کے لئے ملک بھر میں یکساں آواز بلند کی جائے۔ آل پاکستان سی این جی ٹیلرز ایسو سی ایشن سندھ زون کے صدر ڈاکٹر ذوالفقار احمد یوسفانی نے کہا کہ حیدرآباد چیمر کے ہمارے ملک کی بدقسمتی ہے، صدر گوہر اللہ کا شمار بنیادی ممبران میں ہو تا ہے، ساتھ ہمارے پرانے مراسم ہیں کہ تاجر برادری کو اہمیت نہیں دی جاتی۔ حیدرآباد چیمر کے صدر گوہر اللہ نے بتایا کہ سی این جی ٹیلرز کے مسائل کے سدباب کے لئے سی این جی سے وابستہ تاجروں پر مشتمل سب کمیٹی پہلے ہی خدمات انجام دے رہی ہے اور سب کمیٹی کے چیئرمین کو کلی اختیار ت دیئے گئے ہیں۔ آل پاکستان سی این جی ٹیلرز ایسو سی ایشن سے ہر ممکن تعاون کریں گے۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ چیمر کی کاوشوں سے حیدرآباد میں روسی انویسٹمنٹ ہو رہی ہے حیدرآباد چیمر مستقبل، 'ہے جبکہ سونز رلیٹیڈ کی کمپنیوں سے انویسٹمنٹ کے سلسلے میں بات چیت جاری ہے قریب میں مینگو فیسٹول اور موٹر سائیکل ایکسپو کا انعقاد کر رہا ہے جبکہ حیدرآباد چیمر کا ٹریڈ ڈیلی گیشن سابق صدر عمار، 'روس مینگو فیسٹول میں شرکت کرے گا۔ اس موقع پر چیمر کے نائب صدر ضیاء الدین صدیقی و دیگر بھی موجود تھے۔

All Day

34% Increase in Pak-Malaysia Bilateral Trade -- APP

34% Increase in Pak-Malaysia Bilateral Trade

April 11, 2011

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ISLAMABAD: The trade between Pakistan and Malaysia has touched \$2.5 billion mark in 2010 registering an over all increase of 34% compared to total trade of \$1.86 billion of last year.

Pakistan's High Commissioner in Malaysia Masood Khalid giving details of the bilateral trade Monday said since the signing of FTA between Pakistan and Malaysia in 2007, the bilateral trade was following an upward trajectory, said a press release received here on Monday.

\$2.5 Billion Trade: According to latest data released by Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) Malaysia, the bilateral trade which stood at \$ 1.362 billion in 2007 has increased to \$ 2.5 billion in 2010. The High Commissioner said the balance of trade is heavily tilted in favour of Malaysia which needs to be narrowed by including non traditional items in the bilateral trade like marble and granite, gem and jewellery, fruits and vegetable, surgical, cutlery and sports goods, spices, leather, handicrafts, pharmaceutical products, ready-made garments and meat products.

He suggested that Malaysian side may send a trade delegation to Pakistan for identifying specific products for import by Malaysia. He said Pakistan High Commission is pursuing a number steps to increase the exports from Pakistan to Malaysia. Recently, import of beef from Pakistan had started which was now available throughout Malaysia. "Meanwhile, Nili Ravi buffalo of Pakistan has been exported to Malaysia to help pilot breeding project and efforts are under-way to export Pakistani mangoes to ensure their availability throughout Malaysia", he added.

The High Commissioner said as an endeavour to bring private sectors of the two countries closer to each other and to forge cooperation between the two countries in different areas Board Of Investment (BOI) of Pakistan and Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA) had jointly organised a one day seminar in Kuala Lumpur recently. He said a number of MoUs and agreements have been signed between the two countries to forge meaningful and result oriented cooperation in agriculture, halal sector, higher education as well as in the field of transportation besides Pakistan-Malaysia Joint Business Council had also been launched to promote interaction between the private sectors of two countries.

Pakistani Products: According to data the exports of Pakistani rice to Malaysia had registered an increase of 124.80% in 2010 with export of RM 198.62 million as against RM 88.3 million of last year. The cotton yarn registered an increase of 66.21% with an export of RM 37.87 million in 2010 compared to RM 22.78 million last year. Bed linen registered an unprecedented increase of 77.33% with an export of RM 3.42 million compared to RM 1.93 million last year. However, the exports which remained into the negative zone were fish, onion, maize, woven fabrics and synthetic staple fibre, electronic appliances, line telephony, part and accessories.

On the Malaysian side, the biggest increase in export to Pakistan was recorded in Palm Oil which registered 45.14% increase; natural rubber registered an increase of 40.57%; fibre board wood registered an increase of 18.46% whereas the items which remained in the negative zone were insecticides, synthetic yarn and automatic data processing machine, etc.

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All Day

Zardari wants \$2 Billion Pak-Turkish trade volume -- Market Watch - Portal

Zardari wants \$2 Billion Pak-Turkish trade volume

April 12, 2011

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ANKARA: President Asif Ali Zardari arrived in Ankara on Monday on a four-day official visit to hold talks with the Turkish leadership for further cooperation and strengthen the existing bilateral ties.

He will hold meetings with Turkish President Abdullah Gul, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Speaker Turkish Grand National Assembly Mehmet Ali Sahin.

Bilateral Ties: During his stay, President Zardari will visit the mausoleum of founder of the modern state of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, to pay his respects. The Turkish president will confer the Turkish state order medal Devlet Nishan on Zardari in a special investiture ceremony for his contribution to promote bilateral ties between the two countries. Zardari will also meet Turkish businessmen and members of various think tanks, academia and media. A delegation of leading businessmen from Pakistan will also visit Ankara who will interact with Turkish businessmen and discuss prospects for joint ventures in various areas of the economy.

Pakistani Ambassador to Turkey, Tariq Azizuddin, said that the visit would focus on enhancing bilateral trade with an effort to bring it at par with the Pak-Turkish political partnership. The leadership of the two countries has been holding consultations to increase bilateral trade, which was \$752 million two years back, he added. Owing to concerted efforts of both the governments, the bilateral trade rose to \$1 billion by 2010, Azizuddin said, adding that now the two countries want to take the trade volume to \$2 billion by the end of 2012.

All Day

-- حکومت گوادری میں سرمایہ کاری کرنے والوں کو مطلوبہ سہولتیں فراہم کرے گی، بزنس جی

حکومت گوادری میں سرمایہ کاری کرنے والوں کو مطلوبہ سہولتیں فراہم کرے گی، بزنس

حب (نامہ نگار) گوادری انڈسٹریل اسٹیٹ ڈیولپمنٹ اتھارٹی کے مینیجنگ ڈائریکٹر نثار احمد بزنس نے کہا ہے کہ گوادری پرامن علاقہ ہے، یہاں ملکی اور غیرملکی سرمایہ کاروں کو سرمایہ کاری کے لئے آگے آنا چاہئے، حکومت انہیں تمام تر مطلوبہ سہولتیں فراہم کرنے کے لئے تیار ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے حب میں صحافیوں سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گوادری نہ صرف بلوچستان کا بلکہ ملک بھر کا ایک پرکشش، جدید اور تیزی سے ترقی کی جانب گامزن علاقہ ہے۔ حکومت نے گوادری انڈسٹریل اسٹیٹ کو دس سال کے لئے ٹیکس فری صنعتی زون قرار دیا ہے اسی طرح اب اسے ایکسپورٹ پروسیسنگ زون کا بھی درجہ دیا جا رہا ہے جس سے یہاں ملکی اور غیرملکی سرمایہ کاری کا عمل تیز ہو گا۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ وزیراعلیٰ بلوچستان نواب محمد اسلم رئیسانی اور وزیر صنعت سید احسان شاہ گوادری انڈسٹریل اسٹیٹ کی ترقی کے لئے بھرپور کوشش اور تعاون کر رہے ہیں اور گوادری انڈسٹریل اسٹیٹ ڈیولپمنٹ اتھارٹی صنعت کاروں کو پانی، بجلی، روڈز اور دیگر تمام تر سہولتیں مہیا کر رہی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ موجودہ وقت میں گوادری انڈسٹریل اسٹیٹ کے یونٹوں پر کام جاری ہے۔ ”ڈیٹ“ اور ”فٹ“ میں

All Day

Zardari, Gul vow to work hand in hand to create vibrantly growing economies -- By APP

Zardari, Gul vow to work hand in hand to create vibrantly growing economies
ANKARA - 13th April 2011

By APP

President Asif Ali Zardari and his Turkish counterpart Abdullah Gul on Wednesday resolved to continue working hand in hand to exploit the vast potential in industrial, energy, communication and infrastructure sectors of their countries to create vibrantly growing economies.

Addressing a joint press conference after a meeting between the two leaders and delegation level talks here at Cankaya Presidential Palace, President Zardari said that his visit would add a new chapter of cooperation and engagement between the two countries.

During the meeting, the two leaders held detailed discussions on bilateral matters and regional and international issues of mutual interest.

President Zardari was assisted in the talks by Defence Minister Ahmed Mukhtar, Railways Minister Ghulam Ahmed Bilour, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar and Chairman of Board of Investment Saleem Mandviwala.

The President was on his first bilateral visit to Turkey and his earlier five visits to the country were to attend trilateral summits on Afghanistan and international conferences.

The two leaders said that the talks focused on making operational Islamabad-Istanbul-Tehran freight train. President Gul said that the project would provide a trade route from Islamabad to European countries with goods taking about 11 days to reach Turkish markets.

He said that the railway track already existed but it needed to be upgraded and both the countries agreed to encourage private sectors to generate funds for the project.

The train is an important component of efforts of both the countries to build trade and energy corridors connecting South Asia and Central Asia, he said.

President Zardari said that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Turkey, which was the only Islamic country of the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) alliance and was also a member of the G-20, the economic grouping of the 20 biggest economies of the world.

During the talks, the two leaders expressed the resolve to raise their unique brotherly ties to pursue common strategic goals for achieving sustainable political and social stability and economic advancement.

They discussed prospects of various projects relating to infrastructure development, banking, investment, energy and trade and talked about ways to increase frequency of cultural and parliamentary exchanges, travel and tourism and people-to-people contacts.

President Zardari apprised President Gul of his government's efforts to rid Pakistan of the threat of terrorism and address the root causes of poverty and social deprivation, which create conditions for extremism.

President Zardari informed his Turkish counterpart of the policies that make Pakistan an attractive place for investment for the Turkish companies, which are already active in the country on numerous important projects.

Pakistan has a policy of establishing Special Economic Zones where investors will get incentives and it also allows remitting of capital and profits gained by foreign investors to their home countries, he said.

Agreeing that Turkish construction, engineering and energy companies have the financial strength and capacity to undertake mega projects, the leaders resolved that their governments would extend all support to the private sector in these sectors.

The two Presidents expressed confidence that their mutual efforts would help them in meeting the target of raising their bilateral trade volume to two billion dollars by 2012.

President Zardari termed the decision by the Supreme Court to accept a reference filed by him to revisit the judicial murder of PPP founder Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto as "landmark" and reflective of "political and democratic growth."

The government wanted to rectify a historical fault, he said adding, "We do not want revenge in history ... we just want that a historical wrong is corrected. If in future someone commits a similar wrong, then he would know that the history will never forgive him."

To a question the President said Pakistan's views on Afghanistan were clear and it believed success of Afghan-led reconciliation process was vital for the regional peace and stability.

He said Pakistan, Afghanistan and Turkey were coordinating at the political, military and intelligence levels to find a solution that was acceptable to the people of Afghanistan.

"War is defeat of the civilized mindset," he said, adding that Pakistan would support the Afghan government and people in maintaining peace and stability.

To a question, President Gul said recently the armed forces of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Turkey conducted joint military exercises. Turkey many times had the ISAF command in Afghanistan, it contributed 2000 troops for the country and then made significant contributions in improving health and educational facilities in Afghanistan, he said.

"But military aid is not enough. We have to win hearts in

Afghanistan," he said adding, "2011 is a critical year as foreign forces will be retreating from Afghanistan, whose army and police will take control of security. Our ultimate goal is to ensure peace and security in Afghanistan through our collective efforts."

To a question about efforts to end energy shortages in

Pakistan, President Gul said he himself contacted Turkish energy companies who were willing to invest in projects for power generation in Pakistan through coal and wind.

Gul said that Turkey has a customs union with Europe and it can be of help to Pakistan for its exports to European nations. Turkey is a hub for flights to all parts of Europe and being at the crossroads of both Europe and Asia, Turkey will extend benefits to Pakistan in gaining economic mileage, he added.

President Zardari expressed gratitude to the people and the government of Turkey for always standing by Pakistan's side and recalled the outflowing of help and assistance in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and floods in Pakistan.

He said a visit to Turkey was just like visiting home and the two countries were bound by strong bonds of deep friendship, similarity of views and commonality of interests.

Earlier on his arrival at the Presidential Palace, President Zardari and his delegation were warmly received by President Abdullah Gul.

A smartly turned out contingent of Turkish armed forces presented guard of honour to the visiting dignitary and national anthems of the two countries were played amid boom of a 21-gun salute.

President Zardari inspected the guard of honour and afterwards he was introduced to the members of the Turkish cabinet.

All Day

Jang -- پاکستان اور ترکی کے درمیان مذاکرات آج انقرہ میں ہونگے

پاکستان اور ترکی کے درمیان مذاکرات آج انقرہ میں ہونگے

انقرہ ... پاکستان اور ترکی کے درمیان اقتصادی اور دفاعی تعاون کے فروغ کے لیے باضابطہ مذاکرات آج ترک دارالحکومت انقرہ میں ہو رہے ہیں۔ مذاکرات میں پاکستانی وفد کی نمائندگی صدر زرداری جبکہ میزبان ملک ترکی اپنے ملک کی نمائندگی کریں گے۔ دونوں صدور کی علیحدہ ملاقات کے بعد وفد کی سطح پر بات چیت ہوگی۔ ذرائع کے مطابق دونوں ممالک کے درمیان مذاکرات کا مقصد اقتصادی اور دفاعی تعاون کو مزید مضبوط کرنا ہے۔ مذاکرات سے قبل صدر زرداری کے اعزاز میں صدارتی محل میں باقائدہ استقبالیہ تقریب منعقد کی جائے گی۔ کل صدر آصف علی زرداری نے جدید ترکی کے بانی مصطفیٰ کمال اتاترک کے مزار پر حاضری دی اور پھولوں کی چادر چڑھائی۔ اور اپنے تاثرات درج کئے

April 14, 2011

Thu

12:00 AM - 12:00 AM

.Pak-Turkey to increase bilateral trade: Mirza Thursday, 14 April 2011 10:38 0 Comments ISLAMABAD: Former Advisor to Prime Minister on Textiles and economist Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig said that there is a great potential for the increase of bilateral tra

.Pak-Turkey to increase bilateral trade: Mirza Thursday, 14 April 2011 10:38 0 Comments ISLAMABAD: Former Advisor to Prime Minister on Textiles and economist Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig said that there is a great potential for the increase of bilateral trade and joint ventures between Pakistan and Turkey.

Talking to PTV, he said currently the trade volume of bilateral trade is 940 million dollars, while the leadership of both the countries have set trade target of two billion dollars between the two countries.

He said Turkey levied additional duties on textiles including Pakistani textiles and President Asif Ali Zardari should take up the issue with Turkish leadership and get exempted Pakistan from it. He said Turkey can provide a huge market for Pakistani textiles.

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All Day

PM okays Pak-France Joint Business Council -- APP

PM okays Pak-France Joint Business Council

Posted on April 14, 2011 by admin

Prime Minister Gilani also requested the Secretary General of French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs Pierre Sellal to support Pakistan's case in the European Union for the tariff concession on the import of 75 Pakistani products - mainly textile. - File Photo.

KARACHI: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani approved the formation of Pak-France Joint Business Council between FPCCI and MEDEF to enhance bilateral trade and investment between the two countries.

This was stated by the Federal Advisor on Textile Dr Mirza Ikhtiar Baig here Thursday.

He said that a formal agreement is to be signed on the forthcoming visit of the French Prime Minister to Pakistan in May this year in the presence of representatives from FPCCI.

He said that Prime Minister Gilani also requested the Secretary General of French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs Pierre Sellal to support Pakistan's case in the European Union for the tariff concession on the import of 75 Pakistani products – mainly textile.

Mr Baig pointed out that EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht has told EU lawmakers that the Union was actively working on that to get a solution.

It may be noted that an original EU plan, unveiled in October last year had declared that duty suspensions would effect about 900 million euros worth of Pakistani exports to the EU and estimated Pakistan could boost sales to the EU by 100 million euros.

April 15, 2011

Fri

All Day

.Pak-Turkey to increase bilateral trade: Mirza Thursday, 14 April 2011 10:38 0 Comments ISLAMABAD: Former Advisor to Prime Minister on Textiles and economist Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig said that there is a great potential for the increase of bilateral trade.
Please See Above

All Day

Pakistan focusing on to promote bilateral trade with regional countries: Dr. Firdous -- By APP

Pakistan focusing on to promote bilateral trade with regional countries: Dr. Firdous ISLAMABAD - 15th April 2011

By APP

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan on Friday said that Pakistan was focusing on to promote its bilateral trade with regional countries like Iran, China and Afghanistan aimed at giving boost to economic activities in the South Asian region.

During the question-hour session of the National Assembly, she said that the President and the Prime Minister also wanted to provide increased trade facilities to Pakistani business community and easy access to the markets of European countries and Latin America.

The Minister said Pakistan had suffered a lot due to its active role in war against terrorism and was facing great economic hardships so "We are engaging the world asking them that Pakistan needs trade not aid."

All Day

Pak-Kazakh agreed to promote cooperation in various fields -- APP

Pak-Kazakh agreed to promote cooperation in various fields

ISLAMABAD - 15th April 2011

By APP

Pakistan and Kazakhstan have agreed to promote cooperation in various economic and technical fields during the 7th session of Pak-Kazakh Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) here on Friday.

The 7th session of Pak-Kazakh JMC held here was co-chaired by Minister for Water and Power Syed Naveed Qamar and Vice Minister of Transport and Communication of Kazakhstan Azat Bekturov.

Both the delegates acknowledged deep historical, cultural and political relations between the two countries and expressed the hope that current momentum in translating excellent political relations into commercial and economic opportunities would further promote bilateral cooperation.

During the JMC, discussions were held on promoting cooperation in various economic and technical fields which include promotion of trade and investment, agriculture, joint venture in fields of manufacturing/SMEs, petroleum and natural resources, banking and finance, science and education, information technology, health, culture and tourism.

Both sides also agreed to encourage their respective chambers of commerce and industry to setup a Joint Business council to enhance interaction between the private sectors of the two countries.

The also finalized a Memorandum on mutual cooperation between JSC; National Agency on export and investment "KAZNEX INVEST" and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP).

All Day

Jang -- پاکستان اور ترکی کے درمیان تجارتی حجم ایک ارب ڈالر تک پہنچ گیا

پاکستان اور ترکی کے درمیان تجارتی حجم ایک ارب ڈالر تک پہنچ گیا

حیدرآباد (نمائندہ جنگ) کراچی میں ترکی کے فونصل جنرل فیتی ایتم نے کہا ہے کہ ترکی اور پاکستان کے درمیان تجارتی حجم ایک ارب ڈالر تک پہنچ چکا ہے۔ ترکی ونڈ انرجی میں مزید 500 ملین ڈالرز کی سرمایہ کاری کر کے 300 میگاواٹ بجلی پیدا کرے گا۔ وہ چیمبر آف کامرس میں تاجروں سے خطاب کر رہے تھے۔ اس موقع پر چیمبر کے صدر گوہر اللہ نے بھی خطاب کیا فونصل جنرل نے مزید کہا کہ ترکی پاکستان کے ساتھ کمرشل اور اکنامک ریلیشن شپ بڑھانا چاہتا ہے۔ دونوں ملکوں کا 2003ء میں تجارتی حجم 262 ملین ڈالر تھا جو کہ اب 2010ء میں بڑھ کر 1 ارب ڈالر تک پہنچ چکا ہے جس میں 750 ملین ڈالر کی مصنوعات پاکستان سے ترکی امپورٹ کی جارہی ہے، جبکہ ترکی گورنمنٹ پاکستان سے تجارتی حجم 2 بلین یو ایس ڈالرز تک بڑھانا چاہتی ہے۔ پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے حوالے سے فونصل جنرل نے کہا کہ گزشتہ 3 برسوں میں ترک سرمایہ کاروں انفراسٹرکچر میں سرمایہ کاری کی ہے۔ سی پورٹ، تعمیرات، پاور سیکٹر، فوڈ پروسیسنگ انڈسٹریز زورلو انرجی نے ونڈ انرجی سے جھمپیر کے مقام پر 50 میگا واٹ بجلی کی پیداوار کے (ZORLU) لیے 110 ملین یو ایس ڈالر کی لاگت سے پلانٹ نصب کیا ہے، اس پروجیکٹ میں مزید 300 میگا واٹ بجلی کی پیداوار بڑھانی جارہی ہے جس پر مزید 500 ملین یو ایس ڈالرز سرمایہ کاری کی جائے گی۔ ترک کمپنیاں 20 فیصد پاکستانی بجلی کی ضروریات کو پورا کرنے کے لیے کوشاں ہیں۔ ویزا پالیسی آسان اور سہل ہے، چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کی سفارشات پر ویزا ایک ہفتے میں جاری کر دیا جاتا ہے۔ حیدرآباد چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے صدر گوہر اللہ نے فونصل جنرل کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ معدنیات کے لحاظ سے سندھ مالا مال ہے، خاص طور پر تھر اور لاکھڑا میں کوئلے کے بڑے ذخائر موجود ہیں، ان ذخائر کو ہم فیول کے طور پر استعمال کر کے انڈسٹریز کو فروغ دے سکتے ہیں۔ فوڈ پروسیسنگ، ایگریکلچر مشینری، ایگرو بیسڈ انڈسٹریز کے علاوہ پاور سیکٹر میں باہمی شراکت داری پر سرمایہ کاری کی گنجائش موجود ہے۔ تقریب میں نائب ڈاکٹر، عماد صدیقی کے علاوہ سلیم شیخ، یوسف سلیمان، سابق صدور حاجی محمد یعقوب، صدر ضیاء الدین حاجی نواب، ظہیر جان، مقصود احمد خان، دایو مل، محمد شاہد غوری، نواب خازندہ، تراب علی، فرید عبدالوحید شیخ، محمد اکرام راجپوت سمیت دیگر موجود تھے۔ عبدالستار، علی

April 16, 2011

Sat

12:00 AM - 12:00 AM

.Pak-Turkey to increase bilateral trade: Mirza Thursday, 14 April 2011
10:38 0 Comments ISLAMABAD: Former Advisor to Prime Minister on
Textiles and economist Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig said that there is a great
potential for the increase of bilateral tra

Please See Above

All Day

Gilani looks to boost trade with Kazakhstan -- APP

Gilani looks to boost trade with Kazakhstan

KARACHI - Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, along with a trade delegation, is likely to visit Kazakhstan this month, while the two countries have agreed to boost bilateral trade, through various steps discussed in the seventh session of the Pak-Kazakh Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC), held on Friday in Islamabad.

This would be Gillani's second visit to Kazakhstan following his visit last month.

Pakistan has already stepped up efforts to enhance trade relations with the landlocked Central Asian Republics in the last couple of years. Visit of the prime minister with selected Pakistani exporters/importers to Kazakhstan would promote bilateral trade – which is currently highly negligible, sources said.

The PM, who is scheduled to visit the foreign country for two days from April 26-27, 2011, would also be accompanied by a delegation of businessmen, traders led by Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), they added. During the forth coming visit, sources said, various agreements and Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) were also expected to be signed between the two countries.

The two sides, sources claimed, would also check implementation status of the understandings made earlier – one of which was the 'Quadrilateral Agreement' to have a land route among Pakistan, China and other Central Asian States. Pakistan was interested to use the proposed land route, which links it with China, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. This land route will help enter markets of Central Asia, in addition to it being an alternative way for export to reach the Russian market.

Under the proposed route, sources said, goods from China were to reach the Bishkek market within a short time of eight to ten hours. Pakistan's goods, which are exported via Shahra-e-Karakoram to China, could easily be exported to the two Central Asian Republics (CARs) and then to the Russian border with comparatively lesser freight cost, sources claimed. The route was important for Pakistan, which enjoys the Quadrilateral Agreement and Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China, they added.

The FPCCI group, led by Senator Ghulam Ali, would also meet members of Kyrgyzstan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and other local businessmen to seek potential of joint investment and bilateral trade. The visit of PM Gilani was also aimed to increase bilateral trade volume. Interestingly, Pakistan was exporting goods worth a meager \$1.0 million, while it was importing around \$4.0 million worth goods from the foreign country.

Seventh Pak-Kazakh JMC: Earlier on Friday, the two countries have also agreed to promote cooperation in various economic and technical fields during seventh session of the Pak-Kazakh Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) in Islamabad. The session was co-chaired by Minister for Water and Power Syed Naveed Qamar and Vice Minister of Transport and Communication of Kazakhstan Azat Bekturov.

According to sources, the two sides have discussed various steps for promotion of trade, agriculture, joint venture in fields of manufacturing/SMEs, petroleum and natural resources, banking and finance, science and education, information technology, health, culture and tourism.

All Day

Hafeez Shaikh seeks US investment in energy sector -- By APP

Hafeez Shaikh seeks US investment in energy sector

WASHINGTON - 16th April 2011

By APP

Finance Minister Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh has sought American private sector's investment in energy sector to overcome gruelling electricity shortages as he identified a number of opportunities existing in the key field.

Dr Shaikh, who is in Washington to attend the IMF-World Bank meetings, told

members of Pakistan-US Business Council Friday afternoon that Islamabad is carrying out economic reforms and remains committed to facilitating foreign investment.

Pakistan, he said, looks forward to investment for development of massive Thar coal reserves, completion of Diamer Basha Dam and other hydro-electricity projects as part of efforts to meet its expanding energy requirements, boost industrial growth and step up the process of economic development.

In the field of agriculture, he said, Pakistan seeks to increase productivity while investment in infrastructure projects would help raise the standard of living in the country.

"We expect good results from the interaction," Shaikh said after his discussions with representatives of major American companies at the US Chamber of Commerce.

The finance minister also hinted at discussions on new projects with the World Bank.

Hafeez Shaikh spoke about the Pakistani government's efforts to contain inflation, bolster revenue generation and achieve better growth prospects despite catastrophic floods last year. He was upbeat on substantial growth in exports this year, reflecting a 26 per cent increase over last year.

Pakistan's ambassador to the United States Husain Haqqani drew attention of the forum to the importance of strengthening economic and trade ties between the two countries.

Jay Collins, chairman of Pakistan-US Business Council, said economic ties are a vital aspect of the strategic relationship between two countries and praised Ambassador Haqqani's dedication to promoting economic relations.

During the visit, the finance minister is scheduled to have a meeting with World Bank and IMF leaders. The finance minister will also hold bilateral dialogue with US government on advancing economic ties and meet representatives belonging to the departments of State and Treasury, as well as USAID and White House officials.

Dr Shaikh will also meet with his counterparts from China, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Afghanistan, Iran and Britain's Minister of International Development.

All Day

وزیراعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی چینی قیادت کے ساتھ مختلف موضوعات پر اہم ترین مذاکرات کیلئے منگل کو چار روزہ سرکاری دورے پر چین پہنچ رہے ہیں۔ -- JANG

بیجنگ (صالح ظافر) وزیراعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی چینی قیادت کے ساتھ مختلف موضوعات پر اہم ترین مذاکرات کیلئے منگل کو چار روزہ سرکاری دورے پر چین پہنچ رہے ہیں۔ گزشتہ 17/ ماہ کے دوران وزیراعظم گیلانی کی چینی قیادت کے ساتھ یہ تیسری براہ راست بات چیت ہوگی۔ اہم ترین موضوعات میں سرفہرست 2/ مئی کے ایبٹ آباد واقعے کے بعد کی صورتحال کے تناظر میں عالمی سطح پر پاکستان کی حمایت کا حصول ہے۔ وزیراعظم گیلانی چینی قیادت کو 2/ مئی کے واقعے کے بعد نام نہاد اتحادی ملک کی جانب سے دی جانے والی دھونس سے آگاہ کریں گے۔ اتفاق سے بھارت نے بھی امریکا کے اشاروں پر ناپنا شروع کر دیا ہے اور اوجھے ہتھکنڈے استعمال کرنا شروع کر دیے ہیں۔ چین کو بھارتی ہتھکنڈوں کا اچھی طرح ادراک ہے۔ پاکستان اور چین نے مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کو مزید وسعت دینے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ وزیراعظم گیلانی سے پہلے 2/ مئی کے واقعے کے تین دن بعد ائی ایس آئی کے سربراہ چین کا دورہ کر چکے ہیں۔ بیجنگ کے دورے کے موقع پر وزیر دفاع، وزیر داخلہ، سیکریٹری دفاع اور سیکریٹری خارجہ اور تاجروں کا ایک وفد بھی وزیراعظم کے ہمراہ ہوگا۔ وزیراعظم کا یہ دورہ اس لحاظ سے بھی اہمیت کا حامل ہے کہ پاک چین دوستی کو 60/ سال مکمل ہونے کی خوشی میں جشن کا اہتمام بھی کیا گیا ہے۔

All Day

Pakistani, Chinese finance ministers vow to further strengthen economic ties -- By APP

Pakistani, Chinese finance ministers vow to further strengthen economic ties

WASHINGTON - 17th April 2011

By APP

Pakistani and Chinese finance ministers reaffirmed their countries' resolve to further expand and strengthen bilateral economic and trade ties and coordinate closely on policies at financial institutions.

Finance Minister Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh and his Chinese counterpart Xie Xuren met here on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank annual meetings.

"China and Pakistan have historic and close ties and we discussed progress towards speedy implementation of agreements and MoUs signed during Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit," Dr Shaikh told APP after the meeting at the World Bank.

Both the finance ministers discussed economic reforms. The Chinese finance leader lauded Islamabad for undertaking economic reforms. Xuren briefed Dr Shaikh on discussions at the recent G-20 meeting.

Hafeez Shaikh said that Pakistan would welcome Chinese investment in petroleum sector either through new investments or buying stakes in existing enterprises.

Hafeez Shaikh held out Islamabad's commitment to facilitate Chinese investment in various sectors of the economy and invited Chinese companies to locate their businesses in the country. The two finance leaders also discussed currency swap.

All Day

UBL to help Chinese investors to explore Pak, ME -- Observer

UBL to help Chinese investors to explore Pak, ME

Beijing—Pakistan leading private sector bank, United Bank Limited (UBL), is offering to help Chinese enterprises explore the international markets in Pakistan and Middle East countries. UBL has witnessed robust growth and closer cooperation with Chinese business partners since establishing an office in Beijing in 2007, according to a bank announcement on Saturday.

It facilitates Chinese companies in contracting, trade and treasury services by taking advantage of its long experience operating in Pakistan and Middle East countries.

Wajahat Husain, the company's Group Executive and Head of International said at a reception in Beijing the other day that "we have provided background support, such as the environment, policy and social customs, for Chinese investors in four countries - Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Yemen." The trade between the United Arab Emirates and China has reached around \$24 billion, and UBL,

which has its international headquarters based in the UAE and strong relationships with government as well as top tier business groups, can be seen as making a positive contribution to the trade growth, said Wajahat Husain.

He also said Chinese investors show a growing, new interest in Bahrain, although the trade volume between the two holds at \$0.77 billion. UBL's Bahrain branch mainly participates in infrastructure, manufacturing, trading and retail.

Tianjin Pipe International Economic and Trading Cooperation has been in cooperation with UBL for about 20 years, and Xu Xiuqing, the Chinese company's Middle East and Former Soviet Regional Manager, said she is very satisfied with the high quality and good service of UBL. In Wajahat Husain's view, Chinese investors "research well" before investing in foreign countries and UBL is committed to be a "trusted partner" to Chinese out-bound business as the two neighbors celebrate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations.—APP

April 18, 2011

Mon

All Day

A Pak-Turkey train that will traverse 6,500 km -- Mail One

A Pak-Turkey train that will traverse 6,500 km

Updated on Monday, April 18, 2011, 12:53

Tags: Pakistan, Turkey, Train Share Buzz up! Translate into: Select Language Afrikaans Albanian Arabic Belarusian Bulgarian Catalan Chinese (Simplified) Chinese (Traditional) Croatian Czech Danish Dutch Estonian Filipino Finnish French Galician German Greek Haitian Creole Hebrew Hindi Hungarian Icelandic Indonesian Irish Italian Japanese Korean Latvian Lithuanian Macedonian Malay Maltese Norwegian Persian Polish Portuguese Romanian Russian Serbian Slovak Slovenian Spanish Swahili Swedish Thai Turkish Ukrainian Vietnamese Welsh Yiddish

Powered by Translate Islamabad: A cargo train that will cover a distance of 6,500 km from Islamabad through Tehran to Istanbul will be "running in less than a year", an official said.

The ambitious project got a final shape during the April 11-14 official visit of President Asif Ali Zardari to Turkish capital Ankara.

Turkish Union of Chambers (TOBB) has said it will immediately start a company to run the project and the company will seek collaboration with Pakistan and Iran business groups to execute it, Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

"We are planning to get the train running in less than a year," TOBB president Rifat Hisarcikliglu was quoted as saying.

The weekly trains are expected to make a one-way trip in 11 days between Istanbul and Islamabad.

The report said the train will open up the European and Asian markets for Pakistan.

President Asif Ali Zardari, during his visit, held discussions with Turkish President Abdullah Gul, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and Grand National Assembly Speaker Mehmet Ali Sahin.

Pakistan and Turkey are keen to expand their bilateral trade volume from existing USD 1 billion to USD 2 billion by year 2012.

IANIS

All Day

Balochistan to get representation in Pak Army as per population share:

COAS -- By APP

Balochistan to get representation in Pak Army as per population share: COAS

GWADAR - 18th April 2011

By APP

Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani said on Monday that youths of Balochistan would be recruited in Pakistan Army according to percentage of their province's share in the total population of the country.

He said this while addressing a ceremony of Gwadar Institute of Technology here. He said that 4000 Baloch youths had completed their training and joined the Pakistan Army while during the current year more 5000 youths would be recruited in the Army. The recruitment process has already been started in this regard, he added.

He said that the rules and regulations in connection with the recruitment process would be relaxed for youths of Balochistan so that maximum people could join the Pakistan Army from this province.

The COAS said that the Balochistan Chief Minister was responsible for maintaining peace in the province and Balochistan Frontier Corps would soon be replaced with the Army battalion, deployed in Sui area of Dera Bugti district.

He said there was no military operation being carried out in any part of the province. "Development and integrity of Pakistan links with the progress and prosperity of Balochistan as this province is rich with natural resources of natural gas, oil, coal and minerals" Gen. Kayani said adding that there was a need of technology and skilled manpower to get benefits from these natural resources.

He said the Army Medical College would be established besides Combined Military Hospital Quetta where students would get admission to four-year MBBS.

He hoped the Balochistan government would extend its cooperation to the Pakistan Army to improve natural mines and mineral resources of Dukki and Musakhail areas.

All Day**Gulf Cooperation Council to sign free trade agreement with Pakistan**

Gulf Cooperation Council to sign free trade agreement with Pakistan

Pakistan, all set to sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), would be at a disadvantage compared to the gulf countries which possess a huge economy. Pakistan must consider the weaker position of its own economy and should look to avoid repeating mistakes, the country had committed, during the FTA with China, sources told Pakistan Today. The country has exhibited a huge trade difference with China after signing of FTA, as there has been an influx of goods from the neighboring country in the last few years which took trade deficit to around \$4.0 billion.

The proposed FTA would not make a lot of difference in the duty structure, affecting the present bilateral trade, as import duty of zero to five percent in the GCC countries is already existent, they said. "Concerned authorities should thoroughly examine future implications of any agreement prior to its signing," they said, adding that the trade difference between Pakistan and China has significantly widened after implementation of the Pak-China FTA. Chinese cell phones, which have captured almost 90 percent of the market in Pakistan after the FTA, are an example while other foreign products have also easily captured a major share of the domestic market, they claimed.

However, according to sources, Pakistan and GCC were about to sign the FTA as negotiations over the draft of the proposed agreement were almost finalised.

Following the FTA, sources claimed that Pakistan was looking to boost its trade volume with GCC countries from the current \$59 billion to \$350 billion by 2020.

As trade relations between Pakistan and GCC countries were expecting to be multiplied in the near future, volume of trade will enter in the figure of hundreds. The Ministry of Commerce and other concerned departments were also submitting their inputs before formal signing of the agreement, while member countries of the council were also convinced about the issue, sources claimed.

Proposals from both sides have also been discussed in various rounds of negotiations on FTA during the last few years. Pakistan was also negotiating with different member countries of GCC including Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait on the framework of FTA for the last four years. Besides Pakistan, the United States was also interested to have an FTA with the GCC, but some members of the council had raised objections.

However, proposal of including payment of the five percent duty by the governments of GCC members with free trade agreements with the US into a regional fund, tagging duty-free products exported under the FTAs, or routing them via existing free trade zones in the region, was also under discussion. Pakistan is trying hard to finalise the FTA at the earliest, while the third round of talks on the issue are expected soon to conclude the discussion. The Pakistan's ambassador to Riyadh Umar Khan Sherazi had, earlier, claimed that FTA with GCC would be signed before March this year.

All Day**Saudi Arabia keen to invest in energy, agriculture sectors: Hafeez Shaikh**

-- By APP

Saudi Arabia keen to invest in energy, agriculture sectors: Hafeez Shaikh

WASHINGTON - 18th April 2011

By APP

Saudi Arabia is interested in investing in Pakistan's energy and agriculture sectors, Finance Minister Abdul Hafeez Shaikh said after meeting his counterpart from the

oil-rich country.

Dr Shaikh and Saudi Finance Minister Dr Ibrahim Bin Abdulaziz Al Assaf discussed investment opportunities that Pakistan holds out for Saudi businesses at a meeting on the occasion of semi-annual IMF-World Bank gathering.

"We have very close and longstanding relationship with Saudi Arabia and Ibrahim Al-Assaf is a longtime friend of Pakistan. We explored ways to further expand bilateral economic cooperation," Hafeez Shaikh said.

He also reaffirmed Islamabad's policy to facilitate foreign investment in various sectors of the economy including energy as the country seeks to overcome electricity shortages and spur industrial output.

The Pakistani finance minister also discussed economic cooperation with his counterparts from neighbouring Iran and Afghanistan.

With Iranian Finance Minister Dr Seyed Shamsuddin Hosseini, Shaikh discussed how the two countries could strengthen cooperation in trade and transport areas, particularly toward materializing the proposed launch of a cargo train from Iran to Turkey via Tehran.

Dr Shaikh also held talks with Afghan Finance Minister Omar Zakhilwal on expanding bilateral commerce. At the invitation of Zakhilwal, a delegation of Pakistani entrepreneurs will visit Afghanistan to look at investment opportunities in fields like minerals development and communication.

"Yesterday, I also met with Chinese finance minister — these meetings with leaders of neighbouring countries are part of our effort to focus on regional development cooperation," Shaikh said.

The finance minister was accompanied at the meetings by Secretary Finance Waqar Masood Khan, Chairman Federal Board of Revenue Salman Siddique, Governor State Bank Shahid Hafeez Kardar, Deputy Chairman

Planning Commission Nadeem ul Haq, Secretary Economic Affairs Division Abdul Wajid Rana and Counsellor Economic Affairs at the Pakistani embassy in Washington Zahid Hafeez.

All Day

JANG -- مذاکرات میں خلائى و دفاعى تعاون سرفہرست ہوگا □ گیلانی کا دورہ چین

مذاکرات میں خلائى و دفاعى تعاون سرفہرست ہوگا ■ گیلانی کا دورہ چین

شنگھائی (صالح ظافر) وزیر اعظم گیلانی چین کے چار روزہ سرکاری دورے پر شنگھائی پہنچ گئے ہیں۔ وہ بدھ کو چینی قیادت کے ساتھ اسٹریٹجک نوعیت کے اہم مذاکرات کریں گے۔ مذاکرات میں خلائى ٹیکنالوجی (جس سے پاکستان کو ارضیاتی تصاویر کے حصول میں مدد ملے گی) اور فضائی دفاعی صلاحیت میں اضافے میں تعاون سرفہرست ہوں گے۔ مغرب بالخصوص امریکا کے تحفظات کو مد نظر رکھ کر تعاون کے امکانات کے حوالے سے چین انتہائی احتیاط سے کام لے رہا ہے۔ پاکستان خلائى پروگرام میں چین کے ساتھ تعاون چاہتا ہے؛ چین امریکا کے ساتھ مل کر خلائى پروگرام پر کام کر رہا ہے۔ دورہ چین کے دوران وزیر اعظم گیلانی چین کے دو خلائى تحقیق کے مراکز کا دورہ بھی کریں گے۔ وہ بدھ کو شنگھائی کے قریب ایک مرکز کا دورہ بھی کریں گے جبکہ چائنا اکیڈمی آف اسپیس ٹیکنالوجی میں جمعہ کو مہمان خصوصی کے طور پر جائیں گے۔ سفارتی ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ وزیر اعظم گیلانی کا دورہ چین اس لحاظ سے بھی اہمیت کا حامل ہے کہ امریکی سینیٹ کی خارجہ امور کمیٹی کے چیئرمین جان کیری پاکستان کا دورہ کر کے بمشکل امریکا پہنچے ہیں۔ امکان ہے کہ پاکستان کے سینئر دفاعی حکام وزیر اعظم گیلانی کے دورے کے بعد چین کا دورہ کریں گے۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان اصولی طور پر اتفاق کیا گیا ہے کہ دونوں ملک دفاعی شعبے میں تعاون کو مستحکم کریں گے۔

April 19, 2011

Tue

All Day

Pakistan test-fired Hatf 9; Nuclear-capable Missile

Pakistan test-fired Hatf 9; Nuclear-capable Missile

April 19, 2011

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ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has successfully test-fired a newly developed short-range ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads on Tuesday.

The military said in a statement that the “Hatf 9” missile with a range of 60 kilometres (40 miles) “could carry nuclear warheads of appropriate yields with high accuracy”.

Deterrence Value: “The missile has been developed to add deterrence value to Pakistan’s strategic weapons development programme at shorter ranges,” it said, adding that “this quick response system addresses the need to deter evolving threats”. South Asian rivals India and Pakistan — which have fought three wars, two of them over the disputed Himalayan territory of Kashmir — have routinely carried out missile tests since both demonstrated nuclear weapons capability in 1998. Pakistan’s arsenal includes short-range, medium and long-range missiles named after Muslim conquerors.

Pakistan carried out nuclear weapons tests in May 1998, following similar tests by India. The neighbours were on the brink of a nuclear conflict in 2002 over tensions about disputed Kashmir, but began a slow-moving peace dialogue in 2004, which resumed in March after three years of suspension following November 2008 Mumbai attacks.

All Day

175 new coaches imported to cope with demand of passengers: Bilour -- SANA TV

175 new coaches imported to cope with demand of passengers: Bilour

South Asian News Agency (SANA) · April 30, 2011 ·

ISLAMABAD(SANA): Minister for Railways Ghulam Ahmad Bilour has said that one hundred and seventy-five new coaches have been imported to cope with the demand of the passengers.

He informed the National Assembly during question hour on Friday that 124 first class Sleeper Coaches have been replaced with AC Lower Coaches and attached with various trains to cater the need of the public.

Responding to a supplementary question the Minister said that a proposal is under consideration to lay down nine hundred kilometers rail track to connect Gwadar Sea Port through rail link. He said that a huge investment is required to make Pakistan Railways profitable.

Parliamentary Secretary for Food and Agriculture Liaquat Ali Khan informed the House that sufficient stock of sugar is available in the country and the price of the commodity is less as compared to other regional countries. He said that a number of steps have been taken to enhance sugarcane production in order to reduce dependency on sugar import.

Federal Minister Makhdoom Shahabuddin said that 1056 TB Centers are operational in different parts of the country to provide free diagnostic and treatment facilities to the tuberculosis patients.

He said that under Benazir Income Support Programme a Health Insurance Policy is being formulated for the poor segment of the society.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar informed the House that efforts are being made for the release of Pakistani prisoners detained in Saudi Arabia. She said that Consular access is being provided to the detainees and during her recent visit to the Kingdom she also took up the matter with the concerned authorities for their early release.

Minister for Narcotics Control Haji Khuda Bakhsh Rajar informed the House that a five-year Drug Control Master Plan has been prepared and will be implemented after approval from the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC).

All Day

Gwadar Port to be connected through rail link: Bilour

Gwadar Port to be connected through rail link: Bilour

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Railways Ghulam Ahmed Bilour Friday said a proposal was under consideration to connect the Gwadar Deep Sea Port through a rail link of Pakistan Railways.

He said feasibility study had been completed under which the Gwadar Port was proposed to link with main railway network at Mastung located on Quetta-Taftan section, while the length of proposed railway link would be 901 kilometres. At National Assembly session, he said negotiations were underway with China to lay the railway track, adding that a Chinese company had conducted a survey in this regard while further terms and conditions were yet to be finalised.

He said Pakistan Railways was in dire need to get new locomotives and overhaul the old ones besides improving infrastructure. This deficiency was causing hours-delay in trains arrival and departure, he added.

Bilour had informed the House the Pakistan Railways had not received the Rs 11.6 billion grant approved by the Federal Cabinet even after passage of four months, which was essential to improve its efficiency. "We are in dire need of funds to purchase new locomotives and repair old-ones for improving its countrywide

operations,” he said.

He said the Ministry was considering a proposal of life insurance for those people who lost their lives in rail related incidents. He said the entire railway network was being equipped with modern signaling system, adding that Walkie-Talkie Radio sets had been provided to train guards and relief trains.

He said installation of VHF radio set at each station on main line from Peshawar to Karachi had been completed. “Installation of VHF Radio on 280 locomotives running with Mail, Express, Passenger and Goods trains has also been completed,” he said.

During last four years around 644 accidents took place over the railway network. Out of these, 45 percent accidents took place at un-manned and manned level crossings, he added. He said the train service on Sahiwal to Raiwind track would hopefully start by end of this year.

Bilour said Pakistan Railways was granting 50 percent concession in economy class and 25 percent concession in all AC classes to senior citizens who attained the age of 65 years. “They can avail the concession in all trains except five non-stop trains including Millat Express, Karakoram Express, Karachi Express, Islamabad Express and Margala Express,” he said. app

[Home](#)

کوئٹہ (عبدالخالق، نمائندہ جنگ) کراچی میں امریکی قونصلیٹ کی انفارمیشن افسر اینڈی ڈی آرمینٹ نے کہا ہے کہ امریکہ پاکستان میں تعلیم صحت پانی سمیت دیگر شعبوں میں بھرپور تعاون کر رہا ہے بلوچستان میں عوام کو پینے کے صاف پانی کی فراہمی کیلئے 26 ڈیموں کی تعمیر میں مالی معاونت کرے گا سیلاب سے متاثرہ عوام کی امداد اور بحالی کیلئے ہماری کوششیں کسی سے پوشیدہ نہیں ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے مقامی ہوٹل میں جنگ سے خصوصی بات چیت میں کیا انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور امریکہ کی دوستی پائیدار بنیادوں پر استوار ہے پاکستان میں امریکی سفیر کیمرون منٹر نے گزشتہ روز کوئٹہ کا دورہ کیا جبکہ اس سے قبل کراچی میں متعین امریکی قونصل جنرل کوئٹہ کا متعدد بار دورہ کرچکے ہیں امریکہ دیگر شعبوں کیساتھ سماجی شعبے میں بھی بھرپور تعاون کر رہا ہے تعلیم صحت اور پینے کے پانی کے منصوبوں میں حکومت پاکستان کی معاونت اور بلوچستان کے عوام کو زندگی کی بنیادی سہولتوں کی فراہمی کیلئے اقدامات کر رہے ہیں بلوچستان کے طلباء اور اساتذہ کو امریکہ میں مزید تعلیم حاصل کرنے کیلئے اسکالرشپس فراہم کئے جارہے ہیں بلوچستان میں عوام کو پینے کا صاف پانی فراہم اور پانی کی قلت دور کرنے کیلئے بھی تعاون کر رہے ہیں اور بلوچستان میں 26 ڈیمز تعمیر کئے جائیں گے

May 2, 2011

Mon

All Day

Parliament approves TAPI gas agreement

Parliament approves TAPI gas agreement

Kabul—Afghan lawmakers HAVE approved Turkmenistan- Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas agreement, TOLO News reported.

International Liaison Commission of the Afghan parliament viewed the agreement as an economy booster in the country and said Turkmenistan's gas flow through Afghanistan would help to strengthen business relations between the members of the projects.

A member of international liaison commission of the Afghan House of Representatives Mohammad Anwar Akbari while expressing happiness about the move of the house said about 7,000 people will be assigned to ensure security to the project in the country. After the completion of the project Afghanistan would receive 1,200,000,000 cubic meters of gas and it would peak at more than 5 billion cubic meters of gas within five years, Mr Akbari said.

"We will have support of a US company and estimations put the cost of the project at around \$7.8 billion. And construction work will begin by 2012 and it's expected to be completed by 2014," Mr Akbari said.

Naheed Ahmadi Farid, an Afghan lawmaker who represents Herat province, said "cooperation in improvement of gas and fuel industry is on top of our agenda.

Meanwhile, parliamentarians also ratified the agreement of Convention on Cluster Munitions, which is an international treaty that bans the use of cluster bombs, signed by the Afghan government.

Lawmakers said Afghanistan is the 24th member of Convention on Cluster Munitions.—NNI

All Day

Trade Facilitation Programme for Pakistan

Trade Facilitation Programme for Pakistan

EFIC, ADB ink agreement

Staff Report

KARACHI: Australia's Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC) will share the risk that Asian Development Bank (ADB), through its Trade Finance Programme, takes in guaranteeing letters of credit for exports of Australian goods to Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in order to make it easier to import crucial Australian goods.

An agreement was signed in this regard on Tuesday.

Australia's High Commissioner to Pakistan Tim George has welcomed the signing of a trade facilitation agreement between the ADB and EFIC, which will help the Pakistan economy.

This will help companies that struggle to get the trade finance they need to buy key inputs for export production or end products from overseas, including from Australia. A lack of trade finance holds back business and means less job creation, ultimately restraining economic growth for regional economies.

"I am pleased to see this innovative agreement take place," George said. "It will greatly assist Pakistani and Australian companies to do business, which in turn is good for the economy. Trade creates jobs, raises the standard of living and promotes sustainable economy growth," he said.

Australia is a major exporter to Pakistan. In 2009-10, oil seeds, fertilizers and coal were among Australia's biggest exports to Pakistan, which totalled to more than 610 million Australian dollars. Australia and Pakistan have a Joint Trade Committee (JTC) mechanism to discuss opportunities to expand bilateral trade and investment, and Australia is due to host the JTC in 2011. The Australian High Commission in Islamabad is also helping to promote business-to-business links, including through the revival of the Pakistan Australia Business Forum.

ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members - 48 from the region.

EFIC provides finance and insurance solutions to help Australian exporters overcome the financial barriers they face when growing their business overseas. As the Australian government's export credit agency, it helps successful businesses to win, finance and protect export trade or overseas investments where their bank is unable to provide all the support they need. It works directly with exporters or with their banks to provide loans, guarantees, bonds and insurance products to meet the needs of both large and small exporters.

All Day

APP -- پاک ازبک تجارت کا فروغ وقت کا اہم تقاضا ہے۔ محمد عثمان شیخ

پاک ازبک تجارت کا فروغ وقت کا اہم تقاضا ہے۔ محمد عثمان شیخ

کراچی - 4 مئی (اے پی پی) وفاق ایوان ہائے تجارت و صنعت (ایف پی سی سی سی آئی) کے قائم مقام صدر انجینئر محمد عثمان شیخ نے کہا ہے کہ پاک ازبک تجارت کا فروغ وقت کا اہم تقاضا ہے۔ پاکستان اور ازبکستان باہمی تجارت میں فروغ اور توازن کیلئے ایک تجارتی وفد ستمبر میں ازبکستان کا دورہ کرے گا۔

All Day

Pakistan, France ink declarations on security, economic partnership

Pakistan, France ink declarations on security, economic partnership

By Shafek E Koreshe & Shumaila Andleeb

PARIS, May 5 (APP): Pakistan and France on Thursday agreed on cooperation in security, trade and economic partnership in a bid to further broaden their bilateral relationship. Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani concluded his three-day official visit with the signing of a Declaration on Security Cooperation along with his French counterpart Francois Fillon. Minister of State for Foreign and Economic Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar inked the agreement on Trade and Economic Partnership.

The two declarations were signed after the meeting of Prime Minister Gilani with the French Prime Minister at his official residence.

A Joint Statement issued simultaneously from Islamabad and Paris stated that during the talks the leaders of the two countries agreed on enhancing security cooperation, intelligence sharing, defence cooperation, economic assistance, trade and cooperation against terrorism.

Prime Minister Gilani told APP that his talks with the French leadership were "very positive" and said his visit helped dispel the negative impression, created by the Western media against Pakistan.

He said now it was the duty of the Pakistani media to tell the world that Pakistan was a peace loving country and desired stability in the region.

Gilani stressed that the negative perceptions about Pakistan need to be corrected and the world must realize the sacrifices of the people and security forces of the country and help build its capacity to counter extremism and terrorism.

Prime Minister Fillon seconded the statement of President Nicholas Sarkozy who yesterday in his talks with Prime Minister Gilani appreciated his political acumen and described him as "an anchor of democracy". He assured Pakistan of his country's full support in this regard.

The Prime Minister in his talks with the French leadership and its business community urged them to invest in Pakistan and initiate joint ventures between their private sectors so that economic activity is generated.

Prime Minister Gilani who was here at the invitation of the French leadership met President Nicholas Sarkozy, Prime Minister Francois Fillon, and President of the Senate Gerard Larcher, besides meeting Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Defence Minister Gerard Longuet.

The Joint Declaration said the two countries had in-depth discussions with the French leadership on bilateral, regional and global issues.

The two sides also announced setting up of an administrating committee to facilitate the establishment of Pakistan-France Joint Business Council and facilitate and strengthen bilateral economic and commercial partnership.

The Joint Business Council was set up following Prime Minister Gilani's address to the French Business Confederation (MEDEF).

Pakistan and France value their partnership, which is characterized by close coordination not only at the bilateral level but also in the context of the European Union. France is the second largest trading partner of Pakistan.

All Day

Pakistan and Kuwait will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on energy cooperation, -- APP

ISLAMABAD:

Pakistan and Kuwait will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on energy cooperation, under which Kuwait will extend financial and technical assistance for two major gas import initiatives – Iran-Pakistan (IP) and Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline projects.

The MoU will be signed during the official visit of President Asif Ali Zardari to Kuwait beginning May 7. Pakistan is currently importing oil from Kuwait on 60-day deferred payments. Pakistan had earlier required extension in oil import on the deferred payment facility from 60 to 90 days but Kuwait declined the request.

Sources said the petroleum ministry had no proposal during the president's visit to seek extension in oil imports on deferred payment and that it had already discussed with the Kuwaiti government financing for IP and TAPI gas pipeline projects.

Under the MoU, Kuwait will also extend cooperation with the Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP) and will invest in oil and gas sectors to increase output to meet domestic requirements of Pakistan.

Pakistan has signed Gas Sales Purchase Agreement (GSPA) with Iran for the IP pipeline and awarded a consultancy contract to Germany-based firm ILF, which would work with the National Engineering Services of Pakistan (Nespak). The consultancy contract has been divided into two phases, costing \$55 million.

Iran has laid a 900-kilometre pipeline and has completed a survey to lay pipeline on the remaining 250 km to connect with Pakistan's border. Pakistan will lay a 785km pipeline that would cost \$1.24 billion. Under the IP project, 750 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) of gas will be imported from Iran to generate power.

Under the TAPI gas pipeline, 3.2 billion cubic feet per day (bcfd) of gas will be imported from Turkmenistan – which will be shared by Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. The project is estimated to cost \$7.6 billion.

All participating countries are scheduled to meet in Afghanistan on May 13-14 to resolve the issue of gas pricing and finalise GSPA which will be signed by July 31.

Published in The Express Tribune, May 6th, 2011

All Day

صدر زرداری بدھ سے روس کا دورہ کرینگے -- JANG

صدر زرداری بدھ سے روس کا دورہ کرینگے

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) صدر آصف زرداری 11 مئی بروز بدھ سے روس کا 3 روزہ دورہ کرینگے جہاں وہ روس کی اعلیٰ قیادت سے ملاقاتیں کر کے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان دو طرفہ تعلقات سمیت دیگر امور پر تبادلہ خیال کرینگے۔ صدر زرداری اپنے دورہ کے دوران اسکولکونوف ماسکو اسکول آف مینجمنٹ میں بزنس کمیونٹی سے خطاب اور روس کے دوسرے بڑے شہر اور صنعتی حب سینٹ پیٹرس برگ کا دورہ بھی کریں گے۔

All Day

Pak-China friendship anchor of peace, stability: Gilani -- Jang

Pak-China friendship anchor of peace, stability: Gilani

* PM says relationship between countries unique example of abiding friendship, mutual respect based on immeasurable trust

ISLAMABAD: The friendship between Pakistan and China is an anchor of peace and stability and both countries will further strengthen their relations to promote regional prosperity, Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani said on Sunday.

Speaking at an event to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations at the Pakistan-China Friendship Centre, he said that a sincere friendship and deep affection marked the relationship between the people of the two countries.

"We are proud to have China as our best and most trusted friend, and China will always find Pakistan standing by its side at all times," Gilani added.

The prime minister said that the relationship between Pakistan and China was a unique example of abiding friendship, immense mutual respect and close partnership based on immeasurable trust.

"When we speak of this friendship as being taller than the Himalayas and deeper than the oceans it truly captures the essence of our relationship," he said.

Prime Minister Gilani said that Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit last year was a demonstration of the unique relationship. "The visit further strengthened the existing cooperation between the two countries."

He expressed confidence that the relationship between the two countries would strengthen in the days to come.

"President Asif Ali Zardari has visited China six times, and each visit has been beneficial and rewarding in one way or the other," he said. "I am eagerly looking forward to my forthcoming visit to China later this month. We have and continue to greatly benefit from the support of the Chinese leadership. China's unique development experience is a model for developing countries like ours to learn from," Gilani added.

The prime minister said that China's success in various fields was a matter of great pride for the people and the government of Pakistan. "Today China is the world's second largest economy. It has achieved this success through hard work, ingenuity, and above all through the wisdom and vision of its leadership," he said.

Gilani said that Pakistan was fortunate to learn from the experience of a successful friend and a great neighbour. "We are grateful to China for its commitment to share its development experience with us," he added.

Gilani said successive generations of leaders in Pakistan and China had nurtured the Pak-China relationship with a common vision.

He recalled that Premier Zhou En Lai had once said, "Our relationship began with the advent of mankind".

"The experience of our friendship in the last 60 years is a proof to this statement. The Silk Route of yester years has been replaced by the Karakoram Highway, which was built with the joint efforts and sacrifices of our people. It stands out as a testimony of our commitment to stand by each other," Gilani said. app

All Day

Zardari invites Russia to invest in Pakistan's trans-regional projects**-- APP**

Zardari invites Russia to invest in Pakistan's trans-regional projects

By Mohammad Ilyas Khan

MOSCOW, May 11 (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday said that Russia can invest in regional and trans-regional projects while benefitting from Pakistan's strategic location and investment friendly policies. Speaking at Skolkovo Moscow School of Management here, he said both Pakistan and Russia share the common objectives of peace and development and therefore it will be natural for the two countries to cooperate for these goals. President Zardari said, "Our two countries need to expand and diversify their economic cooperation by engaging the corporate sectors. People to people contacts have their own dynamics to promote relations between countries."

The President said involving private entrepreneurs of the two countries is the key to enhancing cooperation. He said that trade and investment are the key in today's international relations and Russia should take benefits from the investment friendly policies of the government.

President Zardari sought Russian cooperation in developing and exploiting energy resources in Pakistan since it has special expertise in mining and heavy industries. He said Pakistan is facing energy shortage and Russia can facilitate the proposed CASA 1000 and TAPI projects.

He said Moscow School of Management is a symbol of Russia's drive for modernization under its dynamic leadership.

This School has made great contribution to bringing stability to the global financial and economic order, he added.

Later, the Chairman Board of Investment Salim H Mandviwala and the Head of Russian National Investment Agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of their respective governments to promote and increase investment in each other's countries.

All Day

-- صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری (کل) چار روزہ سرکاری دورہ پر ماسکو پہنچیں گے**Jang**

صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری (کل) چار روزہ سرکاری دورہ پر ماسکو پہنچیں گے

روس کے صدر اور وزیراعظم سے الگ الگ ملاقات کے علاوہ کاروباری برادری سے خطاب کریں گے

ماسکو - 10 مئی (اے پی پی) صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری (کل) بدھ کو چار روزہ سرکاری دورہ پر یہاں پہنچیں گے جس سے پاکروس تعلقات کی نئی راہیں کھلیں گی۔ صدر مملکت اپنے روسی ہم منصب دمتری میدودوف کی دعوت پر یہ دورہ کر رہے ہیں۔ سینئر وزیر برائے صنعت و دفاعی پیداوار چوہدری پرویز الہی، وزیر دفاع چوہدری احمد مختار، وزیراعظم کے مشیر برائے پٹرولیم و قدرتی وسائل ڈاکٹر عاصم حسین، وزیر مملکت خارجہ امور حنا ربانی کھر، چیئرمین سرمایہ کاری بورڈ سلیم ایچ مائٹوی والا، صدر کے سیکرٹری ملک آصف حیات، سیکرٹری تجارت ظفر محمود، صدر کے ترجمان فرحت اللہ بابر اور قائم مقام چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر پاکستان سٹیل ملز و آصف محمود سمیت اعلیٰ سطح کا وفد ان کے ہمراہ ہو گا۔

ماسکو (ایجنسیاں) صدر آصف زرداری نے روس کو پاکستانی سمندروں تک رسائی کی پیشکش کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور روس کو تجارت اور سرمایہ کاری میں تعاون بڑھانا چاہیے، اقتصادی اور سیاسی تعلقات بڑھانا دونوں ملکوں کے مفاد میں ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کے عوام کے درمیان طویل عرصہ سے دوریاں رہیں، اب دنیا بدل چکی ہے، ہمیں سرد جنگ کی کشیدگی سے باہر نکلنا ہوگا، روس پاکستان کے اسٹریٹیجک وقوع سے فائدہ اٹھاتے ہوئے علاقائی منصوبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کر سکتا ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار صدر زرداری نے روسی خبررساں ادارے کو انٹرویو اور ماسکو اسکول آف مینجمنٹ میں خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ گزشتہ روز صدر آصف زرداری روس کے چار روزہ دورے پر ماسکو پہنچے جہاں انکا پر تپاک خیر مقدم کیا گیا۔ صدر زرداری آج بروز پیر کو روسی ہم منصب دیمیتری میدیوف سے ون آن ون اور وفود کی سطح پر ملاقات کریں گے، واضح رہے کہ صدر یہ دورہ روسی ہم منصب کی دعوت پر کر رہے ہیں۔ سرکاری ذرائع کے مطابق دونوں زراعت اور دیگر شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے کیلئے مختلف سمجھوتوں پر بھی 'سرمایہ کاری' ممالک توانائی دستخط کریں گے۔ روس کے خبررساں ادارے کو اپنے انٹرویو میں صدر زرداری نے کہا کہ روس خطے کا اہم ملک ہے جسے بات چیت کے نتیجے میں دونوں ملکوں کے تعلقات مزید بہتر ہوں گے۔

All Day

روسی کمپنیاں پاکستان اسٹیل کو جدید بنانے، بجلی و گیس کے منصوبوں میں حصہ لینے پر تیار -- JANG

روسی کمپنیاں پاکستان اسٹیل کو جدید بنانے، بجلی و گیس کے منصوبوں میں حصہ لینے پر تیار

ماسکو (ایجنسیاں) پاکستان اور روس دو طرفہ تجارت و سرمایہ کاری کے فروغ بالخصوص توانائی، بنیادی ڈھانچے کی ترقی، فولاد کی صنعت، زراعت کے شعبوں میں تعاون اور دہشتگردی کیخلاف جنگ میں تعاون بڑھانے پر اتفاق کیا ہے جبکہ روسی کمپنیاں پاکستان اسٹیل کو جدید بنانے اور بجلی و گیس کے منصوبے میں حصہ لینے پر تیار ہیں۔ جمعرات کو صدر آصف زرداری اور روسی صدر دیمیتری میدودوف کے درمیان ملاقات کے بعد جاری مشترکہ اعلامیہ میں دونوں رہنماؤں نے اتفاق کیا کہ وسیع تر تعاون سے باہمی احترام اور مفادات پر مبنی مضبوط تعلقات کے فروغ میں مدد ملے گی۔ دونوں صدور نے وسیع تر خطہ میں امن و استحکام کے فروغ کو دی جانے والی اہمیت اور اس ضمن میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان رابطوں، مشاورت، معاونت جاری رکھنے پر بھی اتفاق کیا۔ دونوں اطراف نے پاکستان اور روس کے درمیان فضائی ٹرانسپورٹ کے بارے میں معاہدے اور توانائی کے شعبہ میں اور زراعت کے شعبہ میں تعاون کے حوالہ سے مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط کا خیر مقدم کیا۔ قبل ازیں زرداری اور روس کے صدر میدودوف کے درمیان ون ٹو ون اور وفود کی سطح پر مذاکرات ہوئے۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے دوطرفہ تعلقات، علاقائی اور عالمی امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ دونوں صدور نے دوطرفہ اور کثیر الجہتی علاقائی معاون نظام کے ذریعے اپنی کوششوں کو مربوط بنانے پر بھی اتفاق کیا۔ اس ضمن میں دونوں اطراف نے تاجکستان سے افغانستان اور پاکستان تک بجلی کی فراہمی کے نظام (کاسا 1000) کی تشکیل اور ترکمانستان۔ افغانستان۔ پاکستان۔ بھارت (تاپی) گیس پائپ لائن کی تعمیر سے متعلق منصوبوں پر عملدرآمد میں گہری دلچسپی ظاہر کی۔ صدر آصف زرداری نے منصوبوں میں شرکت کیلئے روسی پیشکش کی حمایت کرتے ہوئے ان کو جلد عملی جامہ پہنانے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا۔

All Day

app -- یورپی یونین نے پاکستان کیلئے تجارتی رعایتوں کی متفقہ طور پر منظوری دیدی

یورپی یونین نے پاکستان کیلئے تجارتی رعایتوں کی متفقہ طور پر منظوری دیدی

اسلام آباد - 13 مئی (اے پی پی) یورپی یونین کی پارلیمنٹ نے پاکستان کیلئے تجارتی رعایتوں کی متفقہ طور پر منظوری دیدی۔ تاہم عالمی تجارتی تنظیم ڈبلیو ٹی او اب اس راہ میں واحد رکاوٹ رہ گئی ہے۔ لیکن یورپی یونین پارلیمنٹ کی منظوری پاکستان کیلئے بڑی کامیابی ہے۔ جمعہ کو حکام کی جانب سے جاری ایک بیان میں کہا گیا ہے کہ یورپین یونین کی پارلیمنٹ کے تمام اراکین نے پاکستان کیلئے رعایتوں کی متفقہ منظوری دیدی۔ ہر پاکستانی حکومت کیلئے بڑی کامیابی ہے۔

May 15, 2011

Sun

All Day

MoU signed with Malaysia for meat exports -- Online

MoU signed with Malaysia for meat exports

LAHORE – A memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Punjab government and Penang State Government Malaysia regarding cooperation in halal industry at Chief Minister's Secretariat here on Saturday.

Chief Executive Officer Lahore Meat Company Dr Hamid Jalil on behalf of Punjab government and Minister for Religious Affairs and Chairman Halal Industry Development Penang State Government, Haji Abdul Maalik Qaseem on behalf of Malaysian government signed the MoU. Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Minister Agriculture Ahmad Ali Aulakh, Members Provincial Assembly, Chairman Planning & Development, Commissioner Lahore, Chairman Special Initiatives, Vice Chairman Punjab Investment Board and officers concerned were present on the occasion. According to the agreement, Penang State Government Malaysia will work jointly with Punjab Meat Company for setting up of Halal Industrial park in Punjab, training programme, international certification and export of halal products from Pakistan.

Speaking on this occasion, the CM said Malaysia was a brotherly Islamic country and the agreement between Penang State Government Malaysia and Punjab government with regard to promotion of halal industry was a good omen. He said there was a big scope of exporting halal meat from Punjab to international market and Punjab government was taking solid steps in that regard. He said a state-of-the-art slaughter house was also being established in Lahore with the cooperation of Iran whereas for the first time in the history of the country, halal meat had been exported to Malaysia. "The Punjab government is also working on the project of certification of halal meat so that it could be exported to Middle East, Malaysia and other countries from Punjab as per international standard," he said, adding that the government would work for the uplift of halal meat industry with the cooperation of Penang State Government, Malaysia, and directed Dr. Hamid Jalil to take further steps in that regard.

All Day

UAE allocates \$100 million for projects in Pak -- (SANA)

UAE allocates \$100 million for projects in Pak

South Asian News Agency (SANA) · May 16, 2011 ·

ISLAMABAD, (SANA): The UAE has allocated \$100 million dollars to Pakistan for the construction of more than 51 schools (primary & secondary), technical institutions, several healthcare centers, building roads and bridges, infrastructure and supply of safe drinking water schemes, the UAE embassy has said.

The money has been allocated on the special instructions of President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to the people of Swat, South Waziristan, other North Western districts and the tribal area. The construction of such projects is in progress.

During the devastating floods in Pakistan last year, UAE Armed Forces successfully carried out grand operations of rescue, distribution of relief goods, and logistics to different parts of Pakistan.

Chinooks rigorously participated in the humanitarian assistance activities in the most flood affected regions of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

UAE Military Field Hospitals in many remote areas of the country treated thousands of affectees and launched effective vaccination campaigns to save children, women and elderly people from different diseases. Water purification plants were also set up to provide clean drinking water in the hard-hit areas.

The Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates in Islamabad Saif Al Awani said that UAE will continue its support to the people and government of Pakistan as the UAE rulers have deep-rooted ties with Pakistani brethren.

All Day

Jang -- پاکستان ہزار میگاواٹ بجلی لینے کیلئے ازبکستان سے تکنیکی مذاکرات جلد کریگا

پاکستان ہزار میگاواٹ بجلی لینے کیلئے ازبکستان سے تکنیکی مذاکرات جلد کریگا

اسلام آباد (خالد مصطفیٰ) پاکستان کو ایک ہزار میگاواٹ بجلی فراہم کرنے کیلئے ازبکستان سے تکنیکی مذاکرات جلد شروع ہوں گے، یہ بات چیٹ وزیراعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی کے دورہ تاشقند کا تسلسل ہوگی، ازبک صدر اسلام کریموف نے ہزار میگاواٹ بجلی برآمد کرنے کی پیشکش کی تھی۔ ازبکستان 5-6 سینٹ فی یونٹ 3 سو میگاواٹ بجلی کابل کو دے رہا ہے۔ یاد رہے کہ پاکستان اور تاجکستان میں کاسا 1000 پروجیکٹ کے تحت کافی عرصے سے مذاکرات کر رہے ہیں تاہم دریا کے نچلے حصے کے وسط ایشیائی ممالک اس منصوبے پر اعتراض کر رہے ہیں، ان کا موقف ہے کہ تاجکستان پانی کے بڑے ذخائر تعمیر کر کے بجلی بنا رہا ہے جس کے باعث پانی کا بہاؤ ان تک نہیں پہنچ پاتا، تاجکستان رگون ڈیم تعمیر کر کے پاکستان کو بجلی برآمد کرنا چاہتا ہے اور تمام وسط ایشیائی ممالک اس ڈیم کے مخالف ہیں اور اگر پاکستان دریا کے بہاؤ اور بالائی حصے پر قبضہ رکھنے والے ملک تاجکستان سے بجلی درآمد کرتا ہے تو پانی کے مسئلے پر بھارت کے خلاف پاکستان کا کیس کمزور ہوگا اور بھارت کا کشن گنگا پروجیکٹ پر موقف مضبوط ہو جائے گا کہ پاکستان دریا کے بالائی حصے پر اس ملک کے حق کو تسلیم کرتا ہے۔ ماہرین کا کہنا ہے کہ اس حوالے سے تاجکستان سے بجلی کا حصول انتہائی تباہ کن ہوگا۔ سیکریٹری پانی و بجلی جاوید اقبال نے تصدیق کی کہ ماہرین کی ٹیم جلد تاشقند جائے گی اور ازبکستان سے بجلی کی درآمد کے امکانات، نرخ اور ٹرانسمیشن کے راستے پر تبادلہ خیال کرے گی جس کے بعد فیصلہ کیا جائے گا کہ بجلی ازبکستان سے لینا فائدہ مند ہوگا یا نہیں۔ ازبکستان پانچ چھ سینٹ فی یونٹ کے حساب سے افغانستان کو 300 میگاواٹ بجلی فراہم کر رہا ہے اور اس ٹرانسمیشن لائن کو کابل سے پاکستان تک توسیع کا خواہشمند ہے۔

All Day

Voice Of America Urdu -- وزیراعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی منگل کو چین روانہ ہوں گے

وزیراعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی منگل کو چین روانہ ہوں گے

پاکستان کے وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی منگل کو چین کے سرکاری دورے پر بیجنگ روانہ ہو رہے ہیں۔ ان کا یہ دورہ چار روز پر مشتمل ہوگا۔ دورے کا مقصد چین سے دوطرفہ تعلقات کو مزید مضبوط بنانا اور انہیں مستقل بنیادوں پر فروغ دینے کیلئے نئے طریقوں پر تبادلہ خیال ہے۔ واضح رہے کہ یہ دورہ ایسے موقع پر ہو رہا ہے جب دونوں ملکوں کے سفارتی تعلقات کے قیام کو ساٹھ سال مکمل ہو رہے ہیں۔ پاکستانی دفتر خارجہ کی ترجمان تہمینہ جنجوعہ کا کہنا ہے کہ وزیراعظم کے دورہ چین کے دوران دونوں ملک کے درمیان معیشت، تجارت، خزانہ اور ثقافت کے شعبوں میں تعاون کے معاہدوں پر دستخط

ہوں گے۔

All Day

Chairman Three Gorges Corporation calls on Gilani -- Observer

Chairman Three Gorges Corporation calls on Gilani
Beijing—Chairman Three Gorges Corporation (TGC) Cao Guangjing called on Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani here on Friday and discussed the prospects of increased Pak-China cooperation in water conservation and hydro power generation.

The Prime Minister sought the cooperation and investment of TGC, which has one of the biggest hydro-power projects in the world, for the establishment of water conservation and hydro-power projects in Pakistan to meet its energy and water requirements.

Gilani said Pakistan will welcome Chinese investment in Bhasha and Bunji dams as well as in small dams, adding, since Pakistan is facing energy shortage, the cooperation of TGC would be welcomed.

The Chairman TGC expressed his willingness to invest in hydro- power projects in Pakistan and said their investment would bring about enhanced economic development in Pakistan. China Yangtze Three Gorges Project is one of the biggest hydropower-complex projects in the world and ranks as a key project for improvement and development of the Yangtze River.

The dam is located in the areas of Xilingxia gorge, one of the three gorges of the river, which will control a drainage area of one million square kilometers, with an average annual runoff of 451 billion cubic million.—APP

All Day

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Industries, Basharat Raja said Monday the Ministry of Industries looks forward for mutually beneficial investment and for promoting Japanese investment in Pakistan. -- Pak Tribune

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Industries, Basharat Raja said Monday the Ministry of Industries looks forward for mutually beneficial investment and for promoting Japanese investment in Pakistan.

During a meeting with a delegation of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) he said, "Through mutual coordination, we will search ways for promoting development and generating job opportunities in Pakistan".

He assured the delegation of full support and cooperation of the Ministry.

Masao Nagase, JICA special advisor to BOI, briefed the advisor about the challenges and opportunities for investment in Pakistan. He said Pakistan has huge potential for investment and Japanese were already engaged in many investment projects in the country.

All Day

پاک ایران تعلقات کو مزید فروغ دیا جائے گا، رحمن ملک -- Jang

رحمن ملک 'پاک ایران تعلقات کو مزید فروغ دیا جائے گا

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ جنگ) وزیر داخلہ سینیٹر اے رحمن ملک سے ایران کے ڈپٹی وزیر داخلہ علی عبدالہی نے ملاقات کی۔ ملاقات میں پاکستان میں ایران کے سفیر ماشاء اللہ شاکری اور وفاقی سیکرٹری داخلہ قمر زمان پاک ایران بارڈر 'چوہدری بھی موجود تھے۔ ملاقات انتہائی خوشگوار ماحول میں ہوئی جس میں دو طرفہ تعلقات انسانی اسمگلنگ کی روک تھام اور دیگر باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ ملاقات میں 'مینجمنٹ پاک ایران بارڈر مینجمنٹ پر تبادلہ خیال کے علاوہ انسانی اسمگلنگ میں ملوث ایجنٹوں کے خلاف دونوں ممالک کوست گارڈ اور پولیس پر مشتمل 'نئے بلا تفریق سخت کارروائی کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا۔ پاکستان نے ایف آئی اے منشیات اور ڈرگس کی روک تھام 'ایک ٹاسک فورس قائم کرنے کا اعلان کیا جو انسانی اسمگلنگ کی روک تھام کے لئے موثر اقدامات اٹھائے گی۔ ایران کے ڈپٹی وزیر داخلہ نے ایران کے وزیر داخلہ مصطفیٰ محمد نجار کا

نیک تمناؤں کا پیغام بھی وزیر داخلہ کو پہنچایا۔ وزیر داخلہ نے ایران کے وزیر داخلہ مصطفیٰ محمد نجار کو پاکستان کے دورہ کی دعوت دی۔ وزیر داخلہ نے کہا کہ پاکستان ایران کے ساتھ تعلقات کو قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتا ہے جن کو مستقبل میں مزید فروغ دیا جائے گا۔

All Day

Jang -- کراچی میں دنیا کا سب سے بڑا بایوگیس پلانٹ لگانے کا منصوبہ

کراچی میں دنیا کا سب سے بڑا بایوگیس پلانٹ لگانے کا منصوبہ

رضوان احمد طارق)پاکستان کے سب سے بڑے شہر میں دنیا کا سب سے بڑا بایوگیس پلانٹ ...کراچی (رپورٹ لگانے کی تیاری شروع کردی گئی ہے۔ کے ای ایس سی نے بجلی کی طلب اور رسد میں موجود بہت زیادہ فرق کو کچھ کم کرنے اور ادارے کی جانب سے بجلی کی پیداوار بڑھانے کے لئے بھینس کالونی لائنڈی کے قریب بایو گیس پلانٹ لگانے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے جو بھینس کالونی سے نکلنے والا تین ہزار ٹن گوہر یومیہ استعمال کر کے پچیس تا تیس میگاواٹ بجلی پیدا کرے گا۔ کے ای ایس سی کے جی ایم کارپوریٹ اسٹریٹیجی اینڈ بزنس ڈیولپمنٹ محمد عمر غزنوی کے مطابق اس منصوبے پر لاگت کا تخمہ 60/70 ملین امریکی ڈالرز لگایا گیا ہے اس کے لئے 50/ ایکڑ اراضی حاصل کرنے کی غرض سے کوششیں شروع کردی گئی ہیں، منصوبے کے لئے درکار رقم کنسورشیم کے ذریعہ فراہم کی جائے گی، اس منصوبے پر کام کا آغاز پندرہ ماہ قبل کیا گیا۔

All Day

Al-Sharq -- وزیراعظم برادر ملک چین کے چار روزہ دورے پر روانہ ہوئے

وزیراعظم برادر ملک چین کے چار روزہ دورے پر روانہ ہوئے

Tuesday, 17 May 2011 15:15

پاک چین دوستی ہر دور میں عالمی برادری کے لیے ایک مثال رہی ہے یہی وجہ ہے کہ دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان حکومتی اور عوامی سطح کے رابطوں میں جوش و خروش پایا جاتا ہے چین نے ہر مشکل وقت میں پاکستان کی بھرپور مدد کی ہے یہی وجہ ہے کہ دونوں ملکوں کی دوستی کو پہاڑوں سے زیادہ بلند اور سمندر سے زیادہ گہری ہے۔ منگل سے شروع ہونے والے وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی کے چار روزہ دورے سے پاک چین دوستی میں ایک نئے باب کا اضافہ ہوگا۔ حالیہ دورے میں وزیراعظم چین کی اعلیٰ قیادت کے ساتھ ملاقات میں دوطرفہ تعلقات اور باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال کریں گے۔ سید یوسف رضا گیلانی چین میں منعقدہ ایک بڑے ثقافتی فورم کا افتتاح، تاجروں، صنعتکاروں، مالیاتی نمائندوں سے ملاقات، بیجنگ میں چین کی پیکنگ یونیورسٹی کے طلباء سے اور چینی سرمایہ کاروں کو پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری پر راغب کریں گے۔ چین امریکہ کے بعد دنیا کی دوسری بڑی معاشی طاقت ہے جس کی اقتصادی ترقی عالمی برادری کے لیے ایک مثال ہے۔ چین کی حکومت اپنے سب سے بڑے بینک انٹرنیشنل کمرشل بینک آف چین کی دو شاخیں پاکستان میں قائم کر رہی ہے، اسلام آباد اور کراچی میں قائم ہونے والی ان برانچوں کے پاکستانی معیشت پر مثبت اثرات مرتب ہوں گے۔

All Day

Jang -- یورپی پارلیمنٹ نے پاکستان کیلئے تجارتی رعایت کی منظوری دیدی

یورپی پارلیمنٹ نے پاکستان کیلئے تجارتی رعایت کی منظوری دیدی

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) یورپی پارلیمنٹ نے پاکستان کے لئے تجارتی رعایت کی منظوری دے دی، باقاعدہ منظوری ورلڈ ٹریڈ آرگنائزیشن (ڈبلیو ٹی او) کی رضامندی سے مشروط، وفاقی وزارت تجارت کے ذرائع کے مطابق پاکستان کی 75 اشیاء کو یورپی یونین کے ممالک میں ڈیوٹی فری رسائی حاصل ہوگی۔ جن اشیاء پر تجارتی رعایت دی گئی ہے ان میں زیادہ تر کا تعلق ٹیکسٹائل کے شعبے سے ہے۔

All Day

Construction of Gwadar-Pleri-Jiwani-Gabd Section of MCHP (N-10) -- APP

Construction of Gwadar-Pleri-Jiwani-Gabd Section of MCHP (N-10)

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This 100 km road project in most remote area of Pakistan. The project includes 7 bridges and 300 culverts. It links Gwadar with Jiwani Town and Iran Border

All Day

Dubai businessmen looking for investment in marble and granite sector -- APP

Dubai businessmen looking for investment in marble and granite sector

ISLAMABAD, May 18 (APP): A delegation of businessman from Dubai visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Wednesday and held meetings with entrepreneurs having common interest in various fields. Muhammad Azam, Chairman of PURE PZE RAK Free Trade Zone Dubai said that the aim of their visit to ICCI was to explore the possibilities of investment potential in Pakistan's marble, limestone, granite and construction markets. Dubai is considered a hub of the entire region, said Nabil Akiki, Patner and General Manager, Free Ray Dubai. He said that it was the right time to invest in Pakistan, especially in the concrete, marble, limestone and granite sectors.

ICCI President Mahfooz Elahi said that Pakistan was the land of opportunities, as it offered profitable investment opportunities to both local and foreign investors while private investment was being encouraged in major sectors of the economy.

The ICCI president said that marble and granite sector was fast growing sector in the country with huge investment potential adding foreign business community should come forward and invest in marble and granite industry.

He said marble and granite were among the major minerals extracted in Pakistan after coal, rock salt, limestone and China clay, but there was still lot more potential to develop this sector.

He said that ICCI was constructing an Export Display Centre and marble industry would be given proper opportunity to display its products in that centre for further enhancing its sale and exports.

He said that Pakistan has processing units with complete range of machinery and equipment capable of processing stones in accordance with International Standards, adding that there was no problem of quantity.

All Day

-- پاکستان اور ترکی کے درمیان دوطرفہ تجارت 2012ء تک 2 ارب ڈالر تک پہنچ جائے گی APP

پاکستان اور ترکی کے درمیان دوطرفہ تجارت 2012ء تک 2 ارب ڈالر تک پہنچ جائے گی

انقرہ - 18 مئی (اے پی پی) پاکستان اور ترکی کے درمیان دوطرفہ تجارت 2012ء تک 2 ارب ڈالر تک پہنچ جائے گی۔ یہ بات ترکی میں پاکستان کے سفیر طارق عزیز الدین نے بدھ کو ایف پی سی سی ائی کے وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہی۔ فیڈریشن آف پاکستان چیمبرز آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کا ایک وفد سینیٹر حاجی غلام علی کی قیادت میں ترکی کا دورہ کر رہا ہے۔ وفد نے گزشتہ روز انقرہ میں پاکستان کے سفیر سے ملاقات کی۔

All Day

iJunoon.com -- چین، پاکستان کو ہنگامی بنیاد پر 50 جے ایف 17 تھنڈر طیارے دیگا

چین، پاکستان کو ہنگامی بنیاد پر 50 جے ایف 17 تھنڈر طیارے دیگا

18-5-2011

چین نے حکومت پاکستان کو ہنگامی بنیادوں پر 50 جے ایف 17 تھنڈر طیارے دینے کی یقین دہانی... اسلام آباد کروادی ہے۔ یہ یقین دہانی چین کے حکام نے وزیر اعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی کے چین کے دورے دوران کرائی۔ ذرائع کے مطابق ان طیاروں کو جلد از جلد بنایا جائے گا اور یہ طیارے بنانے کا کام پاکستان میں ہی مکمل ہو گا۔ اس کے علاوہ 14 اگست کو چین پاکستان کا ایک سیٹلائٹ بھی خلا میں بھیجے گا۔ اس سیٹلائٹ کی تیاری بھی چین میں جاری ہے۔

All Day

A leading Chinese bank on Thursday agreed to finance multi-billion dollar Karachi-Faisalabad-Gwadar motorway project. -- Dawn News
Islamabad, May 19: A leading Chinese bank on Thursday agreed to finance multi-billion dollar Karachi-Faisalabad-Gwadar motorway project.

Chairman of the EXIM Bank Li Ruogu during a meeting with Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said the bank will shortly send a team to Pakistan to carry out feasibility study for the project.

Appreciating the financial contribution of the EXIM Bank in major projects in Pakistan, including Chashma Nuclear Power Plant, Karakoram Highway and Saindak Gold and Copper Mining Project, the prime minister said the financing of Karachi-Gwadar motorway would be another shining example of Pak-China friendship.

The prime minister held separate meetings with different Chinese banks and groups. The head of Hudian group told Gilani that his group will invest \$400 million for setting up 350MW thermal power unit near Lahore.

He said that his company had expertise in hydro and coal-fired power projects and was working on various projects in East and South Asia.

The prime minister invited the group to invest in Thar coal power project and Bhasha Dam.

The Hudian group chief said that a delegation will be sent to Pakistan to conduct feasibility studies.

Mr Gilani briefed the Chinese business leaders about the investment-friendly policies of the government and huge potential of investment and financing in various sectors.

All Day

Closer Pak-China economic integration strategic imperative: PM -- APP

Closer Pak-China economic integration strategic imperative: PM
By Shahid Saleem Khan

BEIJING, China, May 19 (APP): Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani highlighting the importance of closer Pak-China economic integration as 'strategic imperative' on Thursday urged the Chinese corporate sector and entrepreneurs to focus on Pakistan in their business plans. "The idea is not only to develop mutually-beneficial bilateral economic cooperation but also to jointly promote intra-regional and trans-regional development partnerships", Gilani told the corporate leaders and CEOs of the large business and industrial houses in China while speaking at the China-Pakistan Entrepreneurs Forum here.

The Forum was co-hosted by China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing.

The Prime Minister, who is in China on a four-day official visit during which he also held talks with Premier Wen Jiabao Wednesday, welcomed the establishment of China-Pakistan Entrepreneurs Forum and said this will further strengthen and facilitate exchanges between both countries business communities.

He said closer economic integration between Pakistan and China was not only "a strategic imperative but accords fully with the dictates of geography; the concept of shared prosperity; and, above all, the ethos of our peoples." The Prime Minister said Pakistan and China are good friends and close neighbours, adding, "our all-weather friendship is deeply imprinted on the hearts and minds of our people."

He said celebrating the "Pakistan-China Friendship Year" and the 60th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations depicted the spirit of brotherhood and renewed resolve to taking our friendship and strategic cooperative partnership to ever new heights.

"The bonds that tie our two peoples together have withstood the test of time. While strong winds of political change have swept across our region and beyond,

Pakistan-China friendship has stood steady as a rock", he remarked.

Gilani said Pakistan-China friendship continues to strengthen with every passing day, adding, "Our partnership has assumed a regional and international dimension. We consult, cooperate and coordinate our respective endeavours for the cause of global peace and prosperity."

He said Pakistan and China rightly take pride in how far they have come together. "The enthusiasm on display in both countries, as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, is genuinely felt and expressed by our two peoples", he added.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan takes inspiration from China's economic transformation that is unparalleled in human history. It has been brought about by the genius and hard work of the talented Chinese people under their wise and sagacious leadership, he added.

He said it is a matter of great satisfaction that economy, technology and trade cooperation between Pakistan and China has witnessed new dynamism, adding, "These are the three most important drivers in the robust growth of our friendship and all-dimensional cooperative partnership."

Gilani recalled and termed Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to Pakistan in December last as another landmark in the long and glorious history of Pakistan-China friendship during which the two sides took important decisions and set out a shared economic and trade agenda.

"It was agreed that corporate sector must play a leading role and the two governments must provide a facilitative framework for the flourishing of a mutually - beneficial economic partnership", he added.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan and China have touched several important landmarks in the development of bilateral economic and trade relationship.

He termed Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement as a comprehensive arrangement that covered goods, services and investments.

"Our bilateral trade touched dollars 9 billion last year. However, the scope of further growth is immense. Our two countries have set a target of attaining dollars 15 billion trade in the coming years", he added.

Gilani said the establishment of Pakistan-China Trans-border Economic Zone; upgrading avenues for trade, overland across shared mountains and rivers; steps being taken towards integrated border management; and other related measures, including customs harmonization would enable both Pakistan and China to bring to play and optimally utilize the natural economic complementarities of the two countries.

In the domain of finance and banking, he mentioned the establishment of Pakistan-China Investment Company.

The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China is beginning its operations in Pakistan and has opened branches in Islamabad and Karachi, he said and added the Central Banks of Pakistan and China are now discussing concepts such as the Currency Swap Arrangement.

"This and other related measures will not only facilitate economic interaction but also provide the requisite incentives for the corporate leaders to enter into mutually-beneficial joint ventures", he added.

Prime Minister Gilani said as China diversifies its economy, with special emphasis on the development of its Western regions as well as shifts to high technology, the economic factors would make it attractive for the Chinese industry to relocate and establish their manufacturing base in Pakistan.

He said Pakistan is a developing country and its strategic priority is development, adding, Pakistan is developing its infrastructure that includes not only upgrading our rail and road links but also building new cities, airports and expressways.

"We are rich in natural resources, which we ought to explore and develop for our economic growth. Our economic fundamentals and growth potential are enormous", he remarked.

Gilani said hundreds of Chinese corporations and thousands of Chinese friends are already working in Pakistan, adding, "We highly appreciate their endeavours and hard work that is contributing immensely to Pakistan's economic development."

The Prime Minister said there is great potential for the participation of Chinese corporations in the development of the energy sector in Pakistan, which includes hydel, thermal and renewable.

"Joint ventures, with equity participation of Chinese corporations and financial institutions, can transform Pakistan's economic landscape and would certainly

prove to be a win-win scenario", he remarked.

Gilani said Pakistan and China have renewed the joint Five Year Economic and Trade Programme, adding, projects, which are commercially feasible, would qualify for easy credits and such facilitation, as may be required, by both governments.

"I would strongly urge that the whole range of facilitative frameworks already agreed between our two governments, may be studied closely by the Chinese and Pakistani entrepreneurs so that they could avail themselves of the immense possibilities of cooperation that is mutually advantageous", he added.

The Prime Minister said for China doing business in Pakistan should be easy, adding, the sentiments of friendship that so deeply exist between our two peoples, make living and working in Pakistan, both comfortable and rewarding.

"I am sure that the corporate sectors of the two countries will join hands and work closely together to impart a new dynamism to our partnership and thus lead the process for taking our friendship to ever greater heights", he added.

Chinese Minister for Science and Technology Wang Gung in his remarks on the occasion said that his country intends to give strong boost to its ties in all fields especially in trade and economy.

He said that political stability and improved law and order situation in Pakistan will help create more Chinese investment there. He said both the countries will move forward towards more free and hassle-free trade to achieve the set targets.

The Minister said that both the countries are also working in the field of Science and Technology hoping that this cooperation will also increase in joint production of Chinese herbal medicines and solar, wind and other alternative energy generation in Pakistan.

Pakistan's Ambassador in China Masood Khan, Chairman Tr

All Day

EXIM Bank of China to finance Karachi, Faisalabad and Gwadar motorway project -- pkeconomists.com.

EXIM Bank of China to finance Karachi, Faisalabad and Gwadar motorway project

ShareThe EXIM Bank of China Thursday expressed its readiness to finance Karachi-Faisalabad-Gwadar Motorway and will soon send a team of experts to Pakistan for a feasibility study of the proposed project.

The assurance came during a meeting between Chairman EXIM Bank Li Ruogu and Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani here.

Gilani said the financing of Karachi-Faisalabad-Gwadar Motorway project by EXIM Bank will be another shining example of the deep rooted Pak-China friendship and cooperation.

The Prime Minister appreciated the financial contribution of the EXIM Bank in major communication, energy and other projects in Pakistan like the Karakorum Highway, Chashma Nuclear Power Project and Saindak Copper and Gold mines.

All Day

ISLAMABAD: Ukraine-Pakistan relations started long before Pakistan officially recognized new independent Ukraine in December 31, 1991. -- Online

ISLAMABAD: Ukraine-Pakistan relations started long before Pakistan officially recognized new independent Ukraine in December 31, 1991.

In a Media Briefing by H.E. Ihor Pasko Ambassador of Ukraine to Pakistan history of bilateral relations goes back to the former Soviet Union times, when Soviet experts, the vast majority of whom were Ukrainian, assisted to develop the key industries and national economy of Pakistan in 1960-70's.

The Karachi Steel Meal, which remains largest in Pakistan, a number of powerful hydro stations in Tarbella, Kalabakh were built in this period, as well as the large park of Ukraine agricultural machinery, trucks was formed here in Pakistan. The current stage of relations between Ukraine and Pakistan can be characterized as a "dynamic process", which bases on the traditionally high level understanding in political, military, trade, economic areas and effective cooperation within

international organizations. Both countries wish to expand and deepen mutually beneficial relations perspective.

The first significant economic contract between Pakistan and independent Ukraine was concluded in the military-technical sphere in 1996. Cooperation in defense and military-technical spheres developing in different directions, including joint training of officers, technical experts and pilots, through the supply and joint development of high-tech weaponry and equipment for the Army, Navy, Air Force of Pakistan.

Pakistani military-industrial complex will continue cooperation with Ukraine in developing technologies and manufacturing military products (especially in the joint assembly and subsequent maintenance of the main battle tank "Al Khalid", which supplies in the Pakistani Army and has big export potential).

The relations between Pakistan and Ukraine are likely to get more dynamics with approval of various agreements, conventions and setting up of commissions. These efforts would not only bring both the countries closer but would also assist in making them close partners to achieve economic prosperity and stability of the central Asian and South Asian regions. With the help of Central Asian republics Ukraine, Pakistan could meet economic difficulties and other challenges.

Ukraine is ready to play its part in the development of Pakistan and would welcome any efforts to search new avenues for- cooperation and expanding ties with Pakistan in various sectors. Pakistan could learn from the experiences and expertise of Ukraine in various sectors specially economy as the world recognizes the speedy economic growth of Ukraine.

The need of time is to join hands, to share expertise and to learn from the experiences of each other to counter the present economic challenges being faced by both the friendly countries.

At Present the draft Agreement on the Establishment of Intergovernmental Ukraine-Pakistani Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation is being considered and reviewed by Pakistani authorities concerned and we are hopeful that the proposal would soon be a reality.

After the establishment of Intergovernmental Ukraine-Pakistani Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation the trade relations, economic ties between both the countries would grow further.

The particular commission which we hope would soon be established to promote the development of various forms of cooperation, including the creation of joint ventures and other prospective directions of bilateral relations.

It would also elaborate proposals and would assist in taking measures aimed extending and intensifying trade, cooperation in the fields of mutual interest, as well as making up proposals on exchange of specialist.

Pakistan and Ukraine are also in process of inking the Convention for avoidance of double taxation. We expect that Pakistani Authorities concerned would speed up the process for completing the internal procedures. This convention would result in rise in trade volume between both the countries.

Ukraine, being a large European economy, has a well-developed industrial base, the rich farmlands, highly trained labour and a good education system. It is relatively rich in natural resources, particularly mineral deposits.

Although oil reserves in the country are largely exhausted, it has other important energy sources, such as coal, hydroelectricity and nuclear fuel raw materials. Ukraine has a major ferrous metal industry, producing cast iron, steel and a wide range of metalware, including pipes.

As of 2007, Ukraine was the world's eighth largest steel producer. Another important branch is country's chemical and petrochemical industry producing coke,

mineral fertilizers, acids, soda etc. Manufactured goods include metallurgical equipment, diesel locomotives, tractors, automobiles. The country possesses a massive high-tech industrial base, including electronics, arms industry, space program and is a major producer of grain, sugar, meat and milk products.

Pakistan could enjoy the benefits in these areas by rising the trade volume between the two countries as it would contribute on both the ends and mutual benefits would be achieved facilitating the people of both countries.

The total trade turnover between both the countries in 2009 was \$ 267 314 with Exports from Ukraine to Pakistan \$242753 and Imports from Pakistan to Ukraine \$ 24564. In 2010 the ratio of total trade turnover between Pakistan and Ukraine was \$ 168 225 among which the total exports from Ukraine to Pakistan was \$113006 and import from Pakistan to Ukraine was \$55219.

It is considerable fact that in the time period of just two months (Jan 2011 to Feb 2011) the total trade turnover between Pakistan and Ukraine was \$57 144 with Imports from Pakistan to Ukraine worth \$22652 and exports from Ukraine to Pakistan worth \$34522.

On April 19, 2011, upon an initiative of President of Ukraine Mr. Victor Yanukovich, Ukraine hosted a high-level meeting "Kyiv Summit on safe and innovative use of nuclear energy" which indicates its desire to use the nuclear energy for the protective and save purposes of human welfare.

The Chernobyl catastrophe and an accident on the Japanese nuclear power plant Fukushima have proved the necessity to enhance the nuclear energy facilities' capabilities to counter emergency situations, and have illustrated that mitigation of nuclear incidents requires the international community to gather scientific, technical and resource capabilities.

Ukraine believes on positive and productive utilization of the nuclear power as the nuclear technologies are considered as one of the most effective ways to meet the growing needs in energy supplies, to cut down the discharge of greenhouse gasses, to mitigate the climate change, and to act as counterbalance to fluctuation of prices of fossil fuels.

All Day

Pakistan, China likely to ink agreement on JF-17 Thunder -- Daily Times
Pakistan, China likely to ink agreement on JF-17 Thunder

BEIJING: Pakistan and China are expected to sign an agreement today (Thursday) for the provision of 50 JF-17 thunder aircraft to Pakistan on emergency basis, it has been learnt by Daily Times. According to official sources, these aircraft will be equipped with sophisticated avionics. Not only will the aircraft be handed over within weeks, China will also foot the bill initially. Although Pakistan and China have been jointly developed this multirole combat aircraft in the past, in the aftermath of the US operation in Abbottabad, serious questions have been raised about Pakistan's defence capabilities. According to a strategic expert, the speedy delivery of 50 pieces of this aircraft, originally to be done over two years, is expected to allay apprehensions of not only the Pakistani public but will also send a message to the world that Pakistan's defence is not weak. It might be remembered that not only has the Indian military chief speculated on the possibility of a US-style strike from the Indian side to take out jihadi outfits in Pakistan, there has been escalation on the Pakistan-India border near Sialkot recently. Also, observers believe that in a situation when the speculations are rife that Pakistan may not be able to resist another US attack inside its territory if it so decides, this agreement will send a clear message to the world on which side China stands. ishrat saleem

All Day

RKS OF THE PRIME MINISTER - DIPLOMATIC PAKISTAN AND CHINA RELATIONS -- THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT
REMARKS OF THE PRIME MINISTER

TO COMMEMORATE THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN
PAKISTAN AND CHINA

Your Excellency Jia Qingling,
Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference,

Your Excellency Chen Kuiyuan, Vice Chairperson, CPPCC

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathered here today to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the People's Republic of China.

This is a momentous occasion; a moment to rejoice on our shared accomplishments; to celebrate the true friendship between our two peoples; to take inspiration and draw strength from our common ideals and goals and the great talent and genius of our peoples.

It is also a moment to renew our common resolve to impart a new dynamism to take our all-weather friendship and strategic cooperative partnership to ever new heights.

This is also an occasion to pay tribute to the wisdom and foresight of the architects of Pakistan-China friendship. Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto the founder of the Pakistan People's Party and Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai were the ones who visualized the essence of threads of history, spanning several millenniums of interaction between our peoples, gave a brilliant new context to the relations between Pakistan and the People's Republic of China.

Successive generations of leaders of both countries and millions of men, women and young people have shaped the discourse and the reality of this abiding friendship between our peoples, which is manifested in abundant goodwill, spontaneous affinity, inestimable love and affection, an enduring romance that transcends all other considerations.

Premier Wen Jiabao, in his address to the joint sitting of the Parliament in Islamabad in December 2010, speaking of China-Pakistan friendship, stated that "this friendship is in our blood." The people of Pakistan feel the same.

China is, indeed, our true and most reliable friend and partner. We are like one nation and two countries.

We share common mountains and rivers. We share each other's joys and sorrows. We have a common dream and both China and Pakistan are together engaged in transforming their dreams and visions for shared peace and prosperity into a living reality.

On this historic occasion, I would like to convey the warm greetings of the people of Pakistan for their Chinese brothers and sisters. I would like to assure the great Chinese Nation that you will always find Pakistan by your side under all circumstances.

We will together march forward hand-in-hand to take our friendship and partnership to new heights and to ensure for our succeeding generations a glorious future of peace and prosperity.

I would also like to convey to you our sincere sentiments of deeply-felt admiration of the people of Pakistan on the national accomplishments of the Chinese people, under wise leadership. China's economic and technological

transformation is unprecedented in history.

China's economic advancement, in a very short timeframe, evokes admiration. A new awakening of the glorious Chinese civilization is being manifested in the realm of thought, philosophy, intellect, arts and crafts as well as in scientific and technological disciplines.

As your closest friend, we in Pakistan truly share the sense of pride on these achievements.

We are convinced that China's economic rise; technological prowess; ancient wisdom; philosophy and thought will have a profound and most beneficial impact for humanity and mankind at large.

Our two peoples have, since times immemorial, stood together and, from the same vantage point, witnessed the transformations in the global and regional landscape. We have stood together, sure-footed, with full confidence in defending what is just and in upholding the noble values of humanity.

We have not only stood and watched but have marched hand-in-hand together to resist and defeat the designs of those who wish to transgress against the values of humanity.

We have worked together steadfastly for safeguarding our sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and for promoting peace and stability in the world and in our region.

Once again, in these troubled times, we collectively face new challenges with the firm conviction in our belief that truth and justice will prevail.

In these turbulent times, the only voice of reason in international affairs is that of China. China is making a splendid contribution towards the making of the twenty-first century.

Today, China is not only respected but emulated by developing countries. The people of Pakistan salute the Chinese Nation for holding high the banner of peace and justice in the world.

Pakistan will always and, under all circumstances, support and defend the just cause and core interests of the Chinese Nation.

I would also like to avail myself of this opportunity to express, on behalf of the people of Pakistan, our gratitude to our Chinese friends for their solid and unstinted support to Pakistan at all times.

We can never forget that when natural catastrophe struck as it did in the 2005 earthquake and the devastating floods of 2010, China was the first to offer help and support.

Pictures of Chinese rescue and medical teams, working day and night in region of the mighty Indus in full fury, helping their Pakistani brothers and sisters, have become indelible in the minds and hearts of our people.

In other domains – be it economic, or trade; science and technology; defence; culture; arts; and education, we have enjoyed tremendous cooperation.

From the friendship highway, called the Karakoram Highway in the North to the Gwadar deep seaport in the South, all major economic projects in Pakistan were built with Chinese assistance. Even today, hundreds of Chinese corporations and thousands of Chinese men and women are working tirelessly together with the Pakistani brother and sisters on major economic and development projects. For all this, we are truly grateful.

Friendship with China is the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. In

recent times, the leadership of our two countries has taken the decision to enhance our cooperation, especially in the domains of economy and technology, trade and defence.

We are giving special importance to enhancing connectivity and have already established frameworks of cooperation in economy, trade, energy, minerals as well as defence and defence production.

The Free Trade Agreement; the Joint Five Year Economic and Trade Programme; the Joint Investment Company; our ongoing cooperation in the financial and banking sectors; greater interaction between our capital markets; robust defence and defence production cooperation are but a few examples of the direction that our strategic cooperative partnership has taken.

We are determined to take all necessary measures for closer economic integration. In this context, establishment of the Trans-border Economic Zones; instituting Integrated Border Management System; working together the intra-regional and trans-regional economic and development agenda; corporate sector interaction in joint projects; opening of the ICBC bank branches in Pakistan; finalization of the Currency Swap Arrangement; cooperation in earth, space and marine sciences; and expanding educational contacts will undoubtedly contribute to further cementing our mutually beneficial all dimensional partnership.

We also acknowledge, with gratitude, the support that China has extended to Pakistan in our efforts to safeguard national sovereignty and Pakistan's core national interests.

Pakistan is a resilient nation. Our people are proud and confident of a bright future. We have, with courage and fortitude, overcome many challenges. We see in every challenge new opportunities, which we are determined to avail for not only promoting Pakistan's national inte

All Day

-- اسلامی ممالک بھاشا ڈیم کی تعمیر میں مدد دینے پر رضامند ہو گئے، چیئرمین واپڈا

Jang

اسلامی ممالک بھاشا ڈیم کی تعمیر میں مدد دینے پر رضامند ہو گئے، چیئرمین واپڈا

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) اسلامی ممالک نے بھاشا ڈیم کی تعمیر میں پاکستان کی مدد کرنے پر رضامندی ظاہر کردی ہے اور اس منصوبے پر اسی ماہ کام شروع ہو جائے گا۔ بھاشا ڈیم آٹھ سال میں مکمل ہو جائے گا، بجلی پیدا کرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ یہ ڈیم سیلاب روکنے اور زراعت کے لیے بھی نہایت مفید ثابت ہوگا۔ اسی لاکھ ایکڑ فٹ پانی ذخیرہ کرنے کی صلاحیت کے حامل اس ڈیم کی تعمیر پر لاگت کا تخمینہ 8 ارب ڈالر سے بڑھ کر 11 ارب ڈالر تک پہنچ گیا ہے۔ واپڈا کے چیئرمین شکیل درانی نے ایک انٹرویو میں بتایا کہ اگر موجودہ حالات میں مغربی دنیا سے پاکستان کے تعلقات خراب بھی ہو جائیں تو اس منصوبے پر کوئی اثر نہیں پڑے گا۔ بھاشا ڈیم سے ایک روپیہ فی یونٹ کی لاگت سے بجلی پیدا ہوگی اور زرعی شعبے کو سالانہ ایک سو 60 ارب روپے کا فائدہ پہنچے گا۔ آزاد کشمیر میں زیر تعمیر 969 میگاواٹ کے نیلم جہلم بجلی گھر پر بھی 20 فیصد کام مکمل ہو گیا ہے جس سے بھارت کے دریائے جہلم پر مقبوضہ کشمیر میں متنازع کشن گنگا بجلی گھر کے خلاف پاکستان کا کیس عالمی بینک کے ثالث کی عدالت میں مضبوط ہو جانے کا وفاقی حکومت نے رواں مالی سال کے بجٹ میں بھاشا ڈیم کی تعمیر کے لیے 5 ارب روپے دینے کا وعدہ کیا تھا جس میں سے ساڑھے 3 ارب روپے مل سکے جبکہ واپڈا نے بھی بینکوں سے قرض کی صورت میں 15 ارب روپے کے وسائل مہیا کرنا تھے۔ اگلے مالی سال میں اس منصوبے کے لیے 18 ارب روپے کا مطالبہ کیا گیا ہے۔

All Day

-- JANG پاکستانی تاجروں کو روس میں نئی مارکیٹ دستیاب ہوگی، سرگئی پلشکور

پاکستانی تاجروں کو روس میں نئی مارکیٹ دستیاب ہوگی، سرگئی پلشکور

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) روس کی مارکیٹوں کا جائزہ لینے کے لیے پاکستانی تاجروں کو روس کے دورہ کی پیشکش، دوطرفہ تجارت کے فروغ کے لیے پاکستانی تاجروں کے ساتھ روابط میں مزید اضافہ کیا جائے۔ روس کے ٹریڈ کمیشن کراچی برانچ کے سربراہ سرگئی پلشکور نے رشین ٹریڈ مشن کے چیف ایکسپریٹ روسلان علیوف کے ہمراہ پاکستان کیمیکلز اینڈ ڈائز مرچنٹس ایسوسی ایشن کے اراکین کے ساتھ اجلاس منعقد کیا۔ منگل

کو جاری کردہ اعلامیہ کے مطابق روس کے ٹریڈ کمیشن کو اجلاس کی دعوت چیئرمین پاکستان کیمیکلز اینڈ ڈائز مرچنٹس ایسوسی ایشن محمد ہارون اگر نے دی تھی۔ اجلاس میں پاکستان کے ساتھ تجارتی تعلقات کو مزید مستحکم کرنے کی خواہش ظاہر کرتے ہوئے سرجے پلشکور نے کہا کہ جب تک دونوں ممالک کے تاجر ایک دوسرے کے قریب نہیں آئیں گے، دوطرفہ تجارت کو بڑھانا دشوار ہوگا۔ انہوں نے ایسوسی ایشن کے ممبران کو روس میں اکتوبر 2011ء میں منعقد ہونے والی کیمیکلز اینڈ ڈائز کی نمائش میں شرکت کی دعوت دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ نمائش میں پاکستانی تاجروں کی شرکت سے انہیں یقینی طور پر نئی مارکیٹ دستیاب ہو سکے گی۔ نمائش میں 34 ممالک کے پروفیشنلز شرکت کریں گے۔ اس موقع پر ایسوسی ایشن کے چیئرمین محمد ہارون اگر نے روس کے ٹریڈ کمیشن کراچی برانچ کے سربراہ سرجے پلشکور کی دعوت کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ایسوسی ایشن کا وفد روس میں منعقد ہونے والی نمائش میں شرکت کرے گا، جہاں روسی تاجروں کے ساتھ ون ٹو ون بزنس میٹنگز کا بھی اہتمام کیا جائے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ روس میں بینکنگ سیکٹر میں پاکستانی تاجروں کو مشکلات کا سامنا ہے جس کی اہم وجہ روسی زبان میں ہونے والی بینکنگ سروسز ہیں۔ انہوں نے روس کے بینکنگ سیکٹر کو عالمی ضرورتوں کے مطابق بنانے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا تاکہ ایشین ممالک کو تجارت کے حوالے سے درپیش مشکلات کا خاتمہ کیا جاسکے۔

All Day

چین کے ساتھ تجارتی حجم 15 ارب ڈالر تک بڑھایا جائے گا، گیلانی -- بیجنگ

چین کے ساتھ تجارتی حجم 15 ارب ڈالر تک بڑھایا جائے گا، گیلانی

Thursday May 19, 2011

وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی کا کہنا ہے کہ چین کے ساتھ تجارت حجم 9 ارب سے 15 بلین... بیجنگ ڈالرز تک بڑھایا جائے گا۔ یہ بات انہوں نے بیجنگ میں پاک چین تجارتی فورم سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہی۔ وزیراعظم گیلانی نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان کثیرالجہتی تعلقات کو بلندیوں کی سطح پر لے جانا ہوگا، ان کا کہنا تھا کہ دنیا میں بدلتی ہوئی صورت حال کے باوجود پاک چین دوستی چٹان کی طرح مضبوط ہے۔ وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کے کارپوریٹ سیکٹر کو مشترکہ منصوبے شروع کرنے چاہیے، وزیراعظم گیلانی نے کہا کہ چین کے ساتھ تجارتی تعلقات بڑھانا چاہتے ہیں۔

All Day

'China agrees to run Gwadar port' -- APP

'China agrees to run Gwadar port'

APP

Today Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, left, is welcomed by Chinese President Hu Jintao for a meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing Friday, May 20, 2011. – Photo by AP

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Chaudhry Ahmed Mukhtar said on Saturday that China had "acceded to Pakistan's request to take over operations" of the Gwadar port

The minister, who had accompanied the prime minister during his visit to China, issued a statement to press about the development.

Mr Mukhtar said Pakistan was grateful to the Chinese government for building the Gwadar port. "However, we shall be more grateful to the Chinese if they agree to build naval base at Gwadar."

Gwadar, the country's third port after Karachi and Port Qasim, lies on the Arabian Sea. It is 533kms from Karachi and 120kms from the maritime frontier with Iran.

According to Mr Mukhtar, the prime minister also asked his counterpart, Wen Jiabao, to consider inducting the JF-17 Thunder aircraft into the PLA (Peoples Liberation Army) fleet as it would enable Pakistan to sell a large number of the planes to other countries.

The Chinese government had agreed to "our request to equip our air force with FC-20 aircraft", the minister added.

The Chinese government "assured us of help in removing hurdles in the way of Pakistan's progress", the defence minister said.

All Day

Chinese media delegation visiting Pakistan -- APP

Chinese media delegation visiting Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, May 20 (APP): A 19-member Chinese delegation is visiting Pakistan in connection with celebration of 60th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations. The engagements of the delegations include visit to Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation, Pak-China Friendship Centre, Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, Taxila Museum and Jaulian, Islamabad Sports Complex and meeting with Chinese coaches, visit to Chinese companies and a meeting with the Prime Minister.

All Day

Pak, Afghanistan set to operationalise APTTA from Jun 12

Pak, Afghanistan set to operationalise APTTA from Jun 12

* Issue of financial guarantee on goods resolved

* Financial guarantee on vehicles to be discussed in APTTCA meeting

By Sajid Chaudhry

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Afghanistan are set to operationalise Afghan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) from June 12, 2011—as both sides have amicably resolved the issue of financial guarantee and its approval would be sought from the Afghan Pakistan Transit Trade Coordination Authority (APTTCA) in its meeting scheduled on June 2, 2011 at Kabul.

Official sources told that against the bank guarantee equivalent to the amount of customs duty applicable on the goods imported under APTTA for Afghanistan through Pakistani land route, an insurance guarantee equivalent to the amount of customs duty from Pakistani or foreign insurance company would be accepted by

Pakistani authorities.

The sources added that sub-committee of the APTTCA that met at Kabul on May 7, 2011, has resolved the issue of financial guarantees for goods—however bank guarantee on transporters is still unresolved—which will be discussed in APTTCA meeting.

According to presentation of the Ministry of Commerce, APTTCA in its first meeting held on February 11-12 at Islamabad had agreed that traffic in transit would not be hampered due to insufficient number of tracking devices. On the other hand, Afghan-Pakistan Transit Trade Rules, 2011 have been finalised by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) but held back due to the Afghan reservations regarding definition of customs security for goods and bank guarantee for vehicles. These two issues will be discussed in next meeting of the APTTCA scheduled on June 2, 2011 at Kabul.

Customs security for goods explained in the agreement means en-cashable financial guarantee acceptable to customs, submitted by the trader or through authorised broker, on transit goods, for an amount equivalent to the import levies of contracting parties.

Bank guarantee for vehicles explained in the agreement means a bank guarantee or revolving bank guarantee or Cornet-de-Passage (when operational) as a pre-requisite for temporary admission document on convenience, acceptable to host country.

It was mutually agreed to extend the date of operationalisation of the APTTA agreement up to four months and this deadline will expire in second week of June and with the holding of APTTCA meeting and resolution of the pending issues of APTTA would be operationalised by June 12, 2011.

Pakistan's position on customs security for goods is that financial guarantee shall be negotiable instrument issued by a scheduled bank and en-cashable in Pakistan. While position on customs security for vehicles is that bank guarantee or revolving bank guarantee shall be issued by scheduled bank.

On the other hand Afghan side considers Pakistan's interpretation of these guarantees as unilateral and says that Article 28, sub-clause F states that "To establish a customs transit system including customs guarantee coverage for cargo as mutually agreed".

According to the commerce ministry's presentation, Afghan side has agreed to allow 13 land routes for bilateral trade and these routes will be operationalised on a later date to be agreed mutually.

Pakistani side will facilitate Afghan exports to India through Wagha. Afghan trucks will be allowed access on the designated routes up to Wagha. Afghan cargo will be off-loaded on Indian trucks back to back at Wagha and the trucks on return from Wagha will not carry Indian exports to Afghanistan.

Pakistan has also gained a transit facility for Central Asian Republics (CARs) markets and entry and exist points for Pakistan's exports have been secured on permanent basis and legal cover have been secured.

These routes include Torkham to Hairtam with Uzbekistan, Torkham to Torghundi with Uzbekistan, Torkham to Sher Khan Bandar with Tajikistan, Torkham to Aqina with Turkmenistan, Torkham to Torghundi with Turkmenistan, Chaman to Islam Qila with Iran and Chaman to Zaranji with Iran.

All Day

Pakistan's Prime Minister Yousef Raza Gilani wrapped up his visit to China Friday, with the two countries praising each other and pledging to continue building their relationship. -- VOA news

Pakistan's Prime Minister Yousef Raza Gilani wrapped up his visit to China Friday, with the two countries praising each other and pledging to continue building their relationship.

Pakistan's defense minister, Ahmad Mukhtar told journalists the two countries sealed an agreement for China to sell Pakistan 50 JF-17 fighter jets. Pakistan says it eventually wants to buy 250 of the jets.

Mr. Gilani spent four days in China, aiming to build economic and strategic ties. He referred to China as his country's "best and most trusted friend."

China has invested heavily in Pakistan, and recently Pakistan opened a nuclear power plant built with Chinese help.

All Day

Pakistani PM: Pak-China trade to hit US\$15 billion in 2 years -- Xinhua News Agency

BEIJING, May 20 (Xinhuanet) -- Pakistan and China should put more emphasis on economic cooperation while maintaining the all-dimensional relationship, Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said here Friday.

During an exclusive interview with Xinhuanet, Gilani expressed that in light of the all-dimensional relationship, economic cooperation should be further enhanced. He proposed to target for a bilateral trade volume of 15 billion U.S. dollars within two years.

"Our trade at the moment is nine billion U.S. dollars, we want to enhance it to 15 billion U.S. dollars with the expansion of two years, and this is doable. We are moving in the right direction," said Gilani, who is on a four-day official visit to China at the invitation of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. This is also his fourth visit.

This year 2011 marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two nations and was declared China-Pakistan Friendship Year by Wen and Gilani during Wen's visit to Pakistan in December 2010.

Gilani said that during the past 60 years, China and Pakistan have had multi-dimensional cooperation in many fields, whether it is in national defense, economics, intelligence, agriculture, culture, infrastructure, and energy.

Recalling the Pakistan-China Entrepreneurs Forum held the previous day, Gilani expressed again there is still great potential to explore in bilateral economic cooperation.

"China and Pakistan enjoyed a solid friendship of six decades. The economic ties between the two countries have seen strong growth in the past, however, the two sides believe there is still unexplored potential, and hope to further expand cooperation in trade, investment and financial services," he said.

At the forum, he also said though China-Pakistan all-weather friendship has "beat the test of time," their corporate sectors should work together to "inject new dynamics into their partnership and lead the process to take the friendship to new heights."

Bilateral trade between China and Pakistan has increased from 3 billion dollars in 2005 to 8.7 billion dollars in 2010 under the Free Trade Agreement and other favorable policy frameworks.

By the end of 2010, Chinese enterprises had signed contracts with Pakistan worth a total of 19.87 billion dollars. China's direct investment in Pakistan hit 1.36 billion dollars, while Pakistan's investment in China, 57.38 million dollars, according to the Chinese Commerce Ministry.

All Day

بیجنگ میں گیلانی جیاباؤ ملاقات، 3 معاہدوں پر دستخط، چین کا پاکستان کو 50 فوجی طیارے دینے کا اعلان -- آن لائن، ثناء نیوز

بیجنگ میں گیلانی جیاباؤ ملاقات، 3 معاہدوں پر دستخط، چین کا پاکستان کو 50 فوجی طیارے دینے کا اعلان بیجنگ (آن لائن، ثناء نیوز ، مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی اور چینی ہم منصب وین جیاباؤ کے درمیان بند کمرے میں ملاقات ہوئی۔ چین نے پاکستان کو ہنگامی طور پر دفاعی ضروریات کو پورا کرنے کیلئے 50 جے ایف 17 تھنڈر طیارے اور آسان اقساط پر 17 کروڑ یو آن قرضہ فراہم کرنے کا اعلان کر دیا، دونوں ممالک نے تین اہم معاہدوں پر دستخط بھی کر دیئے۔ پاک چین وزراء اعظم نے معاونین کے بغیر ملاقات کی جو تقریباً 45 منٹ تک جاری رہی بعد میں دونوں رہنماؤں کے وفود بھی ملاقات میں شریک ہو گئے۔ دونوں فریقوں نے اپنے دو طرفہ تعلقات پر تفصیلی تبادلہ خیال کیا اور معیشت تجارت توانائی اور زراعت سمیت متعدد شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے پر اتفاق کیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے اپنے چینی ہم منصب کو خطے کی تازہ صورتحال خصوصاً واقعہ ایبٹ آباد سے آگاہ کیا۔ چین کے وزیر اعظم نے پاکستان کے لیے 17 کروڑ یو آن کی امداد کا اعلان کیا اس رقم میں سے 10 کروڑ یو آن سماجی ترقی کے لیے یو آن شرائط کے قرضے کے طور پر اور 7 کروڑ یو آن پاکستان میں سیلاب سے متاثرہ علاقوں میں تعمیر نو کے کام کے لیے دیئے گئے ہیں۔ ذرائع کے مطابق 50 جے ایف 17 تھنڈر طیارے بنانے کا کام پاکستان میں ہی مکمل ہو گا۔ اس کے علاوہ 14 اگست کو چین پاکستان کا ایک سیٹلائٹ بھی خلا میں بھیجے گا۔ اس سیٹلائٹ کی تیاری بھی چین میں جاری ہے۔ وزیراعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی نے کہا کہ پاکستان چین کے ساتھ دفاع سرمایہ کاری، ثقافت اور عوامی کے سطح پر تعلقات کو نئی بلندیوں پر لے جانا چاہتا ہے۔ چینی وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ عالمی صورتحال کچھ بھی ہو پاکستان اور چین ہمیشہ سے بااعتماد دوست ہیں اور رہیں گے تمام شعبوں میں پاکستان کی حمایت جاری رکھیں گے۔ پاکستان کو خوشحال اور ترقی یافتہ ملک دیکھنا چاہتے ہیں۔

All Day

JANG -- جنرل کیانی سے چینی ڈپٹی چیف آف اسٹاف جنرل ژاؤ ہونگ تاؤ کی ملاقات

جنرل کیانی سے چینی ڈپٹی چیف آف اسٹاف جنرل ژاؤ ہونگ تاؤ کی ملاقات

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ جنگ/ اے پی پی/ آن لائن) پاک آرمی کے سربراہ جنرل اشفاق پرویز کیانی سے چین کے ڈپٹی چیف آف اسٹاف سنکیانگ ملٹری کمانڈ میجر جنرل ژاؤ ہونگ تاؤ کی قیادت میں چینی دفاعی وفد نے جمعرات کو جی ایچ کیو میں ملاقات کی جس میں مشترکہ فوجی مشقوں پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ اس موقع پر آرمی چیف نے کہا کہ پاک چین دوستی خطے میں امن کی ضمانت ہے اس لیے دفاعی اور اسٹریٹجک تعلقات کو مزید بہتر بنائیں گے۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق چیف آف آرمی اسٹاف جنرل اشفاق پرویز کیانی سے چین کے ڈپٹی چیف آف اسٹاف سنکیانگ ملٹری کمانڈ میجر جنرل ژاؤ ہونگ تاؤ کی قیادت میں چینی وفد نے جمعرات کو جنرل ہیڈ کوارٹرز میں

All Day

jang -- چینی بینک کراچی، گواد، فیصل آباد موٹروے کیلئے سرمایہ کاری پر آمادہ

چینی بینک کراچی، گواد، فیصل آباد موٹروے کیلئے سرمایہ کاری پر آمادہ

بیجنگ (صالح ظافر، ایجنسیاں) وزیر اعظم گیلانی نے چینی ایگزیم بینک کے چیئرمین لی روگو سے ملاقات کی جس میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان بینکاری کے شعبے میں تعاون سرمایہ کاری اور دونوں ممالک میں نئی بینک برانچوں کو کھولنے پر اتفاق کیا گیا، وزیر اعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی نے چینی بینک کو پیشکش کی کہ وہ کراچی سے گواد اور فیصل آباد تک موٹروے تعمیر کرے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ نیشنل بینک آف پاکستان چین میں اپنی شاخ کھولے گا۔ چینی انڈسٹریل کمرشل بینک پاکستان میں 2 شاخیں کھولے گا۔ چین کے ایگزیم بینک نے کراچی فیصل آباد گواد موٹروے کے لیے سرمائے کی فراہمی کے لیے آمدگی کا اظہار کیا اور وہ بہت جلد مجوزہ منصوبے کی فزیبلٹی اسٹڈی کے لیے ماہرین کی ٹیم پاکستان بھیجے گا۔ وزیراعظم نے پاکستان میں شاہراہ قراقرم، چشمہ نیوکلینر پاور پراجیکٹ اور سینڈک کاپر منصوبے سمیت اہم مواصلاتی، توانائی اور دیگر منصوبوں میں ایگزیم بینک کی مالیاتی معاونت کو سراہا۔ چائنہ ڈویلپمنٹ بینک کے سربراہ نے وزیراعظم سے ملاقات کے دوران اس بات کا اعادہ کیا کہ چائنہ ڈویلپمنٹ بینک پاکستان کی اقتصادی ترقی اور خوشحالی میں اپنا کردار ادا کرتا رہے گا جبکہ بینک کے سربراہ نے پاکستان میں مختلف منصوبوں میں سرمایہ کاری پر بھی رضامندی ظاہر کی۔ اس موقع پر وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ چائنہ ڈویلپمنٹ بینک پاکستان میں توانائی، ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن، ہاؤسنگ ڈیم سمیت دیگر شعبوں میں مزید سرمایہ کاری کرے۔

All Day

پاکستان بھاشا اور بونجی ڈیموں سمیت چھوٹے ڈیموں کی تعمیر میں چینی سرمایہ کاری کا Nawa-e-waqat -- خیرمقدم

کے چیئرمین چاؤ گوانگ جنگ نے ملاقات کی اس دوران وزیراعظم "تھری گارجز کارپوریشن" وزیراعظم سے سید یوسف رضا گیلانی نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان بھاشا اور بونجی ڈیموں سمیت چھوٹے ڈیموں کی تعمیر میں چینی سرمایہ کاری کا خیرمقدم کریگا۔ کارپوریشن کے چیئرمین نے پاکستان میں پن بجلی کے منصوبوں میں سرمایہ کاری پر اپنی آمادگی کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ان کی سرمایہ کاری پاکستان میں وسیع تر اقتصادی ترقی میں معاون ہو گی۔ قبل ازیں وزیراعظم نے جمعہ کو چین کے دارالحکومت بیجنگ میں چائینہ اکیڈمی آف اسپیس ٹیکنالوجی (کاسٹ) کا دورہ کیا جہاں پر وہ اکیڈمی کے مختلف شعبوں میں گئے اور ریسرچ سمیت جاری دیگر سرگرمیوں کا معائنہ کیا۔ وزیراعظم کو خلائی ورکشاپ اور اکیڈمی کے ویکيوم چیمبر پر بریفنگ بھی دی گئی کی تیاری کے علاوہ دیگر سیٹلائٹ کی تیاری بھی ہو رہی "پاک سیٹ۔ آئی آر" جہاں پر پاکستانی سیٹلائٹ تھیں۔ وزیراعظم نے چین کے تعاون سے پاکستانی سیٹلائٹ کی تیاری کا معائنہ کیا۔ پاک سیٹ۔ 1 کی جگہ تیار کو رواں سال 14 اگست کو چین سے ہی مدار میں بھیجا جائیگا۔ مشترکہ اعلامیہ "پاک سیٹ۔ آئی آر" ہونے والے کے مطابق وزیراعظم کے دورہ چین کے دوران دونوں ممالک کے رہنماؤں نے ساٹھ سال سے جاری پاک چین تعلقات میں فروغ پر اطمینان کا اظہار کیا ہے دونوں اطراف کے رہنماؤں نے اسٹریٹجک پارٹنر شپ، اقتصادی تعاون اور عوامی رابطوں میں وسعت اور گہرائی کے عزم کا اظہار کیا اور اعلامیہ میں دونوں ممالک کے رہنماؤں نے اس بات پر اتفاق کیا ہے کہ پاک چین دوستی سالوں میں دونوں ممالک کی دوستی کو منانے کے بہترین موقع ہیں اور ایٹو انس پریکٹیکل کوآپریشن کو مزید فروغ دینے کے علاوہ ہمارے اسٹریٹجک پارٹنر شپ کو مزید وسعت اور مفید بنانے کے لیے ایک خاص موقع ہیں اس کے علاوہ سیاسی، معاشی، تجارتی، فوجی، ثقافتی، اسپورٹس اور تعلیم کے شعبوں میں جاری سرگرمیوں کی رفتار پر بھی اطمینان کا اظہار کیا ہے دونوں اطراف سے پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی اور تعاون دونوں ممالک کے بنیادی مفادات اور عوام کے علاوہ خطے میں امن و سلامتی اور ترقی کی بنیاد پر ہونے پر اتفاق کیا گیا

All Day

BEIJING: Pakistan and China would jointly launch a communication satellite on August 14 to replace the SAT-1 which is on the verge of expiry, officials said.

BEIJING: Pakistan and China would jointly launch a communication satellite on August 14 to replace the SAT-1 which is on the verge of expiry, officials said.

The satellite would be sent into the orbit on the Independence Day of Pakistan as a mark of the Sino-Pak friendship, an official said after Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani's visit to China's Academy of Space Technology (CAST) here on Friday.

The prime minister went around several sections of the academy and observed the activities and research being carried out there.

He was briefed about the space workshop and vacuum chamber of the academy where Pakistan's satellite PAKSAT-1R is being manufactured.

An agreement for manufacturing of the satellite by CAST was signed in 2008 during President Asif Ali Zardari's visit to China.

EXIM Bank of China has provided a soft-term credit of 86.5 million RMB (Chinese currency) for the manufacturing of PAKSAT-1R, carrying a maturity period of 20 years.

Pakistan had launched its first satellite Badar with the Chinese cooperation in 1990. The communication satellite will have 30 years' transponders "12 in C-Band and 18 in Ku-Band" each of 36 MHz bandwidth. The programme is in line with Pakistan's Medium Term Development Framework objectives and may provide better satellite communications for Pakistan.

The Pakistan Space and Upper Atmospheric Research Commission and China Great Wall Industry Corporation are jointly developing the new satellite.

All Day

China to help Pakistan launch satellite August 14 -- CENTRAL ASIA ONLINE

China to help Pakistan launch satellite August 14

BEIJING - Pakistan and China will jointly launch a communication satellite into orbit on Pakistani Independence Day, August 14 to replace the existing SAT-1, Dawn

reported May 21.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani visited China's Academy of Space Technology (CAST) May 20.

An official said the satellite's launch would be a symbol of Sino-Pakistani friendship, media reported. the satellite was made by CAST under a 2008 agreement with an EXIM Bank of China soft-term credit of 86.5 million RMB (US\$ 13,311,171), media reported.

All Day

EXIM Bank to finance Karachi-Faisalabad-Gwadar Motorway --

BEIJING (China):

EXIM Bank to finance Karachi-Faisalabad-Gwadar Motorway
'Pakistan Times' Business & Commerce Desk

BEIJING (China): The EXIM Bank of China on Thursday expressed its readiness to finance Karachi-Faisalabad-Gwadar Motorway and will soon send a team of experts to Pakistan for feasibility study of the proposed project.

The assurance came during a meeting between Chairman EXIM Bank Li Ruogu and Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani here. Gilani said the financing of Karachi-Faisalabad-Gwadar Motorway project by EXIM Bank will be another shining example of the deep rooted Pak-China friendship and cooperation. The Prime Minister appreciated the financial contribution of the EXIM Bank in major communication, energy and other projects in Pakistan like the Karakoram Highway, Chashma Nuclear Power Project and Saindak Copper and Gold mines.

Li Ruogu told the Prime Minister said that the EXIM Bank has a sizeable programme for Pakistan both for the buyers and sellers credit. He assured the Exim Bank's all out support for Pakistan's socio-economic development. And, during separate meetings with heads of China Development Bank, Bank of China, Huadian Group and Administrator SASTIND, the Prime Minister asked the Chinese banks and financial institutions to help Pakistan build its infrastructure in communication, energy, banking and other major sectors through enhanced investment and financing for mutual benefit.

Gilani apprised them of the investment-friendly policies of the present government as well as the huge potential of investment and financing in various sectors of the country. The Prime Minister and the heads of Chinese banks and financial institutions discussed at length the avenues and possibilities of increased financing in various development projects. During the meeting with the President of China Development Bank (CDB) Jiang Chaoliang, the Prime Minister appreciated the contribution of CDB in the development of Pakistan.

He recalled that during the visit of Premier Wen Jiabao to Pakistan in December last, the CDB had announced \$ 7.67 billion financing for development projects in Pakistan. The Prime Minister said Pakistan will welcome the investment and financing by China Development in major energy related projects including Bhasha and Bunji dams. During the meeting with President of the Bank of China (BOC) Xiao Wang, the Prime Minister said since the banks and financial institutions have a major role in development of any country, Pakistan was looking forward for opening of more BOC branches in the country.

He said there are vast opportunities of investment in various fields including in the energy and telecom sectors, adding, Pakistan will welcome the financing and investment in the Bhasha Dam and Thar Coal projects. The President of BOC said the Bank intends to expand its operations in Pakistan and will facilitate and encourage the Chinese entrepreneurs to invest in Pakistan's energy and telecom sectors.

During his meeting with the Chairman of Huadian Group, that has special expertise in hydro power generation and coal mining and working in various parts of the world including Far East Asia and Central Asia, the Prime Minister invited the Group to

invest in Thar Coal and Bhasha Dam projects.

The Chairman Huadian Group briefed the Prime Minister on their expertise in hydro and coal mining projects and said the Group has already signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Pakistan's Ruba Group for a 350 MW thermal power project in Lahore, with the financing of \$ 400 million.

He assured the Prime Minister the Huadian Group will also consider investment in Thar Coal project and in this respect a delegation of the group will soon visit Pakistan for study of the project. Chen Qiu Fa, Administrator SASTIND - a Chinese company that deals in defence production, also called on Prime Minister Gilani and discussed the matters relating to bilateral cooperation in various sectors particularly in the area of defence. He congratulated the Prime Minister on the successful visit to China and the signing of significant agreements in various fields.

The Administrator SASTIND said since China desires to see a strong Pakistan, its needs in the defence sector would be given due importance. The Prime Minister said China's support in meeting Pakistan's defence needs is a contribution towards the security and stability of the region. He expressed the confidence that existing cooperation between Pakistan and China in the field of defence would be further strengthened.

All Day

چین کے ساتھ اظہار یکجہتی کے لیے حکومت پاکستان نے 20 روپے مالیت کے ایک لاکھ Hamari Web -- یادگاری سکے جاری کیے ہیں -

چین کے ساتھ اظہار یکجہتی کے لیے حکومت پاکستان نے 20 روپے مالیت کے ایک لاکھ یادگاری سکے جاری کیے ہیں -

وزارت اقتصادی امور کے ایک بیان کے مطابق پاک چین دوستی کے ساٹھ سال مکمل ہونے پر یہ سکے جاری کیے گئے ہیں۔ یہ سکے 21 مئی سے اسٹیٹ بینک آف پاکستان کے تمام دفاتر سے حاصل کیے جاسکیں گے -

اس سکے کی بناوٹ میں 75 فیصد تانبہ اور 25 فیصد نکل کا استعمال کیا گیا ہے اور اس کا وزن 9.5 گرام ہے۔ اس سکے کی یادگاری 2011 YEAR OF PAK CHINA "FRIENDSHIP" کے لیے جاری کیے گئے ہیں۔

دریں اثناء انڈسٹریل اینڈ کمرشل بینک آف چائنا (آئی سی بی سی) نے پاکستان میں اپنی شاخیں کھولی ہیں - چینی بینک کی پاکستان میں شاخیں کھولنے کی تقریب جمعہ کی شام ایوان صدر میں ہوئی۔

تقریب سے خطاب میں صدر آصف علی زرداری نے کہا کہ چین کی طرف سے پاکستان میں اپنے بینک کی شاخیں کھولے جانے کا فیصلہ پاکستانی معیشت پر اعتماد کا اظہار ہے

All Day

گیلانی ہوجن تاؤ ملاقات، پاک چین سٹریٹجک تعلقات مزید بڑھانے پر اتفاق -- بیجنگ نیوز ایجنسیاں

گیلانی ہوجن تاؤ ملاقات، پاک چین سٹریٹجک تعلقات مزید بڑھانے پر اتفاق بیجنگ (نیوز ایجنسیاں) وزیر اعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی اور چین کے صدر ہوجن تاؤ کے درمیان ملاقات، دوطرفہ تعلقات، دفاع، سیکورٹی اور تجارت سمیت مختلف شعبوں میں باہمی تعاون کے مزید فروغ، دہشت گردی، کیخلاف جنگ، افغانستان میں مقامی امن اور اہم علاقائی اور عالمی صورتحال پر تبادلہ خیال، انفراسٹرکچر اور دیگر شعبوں میں سٹریٹجک تعلقات کو نئی بلندیوں تک لے جانے پر اتفاق، 'زراعت' توانائی جمعہ کے روز عظیم عوامی ہال میں ہونے والی ملاقات آدھے گھنٹے کی بجائے ایک گھنٹہ سے زائد وقت تک جاری رہی جس میں وزیر اعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی نے پرتیاک استقبال اور شاندار مہمان نوازی پر چین کی حکومت اور عوام کا شکریہ ادا کیا اور کہا کہ چین کی جانب سے امریکا اور عالمی برادری کو پاکستان کی خود مختاری، سلامتی اور آزادی کے احترام کا واضح پیغام لائق تحسین ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین نے ہر مشکل وقت میں پاکستان کا ساتھ دیا ہے، چین کے پاکستان سے رابطے ہمارے لیے باعث تقویت ہیں، پاکستان کو چین کے ساتھ دوستی پر فخر ہے، ہم پاک چین دوستی کو نئی بلندیوں تک لے جائیں گے، 2011ء کو پاک چین دوستی کے سال کے طور پر منانا اس سلسلہ میں ہمارے عزم کا عکاس ہے۔ چینی صدر ہوجن تاؤ نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی سالمیت اور خود مختاری چینی خارجہ پالیسی کا اہم حصہ ہے پاکستان کی سلامتی کو نقصان پہنچانے کی ہر کوشش کی مزاحمت کی جائے گی، چین پاکستان کے ساتھ تعاون کو مزید فروغ دے گا اور دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان اعلیٰ سطح کے رابطوں کو برقرار رکھ جائے گا۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے اس بات پر اتفاق کیا کہ توانائی، زراعت، انفراسٹرکچر اور دیگر شعبوں میں سٹریٹجک تعلقات کو نئی بلندیوں تک لے جایا جائے گا۔ وزیر اعظم سید یوسف رضا گیلانی نے چین کے خدائی تحقیق کے مرکز چائنہ اکیڈمی آف سپیس کا بھی دورہ کیا جہاں پر پاکستان کے تیار ہو رہا ہے جو رواں سال 14 اگست کو خلا میں بھیجا جائے گا "پاک سیٹ ون آر" (لیے مصنوعی سیارہ جو پہلے سے موجود پاک سیٹ ون کی جگہ لے گا) وزیر اعظم

May 22, 2011

Sun

All Day

Chinese government had agreed to take operational control of Gwadar port, -- Pakistan News

Chinese government had agreed to take operational control of Gwadar port,

Pakistan News

Pakistan said on Saturday it wanted China to build it a naval base, in the latest sign of moves to strengthen ties with Beijing.

The announcement from Pakistan's defence minister came a day after Pakistan's Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani returned from a four-day visit to China, Islamabad's biggest arms supplier.

"We would be ... grateful to the Chinese government if a naval base is ... constructed at the site of Gwadar for Pakistan," Defence Minister Ahmad Mukhtar said in a statement, referring to a deep-water port in Pakistan's southwest.

The statement did not say whether Pakistan had asked China to build the base at the port in Baluchistan province.

China invested \$200 million in the first phase of the construction of the port, which was inaugurated in 2007.

The development, 70 km (45 miles) east of the Iranian border and on the doorstep of Gulf shipping lanes, was designed to handle transshipment traffic for the Gulf.

During Gilani's visit, Mukhtar said China had agreed to speed up the delivery of 50 multi-role combat JF-17 "Thunder" aircraft, each worth up to \$25 million.

All Day

Pak-China power generation agreement to give relief to people' -- THE NEWS

Pak-China power generation agreement to give relief to people'

Sunday, May 22, 2011

Karachi

Pakistan People's Party Women Wing Sindh Information Secretary Sharmila Farooqi has said that the government is making all-out efforts to overcome load shedding and shortage of electricity in Karachi and other parts of the country and the recent Pak-China agreement to generate 2,300 MW of electricity through wind and solar systems in Sindh and Punjab is a move to give relief to the public. She said this in a statement issued on Saturday.

She also said that the government was working on various electricity generation projects based on coal and hydel.

Electricity is inevitably needed to lead a comfortable life besides; it is a major component of socio-economic development in the country. Power sector in Pakistan, particularly in Sindh, needs to be developed as the country is facing a tough challenge of power load-shedding, said Sharmila.

She said that in view of the president's recent visit to Moscow, leading Russian companies had shown keen interest to develop energy sector and to contribute to the building of power generating facilities in Pakistan.

All Day

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All Day

Pakistan asks China to build naval base -- APP

Pakistan asks China to build naval base

Sun May 22, 2011 6:12AM

Pakistani Defense Minister Ahmad MukhtarPakistan has asked China to build a naval base south of the country -- the latest move by Islamabad to strengthen defense relations with Beijing.

"We would be... grateful to the Chinese government if a naval base is... constructed at the site of Gwadar for Pakistan," Reuters quoted Pakistani Defense Minister Ahmad Mukhtar as saying in a statement on Saturday.

China invested USD 200 million in the first phase of the construction of the port, which was inaugurated in 2007.

The Pakistani defense minister also pointed out that China has agreed to accelerate the delivery of 50 multi-role JF-17 Thunder combat aircraft to Pakistan.

The light-weight, single-engine fighter jet is being developed jointly by the Chengdu Aircraft Industries Corporation of China, the Pakistan Air Force and the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex.

The remarks come four days after Pakistan's Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani hailed China as his country's best friend.

All Day

Pakistan Says China to Operate Key Port -- Beijing

MAY 22, 2011, Pakistan Says China to Operate Key Port

BEIJING—Pakistan's defense minister said China has agreed to take over operation of the strategically positioned but underused port of Gwadar, and that Islamabad would like the Chinese to build a base there for the Pakistani navy.

Ahmad Mukhtar gave no clear timetable on the possible change at Gwadar, on Pakistan's western coast, which is currently managed by a Singaporean government company.

Mr. Mukhtar made the announcement after accompanying Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani on a visit to China last week. During that visit, Pakistani officials say, Beijing agreed to expedite delivery of a second batch of 50 jointly developed JF-17

fighter jets to Pakistan, possibly within six months.

China—Pakistan's biggest arms supplier—provided 80% of the initial \$248 million funding for the construction of Gwadar, a former fishing village in the southwestern province of Baluchistan whose 14.5-meter-deep port is the only one in Pakistan capable of handling the biggest cargo ships.

Pakistani officials say Gwadar will be a trade hub for Central Asia and a transit point for Chinese oil imports, most of which are now shipped via the Malacca Strait, making them vulnerable to piracy or naval blockades.

China and Pakistan also have discussed plans to build an oil pipeline from Gwadar to northwestern China, and two new stretches of railway extending the Pakistani network to Gwadar at one end, and to the Chinese border at the other.

"We are grateful to the Chinese government for constructing Gwadar Port. However, we will be more grateful to the Chinese government if a naval base is being constructed at the site of Gwadar for Pakistan," Mr. Mukhtar was quoted as saying.

He also asked China to induct the JF-17 into the Chinese air force in order to encourage overseas sales of the relatively cheap, multipurpose fighter jet. He said that China "subscribed" to Pakistan's request to buy a more advanced Chinese fighter jet called the FC-20, also known as the J10.

All Day

Fast NU -- چین پاکستان کو 50 جدید لڑاکا طیارے فراہم کرے گا

چین پاکستان کو 50 جدید لڑاکا طیارے فراہم کرے گا وزیراعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی کے دورہ چین کے دوران دونوں ممالک کے درمیان دفاعی شعبے میں تعاون بڑھانے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے اور اس ضمن میں چین نے پاکستان کو 50 جے ایف 17 تھنٹر لڑاکا طیارے فراہم کرنے پر اتفاق کیا ہے۔

وزیراعظم گیلانی کے دورہ چین کے دوران ان کے وفد میں شامل وزیر دفاع احمد مختار نے صحافیوں سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان آئندہ چھ ماہ کے دوران ان طیاروں کے حصول کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔ ان کے بقول ایک جہاز کی قیمت تقریباً اڑھائی کروڑ ڈالر بنتی ہے تاہم انہوں نے یہ بتانے سے گریز کیا کہ پاکستان یہ جہاز خریدنے کے لیے مالی وسائل کہاں سے فراہم کرے گا۔

یہ طیارے پاکستان اور چین کے مشترکہ تعاون سے تیار کیے جارہے ہیں۔

پاکستانی فضائیہ کے سابق ایئر مارشل مسعود اختر نے وائس آف امریکہ سے گفتگو میں ان لڑاکا طیاروں کی یہ طیارہ بہت تیزی کے ساتھ اپنا رخ موڑنے کی صلاحیت رکھتا ہے اور چین نے "خوبیاں بیان کرتے ہوئے کہا - "اس میں جو ریڈار لگایا ہے وہ بہت دور تک دشمن کے طیاروں کو دیکھ سکتا ہے۔"

All Day

JANG -- چین گوادر بندرگاہ کا انتظام سنبھالنے پر رضامند ہو گیا، وزیر دفاع

چین گوادر بندرگاہ کا انتظام سنبھالنے پر رضامند ہو گیا، وزیر دفاع

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ جنگ) وزیر دفاع چوہدری احمد مختار نے کہا ہے کہ چین نے گوادر بندرگاہ کا انتظام سنبھالنے پر رضامندی ظاہر کر دی ہے۔ سنگاپور سے ہونے والے معاہدہ کی تکمیل کے بعد چین بندرگاہ کا کنٹرول سنبھالے گا۔ وزیراعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی کے ہمراہ دورہ چین مکمل کرنے کے بعد اپنے بیان میں انہوں نے کہا ہے کہ چین ہمارا ہر موسم کا دوست اور قریبی اتحادی ہے وزیراعظم کے دورہ چین کے دوران پاکستان کی طرف سے جس شعبہ میں بھی تعاون کی درخواست کی گئی چین نے منظور کر لی ہے۔ وزیر دفاع نے اپنے بیان میں کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کی طرف سے فریگیٹ بحری جہاز جو 4400 ٹن وزنی ہے کی لیز پر لینے کی درخواست کی گئی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین نے ہماری فضائیہ کو ایف سی 20 طیارے سے لیس کرنے کی درخواست کا جائزہ لینے کی یقین دہانی کرائی ہے۔ چین کے وزیراعظم نے عطا آباد جھیل اور شاہراہ قراقرم کی مرمت کے حوالے سے بھی تعاون کی یقین دہانی کرائی ہے۔

All Day

پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان بجلی کی پیداوار پر کام تیز کرنے کا فیصلہ -- پاک میڈیاپ ڈیس

پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان بجلی کی پیداوار پر کام تیز کرنے کا فیصلہ

پیر، 23 مئی 2011 10:28

اسلام آباد(پاک میڈیاپ ڈیس ڈاٹ کام) پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان بجلی کی پیداوار کے مشترکہ منصوبوں پر کام تیز کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے۔ چین میں پاکستان کے سفیر مسعود خان نے سرکاری ٹی وی سے گفتگو میں بتایا کہ بجلی کی پیداوار منصوبے مشترکہ توانائی میکانزم کے تحت کام کریں گے، مشترکہ توانائی میکانزم کے تحت اجلاس جلد چین میں بلایا جائے گا، منصوبوں پر اتفاق وزیراعظم کے دورے کے دوران ہوا دنیا میں سب سے بڑا ڈیم بنانے والی چینی کمپنی تھری گورجز جلد پاکستان میں کام شروع کرے گی، چینی کمپنیاں پاکستان میں 12 چھوٹے ڈیمز کی تعمیر میں بھی سرمایہ کاری کریں گی۔

All Day

Jang -- مستقبل کے چینی صدر دورہ پاکستان پر آئینگے

مستقبل کے چینی صدر دورہ پاکستان پر آئینگے

بیجنگ(صالح ظافر) چین اور پاکستان کے مابین اعلیٰ سطح کے رابطوں کے تسلسل میں چین کے نائب صدر ڈی جن پنگ اپنے ملک کے اعلیٰ ترین عہدے پر فائز ہونے سے قبل پاکستان کا تاریخی دورہ کریں گے۔ وہ جو جن تاؤ کی سبکدوشی کے بعد حکمران جماعت کے سیکریٹری جنرل کا عہدہ سنبھالیں گے اور نتیجتاً وہ چین کے صدر بن جائیں گے۔ ایسا پہلی بار ہو گا کہ چین کے مستقبل کے صدر عہدے پر فائز ہونے سے قبل پاکستان کے دورے پر آئیں گے۔ سفارتی سطح پر ان کے دورہ پاکستان کا شیڈول طے کیا جا رہا ہے۔ ان کو پاکستان میں قیام کے دوران سربراہ مملکت کے پروٹوکول دیا جائیگا۔ پاکستان میں تعینات چینی سفیر جو کہ وزیراعظم گیلانی کے دورہ چین کی کامیابی کے لئے یہاں آئے تھے وہ مزید قیام کریں گے اور اعلیٰ حکام سے مشاورت کریں گے۔ وہ آئندہ ہفتے اسلام آباد واپس آئیں گے اور ان کے ہمراہ چینی حکومت کا ایک خصوصی نمائندہ ہو گا جو کہ پاکستان اور عوام کے لئے دوست کی مضبوطی کا پیغام لے کر آئیگا۔ ایک اور اہم بات کہ چین کے ایک ساحلی شہر شین زو میں 3 ہفتوں کے ٹیسٹ کے بعد خلاء میں R-واقع چینی اسپیس لیبارٹریز نے پاکستان کے سیٹلائٹ پاکسیٹ 1 بھیجنے کیلئے مکمل قرار دے دیا ہے۔ یہ سیارچہ چین اور پاکستان کے انجینئرز نے مشترکہ طور پر تیار کیا ہے۔

All Day

Pakistan to ask US for two more Orion planes -- APP

Pakistan to ask US for two more Orion planes

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will ask the United States to supply it two additional PC-3 Orion planes for its Navy to make up.

Pakistan being an ally of the US reserves the right for making such demand. The Defence Committee of the Cabinet (DCC) that will discuss various aspects of the matter in its meeting on Wednesday could take a position about the demand.

Pakistan Naval Aviation is an important arm of the Pakistan Navy and assists in the surface and submarine flights to guarantee the safety of Pakistan sea borders. The US is supposed to provide two such planes by the end of the year according to earlier agreed schedule.

Well placed sources told The News here that Prime Minister Gilani has asked Defence Secretary Lt Gen (r) Syed Athar Ali to proceed to Karachi to make an assessment on ground at the Mehran Base so that he should put up detailed preliminary report about the gory incident at the DCC.

The sources pointed out that Pakistan Navy's aviation force currently consists of three Westland Lynx - anti-ship/anti-submarine/transport helicopters, six Westland Sea King Mk45 - Anti Submarine/ Anti Surface Warfare helicopters (Based at Karachi), eight Aerospatiale SA-319B Alouette III - transport/anti-ship helicopters, seven Lockheed P-3C Orion - maritime surveillance/ anti-submarine warfare aircraft/airborne early warning. Future supply of seven more under an agreement with Lockheed Martin signed in 2006; two upgraded P-3C Orion delivered on 7th Jan 2010 while one was delivered in Nov 2009. Seven Fokker F27-200 Friendship - maritime surveillance aircraft, four Hawker 850 - VIP transport aircraft, two Breguet Atlantique, one maritime surveillance/anti-submarine warfare aircraft, thirty two Dassault Mirage V - anti-ship attack aircraft flown by PAF which are based at PAF base Masroor in Karachi, (operated by the PAF), Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, twelve Harbin Z-9EC anti-submarine warfare helicopters equipped with a surface-search radar, low frequency dipping sonar, radar warning receiver, Doppler navigation system and armed with torpedoes.

All Day

THE NEWS -- پاکستان کیساتھ چلنا ہوگا، کیمرون، تعاون جاری رکھیں گے، اوباما

پاکستان کیساتھ چلنا ہوگا، کیمرون، تعاون جاری رکھیں گے، اوباما

لندن: امریکی صدر براک اوباما نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور افغانستان کے ساتھ تعاون جاری رکھیں گے۔ برطانوی وزیراعظم نے اعتراف کیا ہے کہ دہشتگردی کے خلاف جنگ میں پاکستان نے سب سے زیادہ قربانیاں دی ہیں۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے لندن میں مشترکہ نیوز کانفرنس کی۔ اس موقع پر برطانوی وزیراعظم کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان سے اتحاد ختم کرنے کا وقت نہیں ہے دہشتگردی کے خلاف جنگ میں پاکستان کے ساتھ چلنا ہوگا۔ پاکستان کے دشمن ہمارے دشمن ہیں۔ افغانستان میں طالبان کا اثر و رسوخ کم کر دیا گیا ہے۔ ڈیوڈ کیمرون کہتے ہیں کہ اسامہ بن لادن کی ہلاکت اہم کامیابی ہے۔ صدر اوباما نے کہا کہ فلسطینیوں کو ریاست کے حصول کے لیے اقوام متحدہ کا راستہ اپنانے کے بجائے اسرائیل سے مذاکرات کرنا ہوں گے۔

All Day

BUSINESS PERISCOPE: 'Pak-Swiss trade ties to be further strengthened' -- The Nation

BUSINESS PERISCOPE: 'Pak-Swiss trade ties to be further strengthened'

ISLAMABAD: The economic ties between Switzerland and Pakistan were built on solid grounds and the bilateral trade would be further enhanced. Deputy Head of Mission of Switzerland in Pakistan Nicolas Plattner at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said a large number of Swiss multinational companies were operating in Pakistan. They do not only market their world-class products and services, but also creating thousands of attractive jobs in the country. Currently, Pakistan is confronting multiple challenges including financial, social and law and order situation but appropriate measures have been taken to overcome these challenges. He said for the fiscal year 2009-2010, Switzerland was ranked the 5th largest Foreign Direct Investor into Pakistan by investing \$170.6 million. staff report

All Day

Economic ties between Switzerland and Pakistan were built on solid grounds and measures need be taken further to strengthen economic ties, according to Deputy Head of the Switzerland mission in Pakistan Nicolas Plattner on Tuesday. -- Tribune

ISLAMABAD: Economic ties between Switzerland and Pakistan were built on solid grounds and measures need be taken further to strengthen economic ties, according to Deputy Head of the Switzerland mission in Pakistan Nicolas Plattner on Tuesday.

In a meeting at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Plattner said that a large number of Swiss multinational companies were operating in Pakistan.

"They do not only market their world class products and services, but also create thousands of attractive jobs in the country." According to him, in the fiscal year 2009-2010, Switzerland was the fifth largest foreign direct investor in Pakistan, investing US \$170.6 million.

Published in The Express Tribune, May 25th, 2011.

All Day

Japanese Ambassador calls on state minister for foreign affairs -- APP

Japanese Ambassador calls on state minister for foreign affairs
ISLAMABAD, May 25 (APP): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar received Ambassador of Japan Hiroshi Oe at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday. The Minister of State congratulated the Ambassador on the assumption of his new assignment in Pakistan. Views were exchanged on ways and means to further strengthen and deepen the friendly and cooperative relations between Pakistan and Japan, especially in the light of the Joint Statement issued during President Asif Ali Zardari's visit to Japan. Matters related to enhanced market access for Pakistani products and increased Japanese investment in Pakistan also came under discussion.

The Japanese Ambassador referred to the recent visit of Japan's Special Representative and the planned visit of Japan's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Koro Bessho, for political consultations.

The Minister underscored that Japan was Pakistan's major development partner and had always supported Pakistan in testing times. Japan has played an important role in the socio-economic development of the country.

Japan actively participated in the Friends of Democratic Pakistan forum, and hosted the FoDP Donors Conference in Tokyo in April 2009. Japan pledged US \$ 1 billion at the FoDP Conference in Tokyo and extended US \$ 500 million assistance, at the

Pakistan Development Forum.

All Day

Japanese Ambassador's meeting with the Minister of State --

<http://www.mofa.gov.pk/>

Japanese Ambassador's meeting with the Minister of State

Minister of State, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, received Ambassador of Japan H.E.Hiroshi Oe, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, today. The Minister of State congratulated the Ambassador on the assumption of his new assignment in Pakistan.

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All Day

Pakistan may set \$11 billion oil import bill target for next financial year 2011-12. -- The Nation

ISLAMABAD - To cope with the unpredictable fluctuations in the global oil prices coupled with country's soaring energy crisis and insufficient oil reserves, Pakistan may set \$11 billion oil import bill target for next financial year 2011-12.

Gearing up efforts to amicably deal with dramatic fluctuating trends in global oil prices and country's soaring energy crisis through establishing a strategic oil reserve probably at Gwadar, Pakistan may set \$ 11 billion oil import bill target in next budget for financial year 2011-12.

'Government is to set \$11 billion oil import bill target in next financial year 2011-12 budget but market sources believed that bill would surge to \$14 billion if crude oil prices remained stable at \$100 per barrel. Further, Pakistan is set to import 5 million tonnes diesel, 7 million tonnes crude oil, 7 million tonnes furnace oil, 1 million tonnes petrol and 1 million tonnes jet fuel in next financial year 2011-12 to meet domestic requirements', sources informed, adding, Saudi Arabia provides 110,000 barrels per day crude oil and UAE 62,000 barrels per day and Pakistan spends around \$ 2 billion on import of 3 million tonnes diesel and 1 million tonnes furnace oil per annum from Kuwait to meet domestic requirements.

Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Asim Hussain while talking to The Nation on Tuesday confirmed: 'we are thinking to establish a strategic oil reserve probably at Gwadar (Balochistan) viewing the dramatic fluctuating trends of oil prices in global oil market and also to amicably deal with country's soaring fuel demands'.

All Day

Switzerland to strengthen trade relations with Pakistan -- APP

Switzerland to strengthen trade relations with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, May 24 (APP): Deputy Head of Switzerland Mission in Pakistan Nicolas Plattner said on Tuesday that economic ties between Switzerland and Pakistan were built on solid grounds and measures would be taken to further strengthen the same. "A large number of Swiss multinational companies are

operating in Pakistan. They do not only market their world class products and services, but also creating thousands of attractive jobs in the country", Nicolas said in a meeting at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI).

He said that for the fiscal year 2009-2010, Switzerland was ranked the 5th largest Foreign Direct Investor into Pakistan by investing 170.6 million US dollars.

He said that companies like ABB, Clariant, Sika, Gate Gourmet, Nestle, Novartis, Roche, SICPA, SGS, Syngenta or Nexus were well-known Swiss companies presently operating in Pakistan and doing a successful business.

This is a proof that Pakistan has the potential to be an attractive location for Foreign Direct Investment, he added.

Plattner said that establishment of Swiss Business Council (SBC) has bridged business-to-business relations between the two countries and provided strong linkage for the exchange of business related information.

He said that Switzerland has also been contributing towards the development of Pakistan through its development and humanitarian aid programmes.

Switzerland contributed US \$10.7 million to flood-related humanitarian projects in the Pakistan, he added.

In his welcome address, Mahfooz Elahi President, ICCI

said that Pakistan was a peaceful nation and overall business environment was very good. The presence of a large number of foreign companies showed confidence in the business environment, as they were doing profitable business.

The ICCI President said, "We should concentrate on the existing opportunities" and suggested that cooperation could be enhanced in agriculture, transfer of technology, textile and pharmaceutical sectors. He

thanked the people of Switzerland for all their support to Pakistan at the time of floods that hit Pakistan in 2010.

He said that Pakistan offered profitable investment opportunities to both local and foreign investors. He said that marble sector was a fast growing sector in the country with huge investment potential. Foreign businessmen should come forward and invest in the marble industry, he stressed.

He suggested that for increasing bilateral trade people-to-people contacts should be enhanced. The visit of business delegations should also be encouraged to explore markets, he added.

All Day

Chinese firm invests \$40mn in Pak company -- Gulf Times

Chinese firm invests \$40mn in Pak company

Asia International Finance Company Limited (AFIC), a leading Chinese business Group, has invested \$40 million in KASB Finance Limited. "The investment represents the first entry by a private sector Chinese firm in the finance industry in Pakistan," a statement by the KASB Group released at the Karachi Stock Exchange, said. It noted that AFIC was part of a business conglomerate which held significant interests in industrial concerns, mineral activities and financial services corporations among others in China and Asia. KASB Finance is the holding company of KASB group, which is a fully integrated financial services operation.

All Day

Pak-China defence collaboration -- Observer

Pak-China defence collaboration

Sultan M Hali

Six decades of friendship is more than enough for two friends to prove the mettle of their relationship, however, true friendship does not require tests; it is there through thick and thin. Pakistan and China's relations have withstood the test of time and on numerous occasions both countries have reiterated the depth and solidarity they feel for each other. Diplomatic relations between the two came about on May 21, 1951 but the first test for the military came about when India provoked war with China in the Ladakh region. Pakistan, though itself a fledgling, stood by China. In 1965, China returned the favour by ensuring that India restrains itself from any adventurism in East Pakistan during the Pak-India war. Following the war and US imposition of an arms' embargo, left war ravaged Pakistan in a quandary, the Chinese, whose own military weapons' system production was in the stages of infancy, provided arms ammunition, fighter aircraft and whatever was available. In 1971, when India declared war again and severed East Pakistan, the western wing was able to defend itself through the Chinese military hardware.

The depth of Chinese defence collaboration with Pakistan can be gauged from the fact that they are willing to transfer technology with no strings attached. They provided weapons manufacturing factories, tanks and heavy weapons as well as aircraft and radar rebuild factories, fast patrol boat missiles and gunboats as well as Frigates building capability to Pakistan. The JF-17 Thunder, The Karakoram-8 advanced training aircraft, the Al-Khalid Main Battle Tank and F-22P Frigates are some examples of the joint collaboration. The Deep sea port of Gawadar, with its strategic location has been constructed with Chinese assistance and investment. At a time when the west accused Pakistan of nuclear proliferation, imposed sanctions but embraced India, it was China that helped Pakistan establish civil nuclear facilities.

Terrorism is a malaise, which has plagued both countries. Pakistan has been heavily embroiled in the war on terror following 9/11 but China has suffered heavily through organizations like the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), who have been instigating the Uyghur in Xinjiang province. Some of the ETIM leaders had sought refuge in the tribal belt between Pakistan and Afghanistan and joined forces with the Taliban and Al-Qaeda. In 2003, Pakistan Army killed ETIM leader Hasan Mahsum in a raid on Al-Qaeda hideout. In 2007, ETIM militants in cars shot Chinese engineers in Balochistan and sent a videotape of the attack to Beijing, in retaliation for an execution of an ETIM official earlier that July. ETIM also took credit for a spate of attacks before the 2008 Summer Olympics, including a series of bus bombings in Kunming, an attempted plane hijacking in Urumqi, and an attack on paramilitary troops in Kashgar that killed 17 officers. Pakistan and China have joined forces to combat the scourge of terrorism. Joint military exercises, exchange of intelligence, provision of anti-terror equipment are part of the cooperation.

The May 02, 2011 US Navy Seals attack on a house in Abbotabad, which was allegedly housing Osama bin Laden, has made Pakistan the butt of ridicule as well as insinuations by the west. The US is claiming that Osama bin Laden was killed in the attack and his body has been dumped in the sea, despite the fact that there are credible reports that Osama had died of renal failure many years earlier. Whatever

the truth, Pakistan's sovereignty was breached, while Pakistan Army and the ISI are being targeted as being complicit in providing sanctuary to Osama bin Laden. At this moment, when Pakistan stood isolated as there were threats by belligerent and irate US parliamentarians to stop financial and military aid to Pakistan as well as take punitive action against it, China has come out loud and clear to declare its solidarity with Pakistan. It has asked the world to take cognizance of Pakistan's sacrifices in the war against terror, to "respect Pakistan's sovereignty and solidarity", and has "warned in unequivocal terms that any attack on Pakistan would be construed as an attack on China", formally conveyed by the Chinese foreign minister at last week's China-US strategic dialogue and economic talks in Washington. The Chinese government has agreed to expedite the delivery of 50 additional JF-17 Thunder aircraft to beef up Pakistan's Air Defence.

The bloody attack on PNS Mehran has crippled Pakistan's maritime surveillance capability and brought more ignominy to Pakistan's armed forces. China is standing by Pakistan and has held its hand to encourage it overcome the trauma of the attack. Its acceptance of Pakistan's offer to administer and regulate shipping in the strategic Gawadar sea port will go a long way in comforting Pakistan and deter India from further adventurism against Pakistan.

This is reminiscent of the time China had stood isolated and unrecognized by the world body and Pakistan endeavoured to get it its rightful place in the comity of Nations in 1971. Once again China has proved that its defence collaboration and unequivocal stand for Pakistan is unflinching. It is for the government and people of Pakistan to take cognizance of the rock solid ties between Pakistan and China and follow the advice King Claudius of Denmark had given to his son Hamlet in the epic play of the same name by the renowned playwright William Shakespeare: "The friends thou hast, and their adoption tried, grapple them to thy soul With hoops of steel, but do not dull thy palm with entertainment of each new-hatched unfledged comrade."

All Day

Provincial Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani said on Wednesday that Gwader project will bring prosperity to the region as its people will get a source of income. -- APP

Provincial Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani said on Wednesday that Gwader project will bring prosperity to the region as its people will get a source of income.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that Gwader project will help the people of the province to get jobs.

He said "China is our friendly country which always supported Pakistan in crises. We will also appreciate if the US too takes interest in investing in the project".

Sadiq said that Balochistan has a costal strip of 800 km long and this costal belt has not only one of the beautiful beaches in the world but also a port as well.

To a question about China to build a naval base at the Gwader port, he said that there is no information about such reports of offering china to build a navel base at Gwadar.

All Day

XVI NAM Ministerial Conference of the Non Aligned Movement, Bali, Indonesia, 25-27 May 2011 -- <http://www.mofa.gov.pk/>
XVI NAM Ministerial Conference of the Non Aligned Movement, Bali, Indonesia, 25-27 May 2011

Pakistan today reiterated its eight point action programme for revitalizing the Non Aligned Movement to effectively address the new and emerging global challenges in the areas of peace, security and development in the 21st Century.

This vision of a new and reinvigorated NAM was originally outlined by Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani at the XV NAM Summit in Sharm el Sheikh Egypt in

2009 and was reaffirmed by Federal Minister of Textile Industry Makhdoom Shahabuddin, Head of Pakistan delegation, in his statement at the XVI Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held at Bali, Indonesia on May 25-27, 2011.

The Ministerial meeting was inaugurated by the President of Indonesia and attended by Ministerial and other senior level representatives from the 120 NAM member states as well as observers and guest countries especially invited for the occasion.

The Ministerial Conference was convened to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of NAM and to reflect on the contributions that NAM can make over the next fifty years. To this end, the NAM Ministers adopted a comprehensive outcome document outlining a shared vision of NAM for the next 50 years and a commemorative declaration marking the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Non Aligned Movement.

Makhdoom Shahabuddin also reiterated Pakistan's proposal for the establishment of a NAM Ad Hoc Working Group for discussing and forging a draft common vision statement on New Multilateralism and the role of the Movement in the 21st Century.

"Today, in this increasingly divided and fragmented world where foreign occupation, unilateral use of force, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and non-fulfillment of nuclear disarmament obligations are still living realities, the principles and ideals of NAM are ever more relevant and critical," he stressed.

He also emphasized that NAM should reenergize its efforts to uphold and strengthen the timeless principles of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-aggression, non-intervention, and peaceful co-existence.

All Day

‘Pak-China Business Forum to open new opportunities’ -- APP
‘Pak-China Business Forum to open new opportunities’

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-China Business Forum being jointly organised by TDAP and CCPIT in China on 8th June 2011 will open new avenues for promotion of bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries, said Tariq Sayeed Patron-in-Chief of Pakistan China Business Council and Vice President of Confederation Asia Pacific Chambers of Commerce & Industry (CACCI).

During a meeting with Tairq Iqbal Puri Chief Executive of TDAP, Tariq Sayeed appreciated the initiative of TDAP for organising the Pakistan China Forum, which is considered an immediate follow-up of the decision taken during the visit of Prime Minister to China to enhance Pak-China bilateral trade. Tariq Sayeed also discussed forthcoming Trade and Investment Forum being organised by CCPIT on 5-7 June 2011 in Kunming, Yunnan Province and other matters of mutual interest for promotion of Pak-China economic relations.

In the meeting it was also decided that FPCCI and TDAP would make a combined movement in exploring the emerging Chinese market particularly by increasing Pakistan's participation in the Chinese exhibitions, which is the modern tool to penetrate the potential markets. Tariq Sayeed having a long association with China stated that due to his dialogue with CCPIT in Sichuan and Yunnan Province has resulted in vast opportunities for Pakistani exporters and manufacturers of various sectors for participation in International Commodities Fair, Kunming (6-10 June 2011) and Chengdu Western Fair 2011.

Consequently the share of FPCCI representation in fairs and forums has increased manifold. Complimenting the offer made by Sichuan and Yunnan provinces to Pakistan China Business Council, Sayeed said that the economic relationship particularly with these two provinces of China has increased significantly. Tariq Sayeed who had also the privilege of being the Founder and President of SAARC CCI said that China and South Asian Countries are emerging markets with immeasurable potential and this is the right time that Pakistan should make the maximum use of these markets to make foothold and maximum share by aggressive marketing of its products.

Tariq Sayeed was assured by Mr Puri that TDAP would continue extending support to FPCCI for measures which will promote business activities in China. Mr. Sayeed also held a detail discussion with Chairman, Board of Investments Mr. Saleem Mandviwala and discussed the investment possibilities in Pakistan and assured that at the forthcoming Forums China he would highlight investment opportunities in the potential sectors of Pakistan to Chinese Companies. He said that the profile of the potential areas will be distributed in the forums.

Tariq Sayeed further said that based on the success of 2nd South Asia – Sichuan Business promotion seminar organised by CCPIT and Sichuan Provincial People's government of which he is the Advisor turned out a new success story of economic cooperation. He further informed the Chairman that Pakistan China Business Council of FPCCI has succeeded in motivating 65 business houses to participate with 120 representatives in the Kunming Commodities Fair 2011 (6-10 June 2011). On the sidelines of this fair FPCCI will also actively participate in Trade and Investment Forums to be held on 5th to 7th June 2011 with a strong delegation consisting of businessmen from diversified sectors. He further added that on the invitation of Tariq Puri, all the delegates will be persuaded to stay back and attend the First Pakistan China Forum being organised by TDAP and CCPIT on 8th June 2011, which will give further impetus in strengthening cooperation, promoting trade and investment. staff report

All Day

ADB to support Pakistan for Diamir Bhasha Dam construction -- The News

ADB to support Pakistan for Diamir Bhasha Dam construction

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank's mission led by Mr. Juan Miranda, Director General, Central West Asia Development, which is currently visiting Pakistan, has called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs, Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, here Wednesday.

During the meeting, the delegation of ADB has supported Pakistan for the construction of Diamir Bhasha Dam and agreed to take onward steps in this regard. The Dam will have the capacity to reserve the water storage of 8.1 million acre feet and will generate 4500 MW electricity. It may be added that USAID has already indicated to co-finance this project. This project will facilitate not only in changing the energy mix in the country but will also help in storing water. The Mission has agreed in principle to finance the Tube wells Refurbishment project that will help in saving 1147 MW of electricity in the country.

ADB has also agreed to disburse \$ 200 million for Second Generation Capital Reform before the close of the financial year as soon as necessary formalities are completed. The Mission also discussed ways and means to accelerate the process of project implementation and expressed their satisfaction with their dialogue with Pakistani authorities.

The mission had very constructive discussions on macroeconomic policies, current portfolio funded by the Asian Development Bank and proposed projects in pipeline with the Finance Minister and Pakistani authorities. During the course of these meetings, Finance Minister Dr. Shaikh briefed the Mission about revenue as well as budgetary measures that have already been implemented, strong resolve of the Government to continue pursuing prudent policies, expenditure rationalization and fiscal adjustment, fiscal sustainability and protecting the external position.

He also updated the Mission on efforts of the Government to broaden the tax base including steps to increase revenues. The Finance Minister also thanked the ADB for being supportive during flood reconstruction. ADB has been one of the major development partners in development of the country's infrastructure.

The Mission during their meetings were intensely engaged to explore the ways and means to extend support to Pakistan in enhancing Pakistan's medium-term growth prospects. The Mission reassured that the ADB remains committed to Pakistan in supporting water, energy, urban services and communication sectors in Pakistan.

The meeting with the Finance Minister of ADB DG is in continuation of the dialogue in Hanoi during the Ministers' visit there. Among others who attended this meeting were Federal Minister for Water and Power, MOS Finance and other senior officials of the government of Pakistan.

All Day

All set to finalise TAPI gas price -- THE NATION

"During Kabul meeting, the Pakistani side proposed that other buyer countries including Afghanistan and India pay cost of gas including profit to Turkmenistan that has been endorsed," a spokesperson from the Ministry of Petroleum said. He while confirming the agenda items informed that this formula would be nominated in the upcoming meeting. "In a meeting to be held in Manila, gas pricing, transit fee and gas specification will be discussed with the seller, Turkmenistan," Qadir maintained.

It is pertinent to mention that the buyers and seller countries earlier discussed the amount of transit fee and agreed that it should be fixed on transmission of gas from Turkmenistan. The second suggested linking transit fee with per kilometer length of gas pipeline, and the third considered linking transit fee with volume of gas to be consumed by each country. Under this formula, these countries would pay greater amounts, on account of transit fee over using more gas.

Additionally, during talks held in February in Islamabad, Pakistan had proposed keeping 'uniform' prices of imported gas, excluding transportation charges and

transit fee for all countries, including Afghanistan and India. However, Turkmenistan wanted to link gas price with Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) or crude oil.

It proposed to link base price of gas equal to LNG landed in Pakistan, to be adjusted after every three months at the Turkmenistan border meeting in April 2007. Pakistan and India had not agreed to the proposed formula.

All Day

Chinese investors have expressed interest in construction of a road linking the Gwadar Port to Faisalabad -- The Express Tribune

KARACHI:

Chinese investors have expressed interest in construction of a road linking the Gwadar Port to Faisalabad which is expected to give a boost to economic ties between the two countries, a top trade official said.

The idea was floated by Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani during a recent visit to China where financial institutions and investor groups looked keen on financing the development of infrastructure, energy and trade projects in Pakistan.

Trade Development Authority Chief Executive Tariq Iqbal Puri told The Express Tribune the prime minister invited the Chinese government and investors to invest in the development of small dams in Pakistan.

He said that during meetings with heads of Chinese financial institutions, the prime minister put the proposal of constructing a link road between Gwadar and Ratodero and a motorway between Ratodero and Faisalabad on build, operate and transfer (BOT) basis. He said the implementation of the proposal would start a new era of economic cooperation between the two countries.

Puri said the Chinese government was interested in linking the trade of west China with Pakistan and an agreement had been reached for the construction of a trade corridor from Faisalabad to the Karakoram Highway. This project will facilitate access of Pakistani products to China, an important development in bilateral trade.

He said the Orient Group of China, which has purchased British Petroleum, had expressed interest in investing in port management, power and construction projects.

Published in The Express Tribune, May 27th, 2011.

All Day

Indigenous wind energy potential stands at 350,000 MW -- Observer

Indigenous wind energy potential stands at 350,000 MW

Islamabad—Pakistan can generate over 350,000 MW electricity through only wind energy against the country's total demand of about 21,000 MW peak summer, necessitating solid steps to explore the potential. Official sources in Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) told APP that the country's has numerous resources to get energy and over 50,000 MW energy could be generated only in Gharo-Keti Bandar corridor where average wind speed is more than seven meter per second at only 60 meter height.

They said the corridor has potential twice of India and other sites in Balochistan, Punjab, and northern area, which are being identified for power generation.

The sources said Pakistan has amongst the world highest and fastest rising urbanization and electricity is available to only 61 percent of the population while natural gas to 21 per cent. Only 45 per cent of rural population has access to grid electricity and there is extreme shortage of electricity and gas leading to load-shedding.

The country's economic growth is also suffering due to load-shedding of gas and power, leading to closures of industries, they added. They said the total installed and dependable capacity of the country's power sector is 20,231 MW.

Giving breakup, they said 11,735 MW could be get from public sector while 8,496 MW from private sector. "By switching to alternative energy means, Pakistan can reduce dependence on imported oil, running into billions dollars and undermining economic development," they observed.

They said Mexico, Iran, India, USA, UK, China, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria and Jordan have recently placed orders at the states/utility level for wind power. USA announced \$ 150 billion investment in renewable energy over 10 years, Japan \$ 12.2 billion in five years, China \$ 15 billion in two years and South Korea \$ 36 billion over four years.

It is pertinent to mention that USA has wind power installed capacity of 25,170 MW from wind, Japan 1,880 MW, India 9,645 MW, Greece 985 MW, Egypt 365 MW, Iran 85 and Pakistan 6 MW.—APP

All Day

ISLAMABAD - The countries buying gas under the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (Tapi) gas pipeline project are set to finalise gas pricing, transit fee and gas specification with the seller (Turkmenistan) during upcoming four-day meeting to be hel -- THE NEWS

ISLAMABAD - The countries buying gas under the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (Tapi) gas pipeline project are set to finalise gas pricing, transit fee and gas specification with the seller (Turkmenistan) during upcoming four-day meeting to be held in Manila on May 30.

"Pakistan, India and Afghanistan are all set to enter into an important negotiations regarding gas pricing, transit fee and gas specification in a four-day meeting scheduled to be held in Manila on May 30 this year, sources said, adding, "The countries that will be buying gas under TAPI project by putting the differences aside over gas pricing formula have already reached an understanding on paying cost of gas, including profit, as proposed by Pakistan during a two-day meeting held in Afghanistan from May 17 to 18 and finalised three options relating to transit fee". During this meeting held in Afghanistan, three options relating to transit fee of gas were discussed, sources added.

Five members Pakistani delegation would be headed by Rashid Bashir Mazari, Joint Secretary Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources (MoP&NR) is likely to participate in the upcoming meeting. Further, Pakistani delegation would include Afzal Chaudhry, Joint secretary (MoP&NR), Mubeen Solat Managing Director at Inter State Gas System (ISGS) and Kamran Bahadur GM (ISGS) to finalise the modalities relating with TAPI.

Under the estimated \$7.5 billion Tapi gas pipeline project, Pakistan's share will be 1.35 billion cubic feet per day (cbfd) out of total 3.2 (bcfd) gas imports. Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) and Gas Pipeline Framework Agreement (GSFA) have already been signed and four participating countries have targeted to sign Gas Sales Purchase Agreement (GSPA) by July 31 this year.

Gas specification is likely to be finalised rest of two issues including gas pricing and transit fee might take another meeting, Zafar Qadir, a spokesman of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural resources while talking to TheNation said, adding, "Buyer countries held a two-day meeting from May 17 to 18 in Afghanistan to finalise modalities on the gas pricing issue and transit fee to import gas from Turkmenistan, under the multi-billion dollar project". Pakistan is all set to get immediate finalisation on Tapi related issues only to meet the schedule in time as agreed among member countries, Zafar Qadir added.

All Day

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has invited expressions of interests from foreign and domestic companies for the supply of 500 million cubic feet per day (cfd) of liquefied natural gas (LNG) for up to 10 years to feed its crumbling power sector, officials said on Thu -- The Dawn

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has invited expressions of interests from foreign and domestic companies for the supply of 500 million cubic feet per day (cfd) of liquefied natural gas (LNG) for up to 10 years to feed its crumbling power sector, officials

said on Thursday.

The government has set a deadline of June 27 for the submission of expression of interests with an aim the supply must be started in the first or second quarter of 2012.

Pakistan's Supreme Court last year scrapped a government deal to buy LNG from French company GDF Suez because of suspected irregularities.

"Anybody can come. He can bring LNG. We will just put their gas into our system for their buyers," Secretary Ministry of Petroleum Mohammad Ejaz Chaudhry told Reuters.

"It is an open field for anyone who has buyers."

Chaudhry said a winning company would itself set up a terminal in Pakistan for re-gasification of LNG and the government would determine the price of the gas through its Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority.

"The government is not providing any guarantees. It is just facilitating," he said.

The government has assigned its subsidiary, Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), to pipe re-gasified LNG to domestic customers.

"All the finances will be arranged by the LNG developer. There won't be our investment. We would charge a transportation tariff for this service," SSGC spokesman, Zuhair Siddiqui, said.

Energy-starved Pakistan needs gas to feed its power sector as it faces a shortfall that often peaks at 5,000 megawatts per day in summer.

The country has been facing lengthy power outages for several years, which often trigger protests and add to the worries of the pro-US government that is fighting rising al Qaeda-linked militancy on its soil.

Pakistan relies on oil for most of its power needs and imports about 80 percent of its oil.

It spent about \$3.99 billion on the import of 6.9 million tonnes of petroleum products and \$2.45 billion on 4.3 million tonnes of crude oil in the first seven months of the July 2010 to June 2011 financial year.

Early this month, Pakistan's second Chinese-made 330 MW nuclear reactor started generating power. China is also building two more units with the same capacities at Chashma nuclear plant in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province. The projects are, however, not scheduled to be completed until 2017.

Analysts say import of LNG is the best possible short-term option for the government to cope with the growing energy crisis.

"Your options are evaporating very fast. You have to fill the gap urgently and I think it is a good, cheap option if we avail it," said Asif Qureshi, an analyst at Invisor Securities, a brokerage firm based in Karachi.

The quantity of the gas could be increased to 2 billion cubic feet per day depending on needs, Chaudhry added.

All Day

Pak-China to open new opportunities -- Frontier Post

Pak-China to open new opportunities

Posted on May 27, 2011

KARACHI (NNI): Pakistan China Forum, being jointly organized by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and China Council for the Promotion of

International Trade (CCPIT), in China on June 08 would open new avenues for promotion of bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries. This was stated by Mr. Tariq Sayeed, Patron-in-Chief of Pakistan China Business Council and Vice President, Confederation Asia Pacific Chambers of Commerce & Industry (CACCI), Former President FPCCI and Founder and Former President of SAARC CCI in a meeting with Mr. Tariq Iqbal Puri Chief Executive, TDAP in his office. He appreciated the initiative of TDAP for organizing the Pakistan China Forum which is considered an immediate follow up of the decision taken in the visit of Prime Minister to China to enhance Pak China bilateral trade. Mr. Tariq Sayeed also discussed forthcoming Trade and Investment Forum being organized by CCPIT on 5 – 7 June 2011 in Kunming, Yunnan Province and other matters of mutual interest for promotion of Pak – China economic relations.

All Day

Naek invites Polish businessmen to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan -- APP

Naek invites Polish businessmen to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan ISLAMABAD, May 28 (APP): Chairman Senate, Farooq H.Naek has invited the business houses based in Krakow, Poland to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan. He encouraged Polish companies to set up an exclusive Polish economic zone in Pakistan and expand business and trade relations between the two countries. On the last leg of his visit to Poland, Farooq Naek met the Governor of Krakow, Stanislaw Kracik who hosted a banquet in the honour of Senate delegation in the evening, says a press release received here on Saturday. The bilateral meeting with the Governor focused on enhancing economic, cultural and educational linkages between the two countries, to expand the scope of bilateral relations.

He evinced great interest in Pakistan's investment friendly regime and expressed deep appreciation for Pakistan's leadership and society for their dedicated struggle against the menace of terrorism.

He welcomed Pakistan's joining the celebrations of European Football Championship next year.

Krakow being the economic, cultural and educational hub of Poland houses offices of international brands, business support associations and chambers of commerce of a number of countries.

Farooq Naek also held meeting with Deputy Governor of Krakow, Adrzej Haiezlak and briefed him about current situation in the South Asian region and the leading role being played by Pakistan in fight against terrorism.

He stressed that the government and people of Pakistan were committed to eliminate the scourge of terrorism to make the world a safer place.

He shared with the governor the sacrifices in men and material made by Pakistan in this regard, which surpassed the combined losses incurred by ISAF during the last ten years in Afghanistan.

He underlined that Pakistan was waging this war for its own security and for the entire humanity.

Farooq Naek also laid a wreath at the tombs of former Polish President Lech Kaczynski and his lady wife Maria

Kaczynska, who perished in a tragic air crash at Smolensk, Russia on April 10, 2010, along with 95 others on board, including Poland's top military and civilian leadership.

Farooq Naek expressed best wishes for Poland's forthcoming Presidency of the European Union in the latter half of the current year.

He also wished Poland success in hosting 2012 European Football Championship.

Chairman Senate paid a visit to the 640 years old Jagiellonian University.

He also visited Geofizyka Krakow, a geophysical and geological surveying company which is maintaining its presence in Pakistani market since 1998.

He was received by Leopold Sulkowski Chief Executive Officer of the company and Chairman of the Board, who is the Honorary Consul of Pakistan in Poland.

The Chairman Senate invited Geofizyka and Oil and Gas Exploration Company (OGEC) to expand their scope of work in Pakistan to create employment opportunities for Pakistani people and strengthen economic relations between the two countries.

All Day

چینی قیادت نے پاکستان کو یقین دہانی کرائی ہے کہ وہ معیشت بہتر بنانے میں پاکستان کو جینگ (صالح ظافر) -- آسان شرائط پر قرضہ فراہم کرے گا JANG

بیجنگ (صالح ظافر) چینی قیادت نے اصولی طور پر پاکستان کو یقین دہانی کرائی ہے کہ وہ معیشت بہتر بنانے میں پاکستان کو آسان شرائط پر قرضہ فراہم کرے گا۔ چینی صدر ہو جن تاؤ نے پاکستان کیلئے مکمل حمایت کا یقین دلایا ہے۔ وہ پاکستان کو آسان شرائط پر قرضہ دینے کا معاملہ اپنے ملک کے اعلیٰ ترین پالیسی ساز ادارے پولیٹ بیورو کے روبرو پیش کریں گے۔ ذرائع کے مطابق چین نے پاکستان کی بھرپور حمایت کا یقین دلایا ہے

All Day

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Investment Board Saleem H. Mandviwala said on Saturday that Pakistan is going to enhance bilateral trade and investment with Russia -- APP

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Investment Board Saleem H. Mandviwala said on Saturday that Pakistan is to enhance bilateral trade and investment with Russia.

This is a very big initiative of the present government which would help improve the relations between the two countries, he said.

“Russian government will invest in different sectors including steel and banking in the next coming months,” Chairman Investment Board said this while talking to Pakistan Television (PTV).

He said Russian investment in banking sector of Pakistan will start soon, while negotiation on Steel Mill is in progress.

Saleem Mandviwala said that Russia is a big investor of the region and its leadership is willing to invest in Pakistan’s top zones.

This is a positive gesture of Russian government for this region, he added.

To increase the activities at Gwadar Port, he said the railway and road communication is very important.

He said the Investment Board is going to launch online visa service next month for foreign investors.

Saleem Mandviwala said that a special protocol is being given to those who are willing to get Pakistani visas for investment and business purpose in the country.

All Day

Karachi—Sindh Investment Board and Korean Importers Association have signed an MoU to boost exports from the Sindh province. The MOU was signed by Secretary Investment of Sindh, Younus Dagha on behalf of Sindh government while the Koreans Importers Associ -- Observer

Karachi—Sindh Investment Board and Korean Importers Association have signed an MoU to boost exports from the Sindh province. The MOU was signed by Secretary Investment of Sindh, Younus Dagha on behalf of Sindh government while the Koreans Importers Association was represented by their chairman. The ceremony was witnessed by CM Sindh Syed Qaim Ali Shah, who is heading a high level delegation to Korea for attracting Korean investment in various sectors of Sindh economy.

Leading businessmen from Pakistan accompanying the chief minister had fruitful B2B meetings with their Korean counterparts who showed great interest in Pakistani goods and agreed to come to Karachi towards the end of this year.

Speaking on the occasion, Advisor to CM Sindh on Investment Zubair Motiwala said that Pakistan produces abundant raw material but due to lack of modern technology, it has not been able to achieve efficiency in its production stage. He invited Korean companies to transfer technology and share their advancement with Pakistan. The ambassador of Pakistan thanked the MD of KOIMA for organizing successful B2B meetings with Pakistani businessmen.

May 30, 2011

Mon

All Day

Pakistan, Norway agree to strengthen bilateral ties, trade and economic cooperation -- APP

Pakistan, Norway agree to strengthen bilateral ties, trade and economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD, May 30 (APP): Pakistan and Norway on Monday agreed to further strengthen their bilateral ties including the trade and economic cooperation, for which there existed enormous potential. The two sides agreed that over two billion US dollars investment in Pakistan by Telenor, a Norwegian company, could serve as a trail blazer for other Norwegian companies to invest in Pakistan. This agreement reached during the 7th Round of Annual Bilateral Political and Economic Consultations between Pakistan and Norway held in Oslo on Monday, according to a message received here from the Embassy of Pakistan in Oslo.

The Pakistani side was led by Additional Secretary (Europe) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abdul Basit, while Norwegian side was led by Deputy Secretary General of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Atle Leikvoll.

The two sides discussed a whole range of bilateral, regional and international issues.

The Pakistan side emphasized that the country, though facing multiple challenges, offered lucrative investment opportunities. Norway as a member of the FoDP was best placed to invest in Pakistan to create a win-win situation.

The Norwegian delegation, stressed upon the need of expanding bilateral economic and commercial relations between Norway and Pakistan. They assured that the Norwegian government would work for strengthening these ties and would assist the Norwegian companies for investment in Pakistan.

All Day

Belgium is the fifth major EU buyer of Pakistani products and the Pakistani exporters should avail this opportunity. -- Dawn

Belgium is the fifth major EU buyer of Pakistani products and the Pakistani exporters should avail this opportunity.

This was stated by Belgian Ambassador Hans Christian KINT while speaking in a meeting at the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He stressed upon the need that the Pakistani High Commission in Brussels should take measures to promote the Pakistani products.

He said that in the past Belgium contributed about 10 million euros for flood rehabilitation activities in Pakistan.

Belgium assisted the Punjab government for the development of educational institutions and more than 100 schools have been upgraded till now with Belgium support, he added.

Responding to a question about the GSP plus status to Pakistan, he said that there was a certain criteria prescribed by the EU and it is mandatory to fulfill the required conditions. However, the Belgium government will support the Pakistan's case in this respect, he added.

He said that Pakistan was a business conducive country and expressed the need for checking terrorist acts to encourage the foreign investors, including the Belgians.

Briefing about bilateral trade, he said for the last many years the Balance of Trade was in favor of Pakistan, however, during current year the balance of trade was in favour of Belgium.

He said that Belgium exported 70 per cent chemical products, about 60 per cent machinery and parts etc last year.

Pakistan exported about 72 per cent of textile products and about nine per cent of food products.

In his welcome address, Chairman Adhoc Management Committee FCCI Muhammad Naseer said that FCCI was a keen supporter of strengthening economic relations with other countries.

All Day

Economic Daily to play role in Pak-China trade, investment: Rujun -- APP

Economic Daily to play role in Pak-China trade, investment: Rujun
KARACHI, May 31 (APP): The Chinese leading state-owned newspaper "Economic Daily" can play a vital role in promoting trade and investment relations between Pakistan and China. This was stated by the head of Chinese delegation and president of "Economic Daily", Xu Rujun in a meeting with Managing Director of Associated Press of Pakistan Corporation (APP) Mohammad Riaz here on Tuesday. Chief Correspondent Zhu Jing, Senior Foreign Correspondent Sun Jian and Bureau Chief APP Karachi Rashid Ali Khan were also present on the occasion. Xu Rujun said that the Economic Daily can highlight Pakistan's economic potentials, investment needs and available raw materials among leading Chinese conglomerates.

"We can also organize seminars and international conferences in China and Pakistan to attract Chinese investment in Pakistan and also encourage joint ventures," he added.

In this regard, holding of a seminar on Pakistan in China can be organized by the Economic Daily in near future, he noted.

He said his newspaper can also arrange meetings between leading Chinese and Pakistani industrialists for attracting investment.

Responding to a question, he said that Pakistan should emulate Chinese model of Special Economic Area Region (SAR) for developing Chinese economic zones in the country.

He said his newspaper can also highlight and propagate the tourist attractions in Pakistan among Chinese tourists.

To a question, he said that the contribution and stake of private sector in the Chinese economy has grown to 50 percent, playing a key role in the second biggest economic power on the globe.

He said that the Chinese government is encouraging private sector to assume a leading role in the country's gross domestic products, exports and market.

They are allowed to enter all sectors of the economy except industries in the national security business, he added.

He said that the Chinese government has asked private sector to use modern technology and efficient management in the production to save wastage of national resources and cut cost to become more competitive.

Rujun pointed out that the government has made a paradigm shift in its economic growth model of the country. The producers of exports goods make very little profit and therefore, they cater to domestic market now.

He said private sector is very energetic and they are transforming from small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to large business houses, adopting high technology and advance management in production and marketing.

The President of the Economic Daily said that private sector has emerged as a leading player in the Chinese economy during the last three decades.

To a question, he said that the Chinese conglomerates are making off-shore investment and utilizing computers and internet and high technology for cost effective production. These investments can be made in Pakistan, he noted.

Xu Rujun invited APP delegation led by the Managing Director to visit China as guest of the Economic Daily.

Earlier, the APP Managing Director sought the role of Economic Daily in the promotion of bilateral trade and investment. He urged Rujun to highlight Pakistan's potential in gems and precious stones abundantly available in Gilgit-Baltistan.

All Day

Pakistan, China friendship a lush tree: Ambassador Khan -- APP

Pakistan, China friendship a lush tree: Ambassador Khan

BEIJING, MAY 31 (APP): Premier Wen Jiabao has wisely described the friendship between Pakistan and China as a "lush tree with deep roots and thick foliage, full of vigour and vitality," said Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Masood Khan. The Chinese Premier made these remarks on the morning of December 19, while addressing a packed session of Pakistani parliament during his official visit to Pakistan. "The sentimental bond between our peoples is thus a constant image. An aura of warmth and affection permeates our relations. Diplomats in Beijing and around the world hear with some amusement the poetic expressions suggesting that Pakistan-China friendship is all-weather and time-tested; and that this relationship is taller than the Himalayas and deeper than oceans; and that it is stronger than steel, and sweeter than honey," wrote Ambassador Khan in an article published in Beijing Review's special supplement on the 60th anniversary of Pakistan-China friendship.

He said that "Some do offer envious compliments and ask about the secret of the longevity and depth of this relationship. The people of Pakistan and China evoke these poetic images with sincerity of conviction and feel that they still do not fully capture the depth of their feelings towards each other."

To make an attempt to figure out the secret of this unique bond, Ambassador Khan said, "the first crucible of our friendship has been history. Scholars and students are familiar with recent history of Pakistan-China relations. But our relations go far back. It is obvious that the territories of Pakistan and China are joined by mountains and rivers so-called geographical fault lines. Pakistan and China also share civilizational fault lines. Monks and envoys traversed the daunting heights of the Karakorum, the Hindukush and the Himalayas to connect the Gandhara and the Indus Valley civilizations with the Chinese civilization".

He said that Fa Xian and Xuan Zang, in the fourth and seventh centuries respectively, were not deterred by the inaccessible altitudes of these mountain ranges. Many scholars from the territory that is now Pakistan traveled to China to understand and imbibe the glorious civilization of China. So, cross-fertilization of our

civilizations took place much before the modern era.

The founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 was a truly historic event. And so was the independence of Pakistan in 1947. Pakistan recognized China on January 4, 1950, and established diplomatic relations on May 21, 1951 following negotiations with Pakistan's first Charge d' Affaires who had arrived in Beijing in April 1951. The first Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan went to Karachi in September 1951 and Pakistan's first Ambassador to China arrived in Peking on November 1, 1951.

"These are the beginnings that we shall celebrate this year after six decades. The year 2011 has been designated the Year of China-Pakistan Friendship. We have decided to hold a series of activities in the political, economic, trade, military, cultural, sporting and educational fields to commemorate the strength of our bilateral relations and to show the resolve to take it to new heights" Khan wrote in the article.

He said "we can identify three periods in our relations. Because of the Cold War, the 1950s was a period of uncertainty in Pakistan-China relations, though efforts started right in the beginning for engagement. During the Bandung Conference in 1955, Premier Zhou Enlai and Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Bogra agreed to strengthen exchanges and cooperation between the two countries. On May 23, 1955 Chairman Mao Zedong, while talking to our Ambassador in Beijing, Mr. Sultanuddin Ahmed, expressed the hope that, given goodwill between the two countries, relations would grow stronger and friendlier".

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the leadership of the two countries steered Pakistan-China relations towards closer understanding and solidarity. In 1961, Pakistan voted for the restoration of China's seat in the United Nations. In 1963, China and Pakistan signed a boundary agreement. This was a very significant milestone as it underlined and displayed the emerging trust between the two neighbours.

The agreement was signed in February 1963 in Beijing by Pakistan's Foreign Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. This also showed Pakistan's independence in its foreign policy and its growing faith in Sino-Pakistan friendship.

From this point onward, Ambassador Khan said, "the third phase of relations between our two nations began which was characterized by mutual confidence, deep trust, and growing cooperation. This period can be called a period of consolidation and expansion and it has continued up to this point.

In May 1964, Premier Zhou Enlai, while recalling his visit to Pakistan, said: "we found ourselves at all times living in an atmosphere of profound friendship, which the Pakistani people cherished for the Chinese people, and (we) were greatly moved by that.

"In the succeeding decades, China and Pakistan have not only deepened their ties but stood by each other in difficult times. China helped us during the 1965 and 1971 wars. We advocated China's entry into the United Nations. We also facilitated rapprochement between the US and China through quiet diplomacy. We have coordinated our policies during the turbulent period of the Afghan resistance against the Soviet Union in 1980s; and are now cooperating in the fight against terrorism.

"As we come to the recent history of Pakistan-China relations, we express satisfaction from the fact that the two sides have fashioned a very effective, practical, and flexible architecture for engagement and cooperation in strategic, defense, economic, commercial, and cultural fields. This architecture is responsive to the changing times," Ambassador Khan said.

Pak-China Joint Statement, issued in Islamabad on December 19, 2010 on the conclusion of Premier Wen Jiabao's historic visit to Pakistan, highlighted the following points: (1) It is important to deepen the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic partnership; (2) China-Pakistan relations have gone beyond bilateral dimensions and acquired broader regional and international ramifications; (3) Friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and China serve the fundamental interests of the two countries, and contribute to peace, stability and development in the region and beyond; and (4) The two sides will enhance their strategic coordination, advance pragmatic cooperation, and work together to meet the challenges in pursuit of common development.

Pursuing friendship with China has become the bedrock of Pakistan's foreign policy which enjoys consensus across the political spectrum. Pakistan deeply appreciates the support and assistance China has given for our economic and social development. We fully support China's principled stand on Taiwan, Tibet, Xinjiang,

and other human rights issues.

Chinese Government and people reciprocate these sentiments and consider Pakistan to be their most reliable friend and partner. Developing relations with Pakistan is high on China's diplomatic agenda. China supports Pakistan's efforts in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

The fuel for this relationship comes from the hearts and minds of the people. The prudent, farsighted policies of their governments buttress it through multiple frameworks.

The 2005 Pakistan-China Treaty for Friendship and Cooperation and Good Neighbourly Relations is a key instrument which enables us to strengthen our strategic, economic and cultural relations. High-level visits play a crucial role in this regard.

In December last year, Pakistan and China decided to establish an annual meeting mechanism between leaders, set up foreign ministers' dialogue mechanism and reinforce contact and dialogue between the foreign ministries.

Since 2008, President Asif Ali Zardari has visited China six times and Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani three times. Last year, Premier Wen Jiabao and Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang visited Pakistan.

Ambassador Khan pointed out that "this year we will make special

All Day

Pak-Malaysia trade could double in five years -- Express Tribune

KARACHI:

Trade volume between Pakistan and Malaysia can double from \$2.3 billion to \$4.6 billion in the next five years by stepping up dealings in agricultural products and sharing of technological advancements, according to Malaysia-Pakistan Business Council assessments.

The newly established Malaysia-Pakistan Business Council is currently in the midst of charting its agenda and direction in this regard, said Council President Mohammad Saleem in a statement on Monday.

Initial studies revealed that exports to Malaysia could increase by developing new ways in which Malaysian importers, government-sponsored agencies and institutions can get more products like wheat, rice, beef and fruits from Pakistan.

Saleem said the authorities in both countries should design a trade assistance programme, similar to the one between Japan and China. He said that it would be in Pakistan's interest to take advantage of Malaysia's expertise in fields such as cold chain maintenance techniques, concentrate and pulp processing and canning fruits.

In order to help Pakistan realise its full agricultural potential, the council believed that Malaysia can bring latest technology.

The council advised the Malaysian government to lobby for reducing import taxes on mangoes, allow import of milk, provide guidance to investors and traders from both countries and organise food and cultural events.

The frozen food sector is another area that Malaysia is interested in. To capitalise on this opportunity, the council believed that Pakistan should encourage companies such as Engro, Nestle, K&N and Shezan to process ready-to-cook or ready-to-eat food items for export.

According to the council members, Malaysia can offer Pakistan, and Karachi in particular, with expertise in construction, building material manufacturing and electrical appliance manufacturing.

Published in The Express Tribune, May 31st, 2011.

All Day

پاکستان اور ملائیشیا کے تجارتی حجم کو 4 ارب 60 کروڑ ڈالر تک پہنچایا جائے گاملائیشیا APP -- پاکستان کاروباری کونسل

پاکستان اور ملائیشیا کے تجارتی حجم کو 4 ارب 60 کروڑ ڈالر تک پہنچایا جائے گاملائیشیا پاکستان کاروباری کونسل

اسلام آباد - 31 مئی (اے پی پی) دوطرفہ اقتصادی تعاون کو فروغ دے کر پاکستان اور ملائیشیا کے تجارتی حجم کو 4 ارب 60 کروڑ ڈالر تک پہنچایا جائے گا، دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تجارتی تعاون کے وسیع امکانات موجود ہیں اور تجارتی تعاون کو ترقی دینے کے حوالے سے نجی شعبے کے علاوہ دونوں ممالک کی حکومتیں بھی اس میں دلچسپی رکھتی ہیں۔ ملائیشیا پاکستان کاروباری کونسل کی پریس ریلیز کے مطابق پاکستان سے برآمدات کو بڑھایا جائے گا۔ پاکستانی برآمدات میں چاول، گندم، گوشت اور پھل شامل ہیں۔

All Day

Pakistan China Forum to be jointly organised by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) in China -- The News

KARACHI - Pakistan China Forum to be jointly organised by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) in China on June 8, 2011 will open new avenues for promotion of bilateral trade and economic relations between the two nations.

This was stated by China Business Council Patron-in-Chief of Pakistan Tariq Sayeed, in a meeting with TDAP Chief Executive Tairq Iqbal Puri, in his office. He appreciated the initiative taken by TDAP for organizing the Pakistan China Forum which is considered as an immediate follow-up of the decision taken to enhance Sino-Pak bilateral trade during the visit of Prime Minister Gillani to China.

Sayeed also discussed the forthcoming Trade and Investment Forum being organized by CCPIT on June 5-7, 2011 in Kunming, Yunnan province, China and other mutually beneficial areas for promotion of Pak-China economic relations.

It was also decided that Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and TDAP will make a combined effort in exploring the emerging Chinese market, particularly by increasing Pakistan's participation in Chinese exhibitions, which serves as a useful tool for delving into potential markets. Having had a long association with China, Sayeed stated that his dialogue with CCPIT in the Sichuan and Yunnan province has resulted in vast opportunities for Pakistani exporters and manufacturers of various sectors in terms of participation in the International Commodities Fair, such as the Kunming (June 6-10, 2011) and Chengdu Western Fair 2011. Consequently, the share of FPCCI representation in fairs and forums has increased manifold as well. Complimenting the offer made by Sichuan and Yunnan provinces to Pakistan China Business Council of FPCCI, Sayeed expressed the strengthening of economic ties with China, particularly with these two provinces. Sayeed, who had also the privilege of being the Founder and President of SAARC CCI said that China and South Asian Countries are emerging markets with immeasurable potential and that it is the right time for Pakistan to maximise its use of these markets, develop a strong foothold and a large share by aggressive promotion of its products.

He was assured by Puri that TDAP would continue extending its support to FPCCI for measures, promoting business activities in China. Sayeed also held a detailed discussion with Board of Investments Chairman Saleem Mandviwala and discussed the investment possibilities in Pakistan, while assuring an emphasis on the investment opportunities in potential sectors of Pakistan to Chinese firms at the forthcoming forums. For this purpose, a profile of the potential areas will be distributed during the forums.

Sayeed further said that the success of the 2nd South Asia-Sichuan Business promotion seminar organized by CCPIT and Sichuan Provincial People's government of which he is the Advisor, turned out to be a success story of economic cooperation.

He further informed the Chairman that Pakistan China Business Council of FPCCI has succeeded in motivating 65 business houses to participate with 120 representatives in the Kunming Commodities Fair 2011.

A large delegation consisting of businessmen from diversified sectors will also signify the active participation of FPCCI in the Trade and Investment Forums to be held on June 5-7, 2011.

June 4, 2011

Sat

All Day

Rs 1.1 billion allocated for Gwadar Int'l Airport -- Daily Times

Rs 1.1 billion allocated for Gwadar Int'l Airport

ISLAMABAD: The government has allocated Rs 1100 million under Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for New Gwadar International Airport during the year 2011-12. According to details, the total estimated cost of the project is Rs 7675 million, which included Rs 1464 million of foreign loan. The total expenditure of the project up to June 2011 is Rs 485.032 million while throw forward amount as on July 1, 2011 is Rs 7189.968 million. Out of total allocation for the year 2011-12, Rs 220 million is foreign loan while Rs 880 million has been arranged from own resources. According to PSDP, a total of Rs 1470 million has been earmarked for difference ongoing schemes of Defence Division during the year 2011-12. The other major ongoing schemes included capacity building of Pakistan Meteorological Department of Islamabad, establishment of Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre at Karachi, construction of residential accommodation for operational staff at PMD Headquarters, Islamabad, Water Distribution Network Phase-III for RCB/CCB based on Khanpur Dam Water Source, establishment of MSA Digitised Operation Room at New HQ MSA Building MSA, upgradation of Pediatric, Cardiac, Surgical Facility in NIHD, AFIC and establishment of Pak-China Seismic Network in Pakistan. app

June 6, 2011

Mon

All Day

Development projects in Balochistan to generate jobs:Jamali -- APP

Development projects in Balochistan to generate jobs:Jamali

ISLAMABAD, Jun 6 (APP): Minister for Science and Technology Mir Chengez Khan Jamali said on Monday that development projects in Balochistan would generate jobs for unemployed youths in the province. The minister said in order to achieve this objective, it was necessary to utilize the natural resources of the province in a proper manner. Talking to Pakistan Television, he said that Balochistan is rich in natural resources and it was fair that these should be properly used in order to benefit the local people. He emphasized that royalty thus earned should be paid to the Balochistan Government. Replying to a question, the minister said that democratic elements can help resolve various issues being faced by Balochistan.

He said that all stakeholders should jointly strive to improve law and order as this was essential for maintenance of peace in the area.

He stressed the need for enhancing literacy rate through quality education so that people of this less developed part of the region could avail themselves of better job opportunities in the country.

In order to achieve long term trade benefits from the Gwadar Port, there must be a special focus on construction of roads and fast railway network links with rest of the world, he observed.

June 16, 2011

Thu

All Day

**Pak-China manufactured: Pakistan Navy inducts Naval ship Aslat --
Express**

KARACHI: Naval ship Aslat, jointly manufactured by Pakistani and Chinese engineers in Karachi, was handed over to the Pakistan Navy on Thursday.

PNS Aslat is the fourth F22-P Frigate inducted into the Pakistan Navy.

This is the last ship of four 'Sword' or 'Zulfiqar Class' frigates jointly manufactured with China.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, Naval Admiral Nauman Bashir said the manufacturing experience will improve the Karachi Ship Yard's building capacity.

He also said the manufacturing of frigates highlights the government's priority towards defence.

All Day

BEIJING: The next five-year (2012-1216) Pak-China Development Programme on Trade and Economic Cooperation (FYDP) will be launched next year. Ambassador Masood Khan said this in an interview with China Textile News, a Chinese language daily which focuses o -- Business Recorder

BEIJING: The next five-year (2012-1216) Pak-China Development Programme on Trade and Economic Cooperation (FYDP) will be launched next year. Ambassador Masood Khan said this in an interview with China Textile News, a Chinese language daily which focuses on textile related matters. He said this programme includes collaboration on an Institute of Textile and Clothing. He said Pakistan welcomes Chinese producers setting up factories in Pakistan.

"Pakistan has one of the most liberal investment regimes. Pakistan's investment environment is especially hospitable for Chinese entrepreneurs. Chinese corporate sector has worked in Pakistan for several decades with success," he noted.

Ambassador Khan said that most of the Chinese companies are familiar with Pakistan's manufacturing landscape.

China has excess capital and expertise in textiles industry. The textile industries' competencies can be easily transferred to Pakistan. In fact, the best option would be to start exclusive textile zones which could be managed by the Chinese enterprises. "We could also experiment with joint ventures. An interface of sorts already exists," he said.

All Day

Next Pak-China Development Programme on Trade to be launched in 2012 -- Pak China Institute

Next Pak-China Development Programme on Trade to be launched in 2012
Date : 18-06-2011

BEIJING, June 18 : The next five-year (2012-1216) Pak-China Development Programme on Trade and Economic Cooperation (FYDP) will be launched next year. Ambassador Masood Khan said this in an interview with China Textile News, a Chinese language daily which focuses on textile related matters. He said this programme includes collaboration on an Institute of Textile and Clothing. He said Pakistan welcomes Chinese producers setting up factories in Pakistan. "Pakistan has one of the most liberal investment regimes. Pakistan's investment environment is especially hospitable for Chinese entrepreneurs. Chinese corporate sector has worked in Pakistan for several decades with success," he noted.

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"We could also experiment with joint ventures. An interface of sorts already exists," he said. (APP)

All Day

Balochistan govt to get further Rs 11 billion from Divisible Pool -- Daily Times

Balochistan govt to get further Rs 11 billion from Divisible Pool

By Mohammad Zafar

QUETTA: The government of Balochistan is expected to get at least Rs 11 billion more from the Divisible Pool in the next fiscal year, comparing to the revenue receipts in the last budget. It is besides Rs 16 billion as subvention from the federal government.

The main increase in the revenue receipts for Balochistan is on taxes on income and Balochistan provincial government will get Rs 3 billion more than the current fiscal year and Sales Tax on Service which registers an increase of around Rs 8 billion. In all, Balochistan will receive Rs 11 billion more in the next budget. It is excluding the Subvention and foreign assistance, mainly from Oman and International Fund for Agriculture Development.

The provincial government will get Rs 40 million less on account of gas development surcharge, once the biggest source of revenue in the recent past. Similarly, there is fall in revenue from royalty on natural gas and it is around Rs 173 million comparing last year.

However, there is an increase in revenue receipts on account for Central Excise on natural gas and the amount of increase is calculated at Rs 600 million in the current fiscal year. Balochistan received nominal revenue of Rs 263 million on account of Capital Value Tax and during the next it will be zero.

The share of Balochistan government is 9.09 percent as per the National Finance Commission Award signed the implementation during the current fiscal year.

It may be mentioned that the government had paid back all the cash development loans, the most costly loans of the federal government, during the current year, the provincial government will not make a payment of interest on Cash Development Loan. Earlier, the Pakistan People's Party government had picked up the State Bank overdraft saving a sizable amount of money on principal amount and heavy interest. At one stage, it jumped to Rs 20 billion during the Q-League government, as rulers resorted to lavish spending.

Years ago, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) provided a soft loan under the Resource Management Programme to relieve the provincial government of the costly federal loans. With the soft loan from the ADB, Balochistan repaid all the costly loan under the head of Cash Development Loans.

However, the provincial government will have to pay Rs 634 million as interest on foreign loan as against of Rs 1,836 million as interest during the current fiscal year. The provincial government will have to pay back the principal amount of Rs 3352 million on foreign loans as compared to Rs 3,922 million during the current fiscal year.

According to the budget documents, the provincial government will get foreign loan of Rs 1,631 million and a cash grant of Rs 500 million during the next fiscal year. The grant is provided by the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman and it will be spent on the development of Gwadar and its surrounding communities. The grant to the province was merely Rs 33 million during the current fiscal year.

Similarly, the foreign loans were Rs 1,472.580 million during the current fiscal year. The president of Pakistan laid the foundation stone of Vindar Dam project in Lasbela district and made a speech explaining the policies of the government that he would personally monitor the pace of work and accordingly the funds would be released. In the current budget, Rs 41.155 million was allocated. At the end of the fiscal year, the federal government did not release a single penny for the prestigious project inaugurated by the president of Pakistan.

Now in the next fiscal year, the government had Rs 100 million for the project. For two more water dam projects, the government had allocated Rs 10 million for Pelar Dam and Rs 50 million for Hingol Dam. Hingol is the only perennial river of Balochistan and it is considered to be the biggest river. No resources were allocated for the construction of Gwadar Grid Station and installation of 220KV transmission line for import of electricity from Iran for Gwadar. The government wanted to import 100MW electricity from Iran to cater the need of local people in

Mekran. The demand for electricity multiplied and load shedding duration also increased.

There had been no allocation of resources in the Federal Budget for Balochistan Road Development Project, Community Development and Poverty Reduction, restructuring Technical Education, HIV/AIDS project and Middle School Project. Previously, these projects were funded by the federal government. It is the effects of devolution of powers from the central government to the provinces.

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June 21, 2011

Tue

All Day

**Pakistan seeks Chinese expertise to boost oil, gas production --
Singapore (Platts)**

Pakistan seeks Chinese expertise to boost oil, gas production
Singapore (Platts)--21Jun2011/628 am EDT/1028 GMT

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari has invited China's Orient Group to assist Pakistan in drilling for oil and gas, and reactivating depleted and abandoned fields across the country amid an acute energy shortage, the Associated Press of Pakistan reported Friday.

Speaking to a delegation headed by Zhang Hongwei, chairman of Orient Group, Zardari said Friday that Pakistan is in an "energy emergency," according to the report.

In an Express Tribune report June 18, Zhang expressed interest in conducting feasibility studies on laying oil and gas pipelines from the Gwadar Port to China, following a request from Pakistan's Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Asim Hussain.

Zhang added that the group was investing more into the recently acquired BP projects in Pakistan to increase the output of oil products.

All Day

Islamabad, Baku enjoy excellent ties -- Observer

Islamabad, Baku enjoy excellent ties
Dr Jassim Taqui Deputy Editor IR

Islamabad—Pakistan is proud to recognize Azerbaijan in 1991 immediately after gaining its independence (the second country after Turkey). The two countries established diplomatic relations in 1992. Pakistan was one of the first countries to open its Embassy in Baku, capital of Azerbaijan.

Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy close and cordial relations, characterized by shared perceptions on major global and regional issues. A unique feature of the relations is strong support extended to each other on major issues. Pakistan fully supports the principal policy of Azerbaijan over Nagorno Karabakh. Azerbaijan responded by supporting Pakistan's effort for early resolution of Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions.

The two countries have been cooperating in international forums on almost all strategic issues.

They signed many agreements to provide a framework for bilateral cooperation in all spheres, especially in the economic sector. They established a Joint Ministerial Commission.

The objective is to bring the two peoples closer to each other due to strong affinity and goodwill between them.

Pakistan offered assistance in financial sector, particularly banking, development of textiles and micro-financing. Similarly, Pakistan has shown interests to benefit from Azerbaijan's experience in energy and development of petroleum sector. As agreed, Pakistan established a subsidiary branch of National Bank of Pakistan in Baku. This step would help promote trade transactions between the two countries

During the visit of the Defense Minister of Azerbaijan to Pakistan in May 2001, the two countries had signed a Joint Statement in Islamabad agreeing to develop military partnership by initiating institutionalized defense cooperation. The Defence Minister of Pakistan responded with similar visit. This visit by defense delegation to Azerbaijan is expected to further widen the scope of defense cooperation between the two friendly countries.

With this excellent background, the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Dashgin Shikarov and the Defence Attaché Colonel Dashdamir Mammadov hosted a grand reception in the Marriot Hotel to celebrate the Armed Forces Day of Azerbaijan.

A large number of defence attaches and their spouses along with the elite of the civil society were present. The Chief Guest was Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Asim Suleiman along with DG Foreign Military cooperation Maj .Gen. Inaum ul Haque. Many senior military officials were also in attendance.

The two countries are focusing on military cooperation between their defence ministries.

Azerbaijan is working hard since its independence on developing its armed forces. It is sanctioning about 2.5 billion dollars annually for military expenditure.

This rising nation has been able to build its own defence industry. Within a short time, Baku is manufacturing small arms. It has started an ambitious programme of building tanks, armoured vehicles, military planes and military helicopters.

The atmosphere was festive. The main discussion and questions of the guests were the post- Geronimo Operation era in Pakistan, the withdrawal of the US troops from Afghanistan and the secret talks between Taliban and CIA.

Islamabad lives in a sea of rumours, speculations and conspiracy theories. The diplomats naturally get lost and confused.

Thus the diplomatic focus has always been: how to differentiate solid facts on the ground from the factory of rumours? Well that is the Mother of All Questions!

June 23, 2011

Thu

All Day

GPA board meeting held -- Observer

GPA board meeting held
Staff Reporter

Islamabad—The 25th meeting of Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Board was held here today in the Ministry of Port & Shipping. The meeting was presided over by Chairman, Mr. Muhammad Aslam Hayat of the Authority.

In the meeting general administrative matters pertaining to Gwadar Port Authority were discussed.

It was decided in the meeting that in accordance with the Aghaz-e-Haqooq Balochistan package, all the employees of Grade 1 to 16 of GPA will be hired from amongst the locals. It was further decided that pay and allowances of the GPA Employees will be increased.

The Chairman also announced that for the 24 hours operation and to facilitate 70,000 metric tons mother ships on the port, latest navigation system has been installed at the Port, which will also be functional during night time.

The Chairman further said that the work of dragging has been completed to ensure 14 ½ meters depth before the monsoon season for the smooth functioning of the port.

All Day

Pak rail to get Chinese coaches in Sept -- APP

Pak rail to get Chinese coaches in Sept

BEIJING: China is expected to start delivery of railway coaches to Pakistan Railways (PR) from September this year that would certainly help improve railways operational efficiency. A 15-member PR delegation in this regard is currently on study tour till July 4 to China to acquaint themselves about their maintenance and examine other technical aspects of these coaches. Under an agreement the Changchun Railway Company will provide 202 coaches to PR and all is set to deliver first batch of around 50 bogies in September.

All Day

The government is set to sign an agreement with Iran for importing 100 megawatts (MW) of electricity for Gwadar port within six months, Mir Lashkari Raisani informed the Senate. -- Express

The government is set to sign an agreement with Iran for importing 100 megawatts (MW) of electricity for Gwadar port within six months, Mir Lashkari Raisani informed the Senate.

"The agreement is a breakthrough (enabling us) to import electricity on low tariff," he said. "With our efforts, Iran has agreed to provide electricity (at just) Rs7 per unit. In another agreement of 1,000MW, electricity import can materialise by 2013 as Islamabad and Tehran are negotiating the matter," he explained. JUI-F's Ismail Buledi informed the upper house of parliament that they have also signed an agreement for importing electricity from Iran for the Makran division as well. Initially, Iran would provide 35.7MW to the division from next month, he added. Earlier, there was a dispute on tariff rates as Tehran was offering electricity at Rs13 per unit but Islamabad kept requesting for a reduction in tariff, he explained.

ANP's Ilyas Bilour said army and security agencies are responsible and respectable departments and everyone should give them due regard. "The only way to pay tribute to our motherland is by showing loyalty and devotion," he said.

All Day

**PCSIR to establish incubation centers soon
incubation centers in Gwadar**

-- PCSIR to establish

PCSIR to establish incubation centers soon

ISLAMABAD, Jun 25 (APP): Pakistan Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) will soon establish Technology Business Incubation Centers (TBICs) at Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar for commercialization of production activities. It will also pursue establishment of technical training centers of Gwadar, Balochistan to produce skilled manpower for public and private sectors, organizations and industries. It is pertinent to mention here that an amount of Rs 2 billion has been allocated in Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2011-12, for the projects of Ministry of Science and Technology.

According to official data available, this allocation is almost three times of the last years' revised allocation. Spokesperson PCSIR Irfana Shafiq told APP that they have the aim to develop technologies for high quality black glass, nano particle, bio degradable polymer and Indole Acetic Acid to cater the needs of industrial sectors and leasing out the technologies, developed during 2010-11.

PCSIR has the objective to increase the number of patents, papers, analytical, testing, calibration and consultancy services, she maintained.

The major target of PCSIR involves the utilization of the huge reserves of Thar coal to overcome the energy crisis in Pakistan by converting the coal into liquid fuel in an effective manner to support the economy of the country, she

June 26, 2011

Sun

All Day

TCP to import another 50,000 MT urea -- The Nations

TCP to import another 50,000 MT urea

Published: June 26, 2011

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LAHORE (PPI) – The TCP will import another 50,000 metric tons of urea to be used for the coming kharif crop and the Corporation has also awarded tender in this regard.

The Corporation said that the federal government decided to import more urea to ensure its sufficient availability at the right time for the Kharif-2011 amid domestic shortage caused mainly due to gas shortage in the country.

The TCP said that the additional 50,000 MT have been purchased at the lowest price of \$544.73 PMT (C&F) quoted in the tender opened on the 17th June, 2011 and within the validity-period of the bid offered from the second lowest bidder, namely M/s Transammonia Ag, who agreed to match the lowest bid, as allowed by the government in view of the urgency involved. The two lots of 50,000 MT each i.e. 100,000 MT, will be imported through Karachi and Gwadar. Letters of Credit will be established by the TCP early this week to expedite the arrival of 100,000 MT of urea against the two contracts to arrive by the first half of July. Added by the 50,000 MT to be supplied by SABIC during second half of July, 2011, under the Saudi Fund for Development's credit facility, a total of 150,000 MT of imported urea will be added to the national inventory in July.

June 27, 2011

Mon

All Day

Iran to Increase Power Supply to Pakistan -- TEHRAN (FNA)

Iran to Increase Power Supply to Pakistan

TEHRAN (FNA)- Iran plans to increase supply of electricity to Pakistan, Iranian Minister of Energy Majid Namjou said.

"Due to Pakistan's dire need to electricity, Iran can supply part of its power surplus to Pakistan," Namjou stated, adding that Iran has 10,000MW electricity surplus during season.

He underlined Iran's preparedness to export electricity to Pakistan once the needed financial resources and the necessary transmission lines are prepared.

The minister said that Iran is constructing a transmission line along its borders with Pakistan to supply 230kw of electricity to the neighboring state, and called on the Pakistani side to take the necessary measures to import Iran's power supply.

In 2008, Iran agreed to export 1,100 megawatt of electricity to Pakistan to help it overcome shortages in areas bordering Iran, especially in Gwadar.

Tehran has suggested establishment of joint venture companies in water and electricity sectors between Iran and Pakistan, and expressed its desire to have a sizable investment in hydroelectric plants in Pakistan.

All Day

LONDON, June 30 (APP)- President Asif Ali Zardari Thursday said Britain and Pakistan need to work closely to further enhance their partnership in diverse areas mainly in trade, investment with a view to eliminate militancy and terrorism from his country a -- APP

LONDON, June 30 (APP)- President Asif Ali Zardari Thursday said Britain and Pakistan need to work closely to further enhance their partnership in diverse areas mainly in trade, investment with a view to eliminate militancy and terrorism from his country and promote peace and security of the region and the world. He was speaking to a delegation of British businessmen headed by Mr. Martin Donnelly, Permanent Secretary, UK Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS), who called on him this afternoon. Those who attended among others included representatives and CEOs of well known companies and business groups including Standard Chartered, Mott MacDonald, JCB, Shell, Lagan, Mabey Bridge and Bestway.

Briefing the media, spokesperson to the President, Farhatullah Babar said that during the meeting President invited British businessmen to invest in Pakistan's infrastructure projects on build-own-and-operate (BOO) basis, offering to set up special industrial zone in the country where the foreign investors will be provided with tax incentives, captive power and the facilities to export their products.

The President emphasized on trade not aid to create job opportunities for the youth of the country and said that 65 percent of the country's population comprised of young population who looked for jobs and opportunities which had been destroyed by the war on militancy.

A jobless and idle youth is likely to join the ranks of extremists unless he is provided with opportunities that gave him hope for the future, he said.

The President said that he was asking the world community for helping Pakistan recover its shattered economy through opportunities for greater trade and market access and not just aid.

President Zardari gave a futuristic concept of investment during the meeting with British financial and investment giants to help Pakistan overcome its energy shortages through financing and investments in major energy and infrastructure projects.

The President who held wide ranging talks with the delegation to further strengthen the bilateral ties, invited the business and investment houses of United Kingdom to take advantage of the liberal investment regime as well as the investment-friendly environment in Pakistan, with no restrictions on equity and repatriation of capital gains.

President Zardari said Pakistan, with its geo-strategic location and a deep seaport at Gwadar, offers tremendous opportunities of trade and investment.

The President said Pakistan will also welcome British investments in other sectors such as establishment of cold storage as well as grain storage facilities, setting up of agro based industries. Energy sector, Infrastructure development, Agriculture and agro-based industry, Construction technologies, and Health and education.

The Permanent Secretary UK Department of Business Innovation and Skills thanked the President for sharing his vision on business and trade opportunities.

He said that British companies are interested in Pakistan and he would soon be visiting Pakistan with a delegation of businessmen from United Kingdom.

British High Commissioner to Pakistan Sir Adam Thomson, Secretary General Salman Farouqi, High Commissioner Wajid Sahamsul Hassan, Spokesperson Farhatullah Babar and other senior officials were also present in the meeting.

All Day

KASHGAR: The Pakistan-China Business Forum was held here aimed at to further enhancing economic integration with emphasis on broadening border trade between the two countries. -- Business Recorder

KASHGAR: The Pakistan-China Business Forum was held here aimed at to further enhancing economic integration with emphasis on broadening border trade between the two countries.

The Forum was largely attended including Commissioner Kashgar Prefecture former Senator and Pakistan Ambassador to China Akram Zaki, Chief Executive Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDPA) Tariq Puri and Vice Commissioner Kashghar Prefecture Wang Yongzhi.

"We are so grateful to the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and the Kashgar Prefecture for organizing this Pakistan-China Business Forum in Kashgar. This city has a special place for Pakistanis", said Ambassador Masood Khan in his opening remarks at the Business Forum on the sidelines of the 5-day Kashgar, Central and South Asia Commodity Fair kicked off on Tuesday.

He said "Today, in this seminar key departments of the Kashgar Prefecture Administration dealing with port management, foreign trade, customs, transit traffic, taxation, banking, and foreign affairs are present.

"So are CCPIT and Chambers of Commerce. There is enthusiastic participation from Pakistan as well. As we see delegations of TDAP, FPCCI, Pakistan-China Business and Investment Council, Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad Stock Exchange and Pakistani businessmen attending this forum".

He said although the trade between the two countries is growing, however the border trade between Pakistan and China is a small fraction of the overall volume.

He said that even before the formation of the Attabad Lake, the Karakorum Highway was not in a good shape and that is why it was being repaired and upgraded.

"The Attabad Lake disaster has further reduced this trade. We should therefore continue to take remedial measures. Our border trade consists of basic commodities.

"We have a grand vision for creating multiple, trade-transport-energy corridors between Pakistan and China so that this region can be connected to South, West and Central Asia. But, first thing first. We must drain the lake and realign the road", he noted.

He said "We welcome the Chinese Government's policy of Western development under which Kashgar is being built as the Shenzhen of this region. Kashgar is so near the border of Pakistan; in an hour's time, one can fly from Islamabad to Kashgar. Therefore, Pakistan is the most natural and willing participant in this enterprise".

Pakistan, he said too has its own vision of bilateral and regional connectivity which fits into Chinese plans.

"We believe that enhanced road and air links between Pakistan and China, construction of a railroad and fibre optic link, and establishment of oil and gas pipelines will lead to the revival of the Silk Road," the Ambassador noted.

A prefeasibility for a 411 mile rail link between Pakistan's town of Havelian and Khunjerab at a cost of US \$ 10 billion has already been done. In December last year, Rayyan Air, a Pakistani charter airline, inaugurated the first Islamabad-Kashgar 90 minute cargo flight. This sets a new trend for shipment of cargo between Pakistan and China through this region. The commodities shipped by air are also available to Central Asia, he added.

"We are of the view that transit trade of goods and services through Pakistan would greatly reduce logistic costs for its neighbors trading with the Gulf, Africa, Europe

and South Asia. The location of Gwadar, which is 240 miles from the state of Hormuz is important for China and Pakistan. The port is ideally situated for receipts, dispatch, processing of crude oil, gas, and LNG for shipment to Southeast Asia and far East," he said.

He pointed out that Chinese trade from Urumqi, through Gwadar and destined for Dubai and London, can save more than 4,300 miles and several days of transit time. The distance from Dubai to Khunjerab is 3,300 miles and from Dubai to Shanghai via the Indian Ocean is 9,000 miles.

While we talk about the grand vision, we have to work on issues that are businessmen from both sides face on day to day basis.

Right now, he said that the Khunjerab Port does not have adequate screening mechanism and customs officers have to check every truck manually.

"We should also set up integrated border management mechanisms. A first step in this direction could be the establishment of passport and visa offices in Kashgar or near the border towns so that businessmen do not have to travel long distances. We should also proactively provide visa facilitation" Ambassador Khan noted.

Again coming back to the broader vision, he said we must work on the concepts of trans-border and trans-regional economic zones so that China's Western Development Strategy benefits its immediate neighbours particularly Pakistan.

The Forum, he said, therefore, is an excellent initiative to create an interface between the traders, investors, and entrepreneurs of China and Pakistan, Kashgar and Pakistan.

Ambassador Khan said, "Pakistan and China enjoy all-weather and time-tested friendship. The sincerity and depth of this relationship can be captured only by poets or poetic imagery because we say that this relationship is higher than mountains, deeper than oceans, stronger than steel, sweeter than honey, and dearer than eyesight.

"Yes, the Karakorum, the Pamir and the Himalayas bind a knot to join us. Rivers also connect us. But our most lasting bond is based on the mutual trust that we have between our two countries".

He said that we have a good architecture and good instruments for economic and trade cooperation.

The Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) have been signed that cover goods, services and investment.

The macro-economic indicators are improving but they lagged behind strategic cooperation, he added.

He, however said that since 2002, the bilateral trade has quadrupled to US \$ 8.7 billion last year.

He said that the overall year on year growth was 28%, with Pakistani exports increasing by 30% and Chinese exports by 25%. Still Pakistan has a trade deficit of US \$ 6 billion, however a series of measures are being taken to rectify the situation.

These measures, Ambassador Khan said include dispatch of Chinese purchase missions to Pakistan, encouragement of Pakistani traders and trade officials to participate in Chinese fairs and exhibitions, consideration of unilateral trade concessions by China for Pakistan, second phase negotiations for further trade liberalization, establishment of trans-border economic zones, and increase in the number of entry points in China for Pakistan's agriculture produce.

"We have also requested China for assistance in vocational and technical education in the areas of value added textiles, gems and jewelry, surgical instruments, leather

and light engineering" he said adding to promote Chinese private sector in Pakistan, "we have also proposed that the Chinese banks, particularly the China EXIM Bank may accept normal commercial guarantees instead of sovereign guarantees.

Under the next five year plan, we have identified 36 projects which cover education, health care, water conservancy, agriculture, transport, energy, and environment".

He further said that all top corporate Chinese brands have gained experience and exposure in Pakistani market. Pakistan is familiar with the names of China Mobile, Huawei, ZTE, China Harbour, China Construction, Three Gorges, Gezhouba, and Sinohydro.

But there are scores of others who are there in Pakistani market or are keen to enter into it. Today, there are 13,000 Chinese working in 120 enterprises, he noted.

These are good news, he said "but we need to work much, much harder to realize the full potential of Pakistan-China economic cooperation, which is immense by any standard".

All Day

Pakistan-China Business Forum to help expanding land trade

Ambassador Khan -- APP

Pakistan-China Business Forum to help expanding land trade Ambassador Khan KASHGAR, July 1 (APP)

The Pakistan-China Business Forum was held here aimed at to further enhancing economic integration with emphasis on broadening border trade between the two countries. The Forum was largely attended including Commissioner Kashgar Prefecture former Senator and Pakistan Ambassador to China Akram Zaki, Chief Executive Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDPA) Tariq Puri and Vice Commissioner Kashghar Prefecture Wang Yongzhi. "We are so grateful to the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and the Kashgar Prefecture for organizing this Pakistan-China Business Forum in Kashgar. This city has a special place for Pakistanis", said Ambassador Masood Khan in his opening remarks at the Business Forum on the sidelines of the 5-day Kashgar, Central and South Asia Commodity Fair kicked off on Tuesday.

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All Day

NHA completes two Asian Bank-funded projects -- The News

NHA completes two Asian Bank-funded projects

our correspondent

Saturday, July 09, 2011

Share ISLAMABAD: Asian Development Bank is funding highway projects costing \$1.834 billion, out of which Hub-Uthal project and Muslim Bagh-Qila Saifullah project in Balochistan have been completed at a cost of Rs3.032 billion and Rs1.647 billion, respectively.

Presiding over a high-level meeting in which matters related to National Trade Corridor (NTC) and ADB-funded projects were reviewed, Chairman NHA Syed Muhammad Ali Gardezi said that all available resources need to be utilised in an efficient manner to ensure timely and quality completion of the projects.

Pakistan's location can turn it into a regional trade hub, he added.

The chairman was told that work on 231-km Qalat-Quetta-Chaman Road, Qila Saifullah-Zhob Road, Waigum Rud-Khajuri Road, DI Khan-Sarai Gambella Road, Alpuri-Besham Road and Sukhur-Jacobabad Road projects is in progress.

The chairman was told that Asian Development Bank has also shown interest to provide further funds for upcoming NHA projects including Zhob-Mughal Kot, Qila Saifullah-Loralai-Waigum Rud, Lakpass-Noshki, Quetta Dhader and Tarnol-Fateh Jang projects, said an official statement of the NHA.

The chairman was told that in order to promote domestic commercial activity and facilitate regional transit trade, NHA has undertaken gigantic project of National Trade Corridor, which will connect NHA network with ports of Karachi and Gwadar.

This project comprises 18 components with total length of 3800 km and will cost Rs366 billion, said the statement.

National Trade Corridor, once completed, will reduce 50 percent travel time, 10 percent transportation cost and will also result in decreasing the road fatalities by 50 percent.

He was told that work on 241-km Multan-Faisalabad Motorway and 109-km Hassanabdal-Havelian Road, which are part of National Trade Corridor, will soon start. The estimated cost of the projects is Rs33 billion and Rs55 billion, respectively, it added.

All Day

Korean companies to invest in Pak power sector -- Observer

Korean companies to invest in Pak power sector

Salim Ahmed

Share

Lahore—South Korean Ambassador in Pakistan Choongjoo Choi has said that Korean companies is all set to make investment in Pakistan's power sector.

He said this while speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Wednesday. LCCI President Shahzad Ali Malik, Senior Vice President Sheikh Mohammad Arshad, Vice President Sohail Azhar, former Presidents Shahzada Alam Monoo, Iftikhar Ali Malik, Executive committee members Mian Zahid Javaid, Khwaja Khawar Rashid, Tahir M Sheikh, Fahimur Rehman Sehgal, Chaudhry Wajid Ali and Chairman Skill Development Council Rehmatullah Javed also spoke on the occasion.

The Ambassador said that more and more Korean companies are showing their interest for investment in energy sector to help Pakistan overcome the acute energy shortage it has been facing for long. He said that Korea's trade with India stands at \$16 billion which will be doubled in a few years; it is \$1 billion a day with China while bilateral trade with Pakistan is mere \$1.1 billion. He, However, expressed the optimism that the volume of trade between Pakistan and South Korea was bound to increase as both the governments and the private sector, in the two countries, are taking measures to get the desired results.

He said that the non-availability of required trade-related information was the biggest hurdle in the way of South Korean investment in Pakistan.

The diplomat while identifying a number of areas for mutual cooperation said that there was a need for expertise-sharing as both the countries have a lot to learn from each other. He said that there is a big potential in SME sector therefore Pakistani business community could avail opportunities in this particular area.

While calling for measures to jack-up bilateral trade and increase in Korean investment in Pakistan, the LCCI President Shahzad Ali Malik said that Pakistan is a large market, its strategic location as principal gateway to the Central Asian States and other regional countries offer lot of opportunities for relocation of Korean Industries in Pakistan.

"We take pride in the fact that Korea has been an important trading country for Pakistan in Eastern Asian region followed by Japan in terms of size of bilateral trade. We are glad to have Korea as a Friend of Democratic Pakistan too."

Shahzad Ali Malik said that both the countries have decades old economic relations and experienced good results of joint ventures in various fields like telecommunication, electronics chemical industry and automobiles industry. Korean companies are also actively participating in infrastructure projects like highway construction, power generation etc.

It is really great to achieve a landmark by expanding the two way trade to over one billion dollars in 2010 which was precisely recorded to the tune of USD 1,018.5 million. It showed great improvement from USD 865.2 million in the corresponding year courtesy to significant increase both in imports and exports between the two countries.

Trade balance has traditionally not been in favour of Pakistan and currently it stands at US\$-459.7 million. But the good thing is that Pakistan's exports to Korea are showing continuous upturn from the last few years like it grew from USD 208 million to USD 279 million from 2008 to 2010.

The LCCI President said that it is the high time that we should shift our emphasis to attract Foreign Direct Investment from European to Asian countries. At present, Korean companies are well settled in Pakistan and it provides good grounds to other Korean investors to venture in Pakistan as it offers a lot of potential areas. With the consultation and involvement of public and private sector organizations, further items for trading purposes can be identified which can be traded between two countries at much competitive prices.

He suggested that to create a win-win situation for both the countries, Koreans need to increase their imports of cotton, raw hides & skins, fish, medical apparatus,

toys & games, leather products, articles of apparels and textile articles from Pakistan. Most of the Korean demand for these commodities is being met by Korea from sources other than Pakistan and only a small fragment is being imported from Pakistan. A little attention by the Korean Government and businessmen can increase Pakistan's exports to Korea considerably.

All Day

Iran to Start Pumping Gas to Pakistan Next Year -- TEHRAN (FNA)-
Iran to Start Pumping Gas to Pakistan Next Year

TEHRAN (FNA)- Tehran's Envoy to Islamabad Mashallah Shakeri announced that Iran would start pumping gas to Pakistan as early as next year.

"If desired, Pakistan can connect with the pipeline next year," the ambassador added.

He said the Iranian government has constructed the pipeline on war footing just to facilitate Pakistan.

Shakeri, who is in his fifth year as Tehran's envoy to Islamabad, said that his country is earnestly and sincerely desirous of providing gas to Pakistan.

Islamabad has also announced earlier this year that it has intensified work on the multi-billion-dollar pipeline project which is due to bring Iran's gas to Pakistan, Pakistani media reports said on Sunday.

Work on Iran-Pak Gas Pipeline is quickly progressing and the National Engineering Services Pakistan (Nespak) signed an agreement with a German Company to place the pipeline, the reports said in April.

Speaking at a conference on "Challenges Faced by Industries in the country: Remedies and Future Prospects for Industrialization", Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) Managing Director Dr Faizullah Abbasi stated in April that approximately 1750mn cubic feet (mcf) of gas will be brought through this pipeline.

In a major breakthrough on March 20, 2009, the Pakistani government approved Iran's proposed pricing formula for gas supplies to the South Asian nation.

Subsequently, Tehran and Islamabad signed a final agreement to launch implementation of the project.

Tehran and Islamabad also sealed a final contract for the start of Iran's gas exports to Pakistan through the multi-billion-dollar pipeline in spring 2014.

The last annex of the agreement for export of Iran's gas to Pakistan was signed on June 13 by Iranian Oil Minister Massoud Mir-Kazsemi and Managing Director of Pakistan's Inter-State Gas Company Naeem Sharafat in a meeting also attended by the Iranian oil ministry's representative in gas talks with Pakistan Seyed Reza Kassayeezadeh.

The 2700-kilometer long pipeline was to supply gas for Pakistan and India which are suffering a lack of energy sources, but India has evaded talks. Last year Iran and Pakistan declared they would finalize the agreement bilaterally if India continued to be absent in the meetings.

According to the project proposal, the pipeline will begin from Iran's Assalouyeh Energy Zone in the south and stretch over 1,100 km through Iran. In Pakistan, it will pass through Baluchistan and Sindh but officials now say the route may be changed if China agrees to the project.

The gas will be supplied from the South Pars field. The initial capacity of the pipeline will be 22 billion cubic meters of natural gas per annum, which is expected to be later raised to 55 billion cubic meters. It is expected to cost \$7.4 billion.

July 8, 2011
Fri

All Day

PM approves commission for Gwadar land allotment probe -- Daily Times

PM approves commission for Gwadar land allotment probe

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has approved the constitution of one-member commission consisting of Justice Muhammad Noor Miskhanzai, a judge of Balochistan High Court (BHC), for conducting inquiry into the allotment of land at Gwadar. The prime minister has appointed the commission of inquiry in the exercise of powers conferred by section 3 and sub-section 1 of the section 5 of the Pakistan Commission of Inquiry Act 1956 (VI of 1956). staff report

July 9, 2011

Sat

All Day

25,000 tonnes urea to reach Gwadar Port -- Daily Times

25,000 tonnes urea to reach Gwadar Port

LAHORE: The first urea vessel, carrying 25,000 metric tonnes urea is reaching Gwadar Port Monday, while the second ship, carrying equivalent quantity is scheduled to sail Al-Jubail Port on July 14 and will reach Gwadar Port on July 18.

Against the urea imported through tender, two ships carrying 50,000 metric tonnes and 25,000 metric tonnes urea are scheduled to sail from Yuzny Port, Ukraine and Bayuquan Port, China on July 9 and would arrive to Gwadar and Karachi Ports in 10 to 12 days.

In pursuance of ECC of the Cabinet decision to meet urgent requirement of farmers for rabi crop, TCP has lined-up prompt import of 150,000 metric tonnes urea. Out of this, 100,000 metric tonnes has been procured through open tender whereas 50,000 metric tonnes is being imported from Saudi Basic Industries Corporation under the Saudi Fund for development credit facility. Initially Saudi Company assured to supply the committed quantity of urea during second half of July however, they have started the shipments well before their committed period. ppi

All Day

Pakistan and China to bring stability in the region -- IANS

Islamabad: Pakistan and China enjoy time-tested friendship and their mutual relations would bring stability in the region, Interior Minister Rehman Malik has said.

Talking to Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Liu Jian, the minister said the government was adopting special measures to ensure security of Chinese citizens working in Pakistan.

The ambassador said China attaches special attention to its ties with Pakistan, reported Associated Press of Pakistan.

He said both the countries are extending every possible cooperation to each other and China wishes to further strengthen its relations with Pakistan.

All Day

10,000MW Pakistan, China friendshipBy Shoaib Ahmed | From the Newspaper -- Daily Dawn

10,000MW Pakistan, China friendshipBy Shoaib Ahmed | From the Newspaper July 11, 2011 (4 weeks ago)China will help Pakistan generate 10,000 megawatt (MW) through different projects, said Wang Shaofeng, the director general of Three Gorges Project Corporation. The corporation has built the world's biggest hydropower-complex project 'Three Gorges'.

At a briefing to Pakistani reporters visiting China on the invitation of Radio China International on Sunday, Mr Shaofeng said under China-Pakistan collaboration, a number of Chinese experts were working in Pakistan on scores of power projects.

He said solar energy projects had also been initiated in Pakistan by China and a 720MW Kohala project would be completed at the cost of \$2 billion. The director said the Kohala project should have been approved in May 2009 by the Economic Coordination Committee but "We were told that due to negative propaganda by the media it got delayed for two years".

He said the Three Gorges Project now belonged to the world but Pakistan being the close friend of China would be given priority to resolve its energy crisis.

"If the Pak-Chinese friendship does not turn into an economic friendship, I think it is of no good," said Mr Shaofeng.

He said China was interested in investing Pakistan and a number of agreements had been signed between the two sides.

Sha Xianhua, vice president of the corporation, said China would always encourage investment in Pakistan in projects.

The delegation visited the site of Three Gorges. The project covers 3,800 kilometres on the River Yangtze. Its power generation capacity is 22,500 MW and transmits power to 11 provinces. One of the major purposes of the project was to safe China from floods. The other purposes of the project were to protect environment, agriculture and horticulture sectors.

All Day

Urea ships to start arriving from Monday -- Observer

Urea ships to start arriving from Monday

Karachi—The first urea vessel, MV Saim Jade, carrying 25,000 tons urea will reach Gwadar Port on Monday, July 11, 2011. According to a press release issued here by TCP, the second ship, MV Sun Enterprise, carrying identical, quantity is scheduled to sail Al-Jubail Port on July 14, 2011 and would call at Gwadar Port on July 18, 2011.

Against the urea imported through tenders, two ships, MV Pu Tou Hai, carrying 50,000 tons, and MV Hai Yu, carrying 25,000 tons urea are scheduled to sail from Yuzny Port, Ukraine, and Bayuquan Port, China, on July 9, and will arrive at Gwadar/Karachi Port in 10-12 days' time.

In pursuance of ECC of the Cabinet decision to meet urgent requirement of farmers for Rabi crop, Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) has lined up prompt import of 150,000 tons urea. Out of this, 100,000 tons has been procured through open tender, whereas 50,000 tons is being imported from Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (Sabic), under the Saudi Fund for development credit facility. Initially, M/s Sabic had assured to supply the committed quantity of urea during second half of July 2011. However, it has started shipments well before its committed period.—Agencies

July 13, 2011

Wed

All Day

China helping Pak Navy in building missile boat -- Zee News

China helping Pak Navy in building missile boat

Last Updated: Wednesday, July 13, 2011, 16:13 808 1 Tags: Pakistan Navy, Missile boat, China Karachi: The Pakistan Navy has started building a missile boat with China's cooperation in Karachi.

According to The Nation, the missile boat would be equipped with anti-surface missiles, automatic guns and weapons systems.

Pakistan's Defence Production Division Secretary, Lieutenant-General Shahid Iqbal, who attended the keel laying ceremony for the construction of missile boat in Karachi, said that it would help build up the defence capability of the Pakistan Navy.

He also expressed confidence in Pakistan becoming a leading shipbuilding country in the region in line with its potential strategic location.

The keel laying ceremony was attended by representatives of the Pakistan Defence Ministry, China Shipbuilding & Offshore International Co Ltd and senior naval officials

All Day

Zip-Pak Showcases Innovative Solutions at ProPak China -- Zip-Pak Showcases Innovative Solutions at ProPak China

Zip-Pak Showcases Innovative Solutions at ProPak China

14/07/2011 13:50:06

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Zip-Pak, the global leader in brand-enhancing resealable packaging, showcases its innovative Zip360™ Resealable Technology and Package Realization Team™ at ProPak China 2011.

Zip360™ features a wide-mouth opening that allows consumers of snack mixes, frozen chicken, cookies and crackers, and pet food and treats to easily access and scoop contents. Zip360™ also enables pour-spout functionality, a benefit ideal for cereal, frozen food and vegetable applications.

The package style also enables graphics to be printed around the entire surface area of the pouch to maximize point-of-purchase impact whilst maintaining product freshness. Like other Zip-Pak resealable solutions, Zip360™ eliminates the need to transfer contents into a separate container, keeping marketing messages in front of the consumer from initial purchase to last use.

"Zip360™ has been well received in the North American and European markets," said Tracy Wang, Business Development Manager, Zip-Pak China, "With increasing demand for convenience by Chinese consumers, Zip360™ will prove to be a great solution for Chinese brand owners who wish to enhance or promote their brand and differentiate their products."

In May 2011, Zip-Pak introduced the Package Realization Team™, a new approach that will help brand-owners transition from existing package styles to consumer-preferred resealable flexible formats. For each unique project, a team is assembled to consult with consumer product goods (CPG) companies and retailers on how to implement cost-effective and efficient resealable closure solutions. Team configurations vary according to project needs, but may include representatives from sales, marketing, product development, operations, machinery and technical service.

Chinese manufacturers are also expected to benefit from the lower costs brought about by Zip-Pak's recently established Guangzhou factory.

At this year's ProPak China, Zip-Pak will also showcase a simple and economical resealable solution: Reseal 360 Series Crossweb Zip Applicator. This well-designed and easy-to-use applicator adds resealable functionality to a range of machines including horizontal flow wrappers, vertical form fill seal machines and bag making machines.

Zip-Pak also carries a range of time- and market-proven resealable technologies, including the ZIP-PAK® SLIDER™, which is ergonomically designed for the easy opening and closing of packages for consumers of any age.

All Day

**China-Punjab MTT project to benefit both sides: Shahbaz --
PAK-CHINA MAGAZINE**

China-Punjab MTT project to benefit both sides: Shahbaz

Lahore, 16: Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Chief Minister Punjab has said that Mass Transit Trade Project between China and Punjab government would not only benefit the two sides but would also further strengthen the ties between the two countries.

Talking to media persons on the occasion of signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between China and Punjab government Mian Shahbaz Sharif said that China has played a role of real and time tested friend and it always extended help to Pakistan in hard and difficult times.

He said that he has no words to express thanks to the Chinese leadership for their cooperation with Pakistan especially Punjab government in different sectors.

The Chief Minister said that throughout sixty three year history of Pak-China friendship, Beijing has played a leading role in development of Pakistan in various sectors including communication and energy generation.

Shahbaz Sharif said that agreement between Pakistan and China on Mass Transit Project has been finalized and a team of Chinese experts was already in Pakistan to survey the different aspects of the project.

He said that the said project would be initiated on August 14, and would be completed in cooperation with Chinese company.

The Chief Minister said that Mass Transit Project is gift from Chinese government for countrymen in general and people of Punjab in particular as Chinese company would complete the project on no profit, no loss basis.

Talking about the steps taken for the welfare of the people of the province, Shahbaz Sharif said that masses gave us mandate to serve them. We would let no stone unturned to facilitate them with basic necessities of life, he added.

All Day

Zardari proposes Islamabad-Tehran currency swap accord -- The News Zardari proposes Islamabad-Tehran currency swap accord

Sunday, July 17, 2011

TEHRAN: President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday proposed a currency swap agreement between Pakistan and Iran to further strengthen bilateral trade and economic ties between the two brotherly countries.

He made this proposal in his meeting with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad here. President Zardari said Pakistan was already in the dialogue process with Turkey, Sri Lanka and China for the currency swap arrangement.

President Zardari, who arrived in the Iranian capital on a daylong visit on the invitation of the Iranian leadership, held two rounds of talks with President Ahmadinejad - first the delegation level talks and then a one-to-one meeting.

The two leaders agreed on adopting a regional approach to address the growing challenge of extremism and militancy. They expressed the confidence that joint efforts would prove helpful in countering terrorism.

President Zardari mentioned the long drawn fight against militancy and stressed the need for long-term measures and joint efforts to eliminate this menace. Interior Minister Rehman Malik, Water and Power Minister Syed Naveed Qamar, Petroleum Minister Dr Asim Hussain and Presidential Spokesman Farhatullah Babar also accompanied the president.

Farhatullah Babar, while briefing the media, said President Zardari held wide-ranging talks with President Ahmadinejad with focus on establishing a comprehensive strategic and economic partnership between the two countries.

They expressed their resolve to upgrade and further intensify their existing bilateral ties, particularly in the fields of energy, trade and economy for the mutual benefit of two brotherly countries.

President Zardari lauded Iran's constructive engagement in the trilateral process and in this respect mentioned the last month's Pakistan-Iran-Afghanistan Trilateral Summit hosted by Tehran.

President Zardari proposed that the Iranian government consider creating an Integrated Border Management Regime between Pakistan and Iran. He said Pakistan and Iran had vital interests in the stability and peace of the region. President Zardari mentioned the growing problem of narcotics and human trafficking in the region, which he said, required mutual coordination among the governments.

Zardari and his Iranian counterpart also discussed cooperation in the energy sector with particular reference to the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project besides supply of power from Iran to Balochistan.

President Zardari said Pakistan and Iran had the potential to undertake joint economic projects in Afghanistan in order to enhance connectivity, build infrastructure, rail and road links as well as trilateral cooperation in other mega projects. The Iranian president also agreed on taking full advantage of geo-strategic locations for ushering in a new era of development in the two countries in particular, and in the whole region.

President Zardari said considerable work had been done on the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project and it was important now to move towards its implementation phase. He said there was a need to bring about a quantitative increase in Pak-Iran bilateral trade to at least four billion dollars in the next few years that at present was one billion dollars.

He called for working together to identify impediments to full implementation of Pak-Iran Preferential Trade Agreement concluded in 2006. About situation in Afghanistan, President Zardari said Pakistan supported the process initiated by President Hamid Karzai for national reconciliation and peace in Afghanistan.

He said Pakistan supported a reconciliation process, which must be Afghan-led and Afghan-owned, adding Pakistan was ready to provide all possible assistance in capacity building of Afghan institutions.

Iranian President Ahmadinejad appreciated the role Pakistan was playing in the promotion of regional stability and peace. Separately, President Asif Ali Zardari called on the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei, and discussed bilateral relations, stressing the need for further strengthening them in all areas.

President Zardari and the Iranian supreme leader exchanged views on bilateral, regional and global issues of concern, besides the fight against militancy. Ayatollah Khamenei and President Zardari discussed the situation in Afghanistan with particular reference to the gradual withdrawal of US forces.

President Zardari had earlier met the Iranian supreme leader in June, when he visited Tehran to attend the international conference on the fight against terrorism. Presidential Spokesman Farhatullah Babar, while briefing the media persons, said Iran's Supreme leader and President Zardari agreed on the need for further widening the scope of relations to encompass all spheres of interaction.

All Day

Fed govt decides to implement LNG import project -- Pak Tribune

Fed govt decides to implement LNG import project

Eurofighter deal with UK on course: Saudi Arabia

Hamas FM announces China visit in May

Cement makers agree to stop export till April 30

PS raises hot-roll coil, billet prices by Rs 1,000 per ton

Pakistan asks US for 'package approach'

World Bank suggests plan to weed out CBR surplus staff: setting up of 12 RTOs termed 'over-ambitious'

Prudential regulations for MFBs amended

Nine-month CPI and SPI show decline

US and UK strengthen SCRA

Islamabad and Tehran reach deal on basics of IPI gas pipeline

Adviser rules out interest rate cut in near future: tax charges to be reduced in budget

Internal audit reveals customs officials misappropriations

Oil prices raised

Openness in South Asia can reduce trust deficit: Prime Minister

Government's re-lending policy to be revised

ISLAMABAD: The federal government here on Tuesday decided to facilitate and implement the long awaiting liquefied natural gas (LNG) import project and announced to establish a task force under the convenorship of Petroleum Secretary Ejaz Chaudhry for implementation of project on fast track basis.

The decision was taken in a high-level meeting under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Senator Dr Asim Hussain to review the current status of the LNG project.

The federal minister gave assurance in the meeting to facilitate and provide equal opportunities to LNG suppliers, adding that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources would ensure the provision of a level-playing field.

It was decided to establish a task force headed by the Chaudhry, as part of the government's incentive in the LNG Policy 2006 (Clause 7.4) and to facilitate the implementation of LNG import projects.

Other members of the task force would be additional secretary of finance, defence, industries, production, ports and shipping divisions, a representative of Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority, member customs Federal Board of Revenue, chairman of the concerned seaport authority, director generals of the concerned EPA, Coast Guards and Maritime Security Agency and Commander Karachi or COMCOAST Gwadar. This task force will act as a 'one-stop-shop' to address all issues concerning LNG import projects, including the interpretation of policies and regulations.

Another decision was taken in the meeting to facilitate LNG importers under one window operation and comprehensive facilities would be provided. First come first serve principle will be adopted and bidders be allowed to participate in partnerships.

Successful bidders would have to find LNG buyers by themselves, however, the government will provide facilitation in this regard and the bidders would have exclusivity.

Issues relating to pipeline system, pricing and minimisation of wastage were also discussed in the meeting.

It may be recalled that Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) has received tremendous interest from local and international suppliers in response to its invitation for the import of LNG under third party access, having received 17 Expressions of Interest for the allocation of capacity under its transmission system from leading companies interested in developing their own LNG floating storage

July 20, 2011 Continued

Wed

and re-gasification unit, arrange their own supply of LNG and having their own buyers of re-gasified LNG, which also may include the sui companies.

July 25, 2011

Mon

All Day

45,550 MT urea arrives at Gwadar -- The Nation

45,550 MT urea arrives at Gwadar

Published: July 25, 2011

Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI - Ship MV Pu Tou Hai carrying 45,550 metric tons of imported Urea has arrived and berthed at Gwadar Port on Sunday. The discharge of the cargo has also commenced.

Two more vessels MV Apostolos-II carrying 25,000 MT and MV Hai Yu carrying 26,200 MT urea are scheduled to arrive Gwadar Port and Port Qasim on 26th and 28th July, 2011, respectively, said a press release in TCP.

The Shipment arrived by MV Pu Tou Hai and the urea carrying by MV Hai Yu is in response to Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) tender awarded to M/s. Transammonia AG, Switzer and M/s. Multicommerce LLC, USA. Whereas, the third vessel MV Apostolos-II is carrying the balance quantity of imported urea committed by M/s. Sabic to be supplied during July, 2011 under the Saudi Fund for Development credit facility.

In nutshell, a quantity of 125,000 MT would arrive against the total import of Urea lined-up by TCP. The transportation of imported Urea from the ports and its subsequent marketing will be handled by M/s. National Fertilizer Marketing Limited (NFML).

All Day

Rs 59bn allocated for transport & communication sector -- Daily Times

Rs 59bn allocated for transport & communication sector

By Ijaz Kakakhel

ISLAMABAD: To put transport sector on modern line and improve regional connectivity links to the Central Asian States, Iran, Afghanistan and India, the government—under a development programme—has allocated Rs 59.7 billion for transport and communications sector.

The allocated amount includes Rs 23.7 billion for the budgetary programme and Rs 36 billion for NHA under the budgetary corporations programme. Most of sub sectoral allocations for 2011-12 are for ongoing works.

Transport and communications strategy: The Transport Development Programme 2011-12 would be based on a broad strategy that will include establishment of a multi-modal transport system.

An integrated and holistic approach would be adopted for making transport system more productive, efficient and reliable, which may lower the transport costs and enhance the productivity of the economy. Strategic emphasis will be made to improve transport planning, prioritisation and rationalising public sector expenditure, mobilise resources from users and the private sector and explore institutional governance reforms.

The government also aims to revitalise the railways system by transforming it into a commercially-oriented entity, while retaining the railways network in public ownership, develop port infrastructure and rationalisation of port charges to cater to transshipment through the landlord port concept with enhanced private sector participation.

A policy and regulatory framework for private sector participation in National Highways would be adopted in consultation with different stakeholders to facilitate investment and increase efficiency.

An allocation of Rs 39 billion has been proposed for the National Highways Authority. Among the ongoing projects, works will continue on the projects for acquisition of land and property compensation for construction of 184 km Faisalabad-Khanewal Expressway E-4 & 103 km Khanewal-Lodhran Expressway E-5 and construction of Ratodero-Daddu-Sehwan ACW (E-6B) (200 km), Peshawar Northern Bypass (34 km), Khuzdar-Shahdadt-Kot-Ratodero (Khor-Quba Saeed Khan 143 km) (M-8), Hoshab-NagBasima-Surab Road (N-85) [459], Hassanabdal-Havelian-Manshera Expressway (Land Acquisition, and many others.

Pakistan Railways: A major step under the NTC initiative is the restructuring of Pakistan Railways (PR) on commercial lines. The PR would be eventually converted into a corporation. The PR corporatisation would aim to run railway as state-owned corporation on a commercial basis and fully meet its statutory commitment.

The corporatisation would also allow PR to implement organisational and financial restructuring. It would be run by professionals; have a restructured board and Public Private Partnership (PPP) would bring both efficiency and investment.

Freight Business Units (FBU) already established would be made more autonomous eventually leading to formation of a freight company. The PR shall adopt track access policy.

Under the policy: PR shall manage the track and allow commercial operators / freight companies in private sector. Freight trains will run on PR's network with their own rolling stock under a contract with PR to purchase track access.

Other areas involving private sector would include dry ports, locomotive

maintenance and passenger ticketing and provision of services through management contracts, e.g. door to door service through cargo express train operations by private freight forwarders on main trunk routes. An allocation of Rs 15 billion has been proposed for 2011-12. Works on track rehabilitation of PR network, procurement / manufacture of 114 DE locomotives, procurement/ manufacture of 625 passenger coaches, procurement of 2130 bogie high capacity wagons, 202 passenger coaches, rehabilitation of 450 passenger coaches, doubling of track on Lodhran-Raiwind sections,

Ports and Shipping: Under this sector, work on Ports Master Plan for Pakistan's three ports would continue which, after completion would establish the role / basis for the responsibilities of each port with a view to optimal / efficient use of port infrastructure either through competition among ports or by way of specialisation of the port. Both KPT and PQA Acts will be reviewed to acquire more operational and financial autonomy.

The Business Plans of each of the three ports would be completed. A project monitoring unit which has been established within the Ministry of Ports and Shipping will undertake a study to identify the existing bottlenecks in efficient operation of ports and recommend phase-wise improvements required at the ports. Outsourcing of container and other terminals at the ports is also planned. Land acquisition process for free zone at Gwadar will also be initiated.

All Day

Ship begins discharging urea at Gwadar Port -- The News

Ship begins discharging urea at Gwadar Port

By our correspondent

KARACHI: The ship MV Pu Tou Hai berthed at Gwadar Port has started discharging the imported urea, said Trading Corporation of Pakistan on Monday. "The ship carrying 45,550 tons of urea arrived at the port on Sunday," said TCP in a statement. It said that two more vessels, carrying urea for the current Kharif season, are expected to arrive at the country's ports this week. "MV Apostolos-II, carrying 25,000 tons urea, will reach Gwadar Port on Tuesday. And MV Hai Yu, carrying 26,200 ton urea, is scheduled to arrive at Port Qasim on July 28." The urea brought by MV Pu Tou Hai and the urea being brought by MV Hai Yu is in response to TCP's tenders awarded to Transammonia AG, Switzer and Multicommerce LLC, USA.

All Day

Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani has approved funds of \$90 million for the reconstruction of a portion of Karakoram Highway (KKH) --

Published in The Express Tribune,

ISLAMABAD:

Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani has approved funds of \$90 million for the reconstruction of a portion of Karakoram Highway (KKH) that was submerged by massive landslides in Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) early last year. The credit to repair the strategic highway has been provided by the Chinese government as part of a larger grant for flood reconstruction activities in communication, energy and transport sectors.

According to a handout statement issued by the premier's media office here on Thursday, Gilani has ordered the authorities in the communication ministry to complete the project as soon as possible. Reconstruction of KKH has been a major priority of the government with the route being of immense strategic significance as well as serving as a historic trade link between the two countries.

Several kilometres of the highway that links Pakistan's northwest with neighboring China were totally submerged when flooding, triggered by massive landslides in Attabad area of Gilgit-Baltistan, created an artificial lake. Thousands of people were rendered homeless and the only road leading to the Sust border region of China was completely devastated.

Since then, Pakistani authorities have been struggling to settle displaced people and reconstruct the highway through their own financial resources. As a consequence, the Chinese government has come forward with technical and financial facilities to repair the road – the most viable land route for the country, through which its industrial products reach the global market via sea ports in Pakistan. Pakistani leadership has asserted that reconstruction of the road would benefit both countries enabling resumption of vital trade links which had been suspended for more than a year. However, it cannot be confirmed as yet whether the National Highway Authority (NHA) alone would be executing the project or some foreign company would be included in the reconstruction effort too.

All Day

China to give squadron of J10-B fighters to Pak -- Zee News

China to give squadron of J10-B fighters to Pak

Pakistan Islamabad: China will give Pakistan a squadron of the advanced J-10B multi-role, all-weather fighter aircraft in a bid to boost the strategic reach of its close ally, a media report has said.

China has made the offer to Pakistan Army's Chief of General Staff, Lt Gen Waheed Arshad, who has just concluded a week long visit to China, the Pakistani Urdu daily Jang said.

Pakistan will be the first country, after China, to have such advanced aircraft which are equipped with the latest weapons, it said.

During Arshad's visit, China reiterated its defence and economic support to Pakistan and assured him that the relationship between the two countries will reach new heights and Beijing's efforts for the safety and security of "all weather" ally will be never-ending.

Lt Gen Arshad visited many sensitive places in China and called on General Ma Xiaotian, deputy chief of general staff of People's Liberation Army and other officials including Lt General Ren Haiquan, the vice president of the National Defence University.

Though China has earlier supplied Pakistan with fighter jets, this is the first time that it is supplying advanced jets to Pakistan.

China and Pakistan have also jointly built an advanced fighter jet, JF-17, commonly known as 'Thunder'

All Day

Pak-China Joint Energy Working Group (JEWG) -- The Nation

ISLAMABAD - Pak-China Joint Energy Working Group (JEWG) will discuss nineteen energy projects in order to enhance cooperation in energy sector between the two countries and to meet Pakistan's future energy, water and power requirements.

The first meeting of JEWG will be held in Beijing (China) on 1-2 August, 2011. Federal Minister for Water and Power Syed Naveed Qamar, who is chairman of the JEWG from Pakistan side, will lead the Pakistani delegation for this important inaugural session. The Pakistani delegation, out of 19 projects, will discuss four power generation projects of about 2297MW, one coal power project of 405MW, one project for development of infrastructure and mining and power generation of Thar coal, four projects of small and medium dams and five projects of transmission lines and power distribution. One project of alternative energy and two projects of geological survey of Pakistan seeking technical assistance, financing and Engineering Procurement Contract would also be discussed. All the power generation projects will be completed within three to five years. Pakistan will also take up Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project.

Naveed Qamar has said that through the JEWG, Chinese government, companies, investors and entrepreneurs will be invited and encouraged to participate in various initiatives of the Government of Pakistan undertaken for the development of power sector. The government will facilitate and provide incentives to the Chinese for investment in the water, power, and other energy sector projects. The government has always encouraged and welcomed participation of Chinese entrepreneurs, business houses and investors to participate in the development of all sectors of our economy including the power sector.

The government is fully committed to resolving the prevalent energy shortages in the country and achieving energy security objectives on sustainable basis, he added. He expressed with hope that his visit to Beijing to lead JEWG will be fruitful and the country will get more cooperation from China in the energy sector. Qamar will reach Beijing on Sunday to attend JEWG to be held on 1-2 August.

An Energy Working Group was constituted pursuant to an MoU between Pakistan and China to promote cooperation in the field of energy. Under the MoU, which was proposed by National Energy Administration of China to establish bilateral energy cooperation mechanism, the Energy Working Group was assigned the task of carrying out cooperation in the areas including oil and gas, coal, conventional power, nuclear and renewable energy etc.

Moreover, during the visit of the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in December 2010, under Energy Cooperation mechanism, it was decided that China will provide financing and cooperation for conventional, renewable and civil nuclear energy projects, to be identified by Pakistan.

All Day

China likely to get Iran-Pakistan pipeline contract Monday, 01 August 2011 00:50 -- The Peninsula

China likely to get Iran-Pakistan pipeline contract Monday, 01 August 2011 00:50

ISLAMABAD: As Russia and China vie with each other to win the construction contract for the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project, Pakistan is expected to finalise an engineering and procurement deal with Beijing, which may also provide financing in line with the growing energy cooperation between the two sides.

Domestic gas utilities - Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) and Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) - are also lobbying to grab the engineering, procurement and construction contract for the pipeline, which will bring in much-needed gas from Iran's South Pars gas field.

Germany-based consultancy firm ILF is conducting a route survey for the \$1.25bn Pakistani portion of the pipeline and will soon be completing its work, after which the engineering contract will be awarded. SSGC and SNGPL had also wanted a share in the consultancy contract with ILF, which resulted in a delay in completing the survey, sources said.

ILF, which got the contract for \$55 million, is working in collaboration with National Engineering Services of Pakistan (Nespak).

"A major part of the survey for laying the pipeline from Iranian border to Nawabshah has been completed and the remaining part will be finished by August 2," an official said.

During Musharraf's rule, the government had floated a proposal, asking China to import Indian share of the gas pipeline after Delhi pulled out of the project. However, the proposal did not go through.

Sources told that a Pakistani delegation, led by Federal Water and Power Minister Naveed Qamar, would seek investment and offer the engineering and equipment procurement contract for the gas pipeline to China.

The delegation will raise the issue in a meeting of the Pak China joint energy working group scheduled to be held on August 1-2 in Beijing.

Sources said security agencies had given clearance to the route of the pipeline.

"The Bugti area is a sensitive location for oil and gas exploration activities, but other areas are safe for the transport of Iranian gas through the pipeline," a source said.

Earlier, Pakistan had also made a formal offer to Russian energy giant Gazprom, the largest extractor of natural gas in the world, to participate in the Iran-Pakistan pipeline project in a meeting of the Pak-Russia Intergovernmental Commission held on September 22, 2010 in Russia.

Pakistan and Iran have already signed an agreement on sovereign guarantee for the project. They have also inked a gas sale and purchase agreement for import of 750 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) of natural gas with a provision to increase the volume to one billion cubic feet per day.

The project will be funded through public-private partnership, which will cost Pakistan an estimated \$1.25bn for its side of the pipeline.

Under the agreement, gas supply will start in 2014 and Pakistan will have to pay a penalty equal to the cost of 750 mmcf if it fails to receive gas by the stipulated time.

All Day

China's help in power production -- The Frontier Post

China's help in power production

Posted on August 1, 2011

Washington committed to itself a \$1.25 billion programme to help Pakistan augment its energy output in partnership with the government, the private sector and other donors as part of its aid to Pakistan under the Kerry and Lugar enactment in 2009. Major component of the programme included supporting Pakistan's Planning Commission in developing energy projects for the next five-year development plan, supporting Alternative Energy Development Board in developing its medium term renewable energy policy, helping the Environmental Protection Agency develop environmental impact assessment guidelines for renewable energy resources and lending technical support flood damage needs assessment of power and hydro-carbons sectors led by the Asian Development Bank. Rehabilitation of the Tarbela Dam hydroelectric power station, restoring the Jamshoro, Muzaffargarh, and Guddu thermal power stations and improving the efficiency of tubewells to boost irrigation and consequent agricultural activity. In January 2011 the USAID also concluded and agreement to finance Satpara Dam project in Gilgit-Baltistan. The programme was launched with a fanfare and secretary of state Hillary Clinton visited Pakistan to herself initiate tubewells efficiency project. But almost no further progress in implementation of the programme is reported since then and the project seems in a major jeopardy in the aftermath of May 2 US mariners Abbotabad operation in which Osama bin Laden was killed. Subsequent developments saw the Washington administration completely stopping Pakistan's military aid and dallying allying on the civil aid that covered a whole spectrum of socio-economic activity in the country. This is the background that Pakistan approached China for help to ease the energy crisis in the country and Pak-China Joint Energy Working Group was established. The group is to hold its first meeting in Beijing on Aug 1-2. At least 18 projects will be discussed at the meeting. including four electricity generation projects of about 2,297MW, one coal power project of 405MW, one project for development of infrastructure and mining of Thar coal, four small and medium dams, five projects for distribution of electricity, one alternative energy project, and two projects of Geological Survey of Pakistan seeking technical assistance and financing, etc. An engineering procurement contract will also be taken up. All the power projects are proposed to be completed in three to five years. Water and Power Minister Syed Naveed Qamar would lead the Pakistani delegation during the talks that will also focus the supply of gas to Pakistan through international pipelines, including Iran and Turkmenistan. The group was formed under a Memorandum of Understanding, proposed by the National Energy Administration of China to establish bilateral energy cooperation mechanisms, to boost cooperation Pakistan and China to promote cooperation in the field of energy. The group has been the task of promoting cooperation in areas of oil and gas, coal, conventional power, and nuclear and renewable energy. Pakistan requires about 18,000MW of electricity to keep the wheel of industry and agricultural activity moving. The production ranges between 12,000 and 14,000MW. Approaching China, an all-weather and trusted friend in need, is a positive step because Beijing, in a sharp contrast with Washington, will not show back and leave Islamabad high and dry. Whereas the United States time and again betrayed Pakistan even in the most crucial time, Chinese leadership has always stood solidly behind Pakistan in difficult times.

All Day

Chinese, Turkish and Korean businesses have shown keen interest in investing in Pakistan's "textile city" of Karachi, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has said. -- APP

Chinese, Turkish and Korean businesses have shown keen interest in investing in Pakistan's "textile city" of Karachi, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has said.

Gilani said the textile sector plays a significant role in Pakistan's economy. It constitutes 60 percent of the country's total exports and provides jobs to 40 percent of the working population.

The prime minister said Pakistan must take full advantage of the opportunities that are globally available in the textile sector, the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP)

reported.

Gilani underlined the need for improving skills of the labour force to enhance their productivity and improve the quality of products.

He said that while the government has responded to the demands of the textile industry by providing relief packages, the industry in turn should assure the implementation of quality standards and good business practices.

Gilani said it was the duty of both the government and the entrepreneurs to be part of Pakistan's march towards becoming the hub of quality textile products.

He, however, lamented that while countries like China, India and Bangladesh have significantly increased their textile market share, Pakistan was yet to capitalise on such opportunities.

Though Pakistan was blessed with natural resources like cotton crop, unique geo-political location and a rich history of quality textile products, there were many problems facing the industry, like low-skilled labour, power shortage and inadequate infrastructure.

The Pakistan Textile City in the Port Qasim area, once fully operational, will provide employment to over 80,000 people at its full capacity.

It will attract an investment of \$250 million and increase exports by over \$3 billion per annum, he said.

Other benefits will include additional demand for cotton - yarn and crop - and increased demand for cement, steel and construction material.

This will in turn increase revenue for movement of goods and transport activities and creation of indirect jobs, Gilani said.

All Day

Pakistan, Poland agree to increase relations in all fields -- APP

Pakistan, Poland agree to increase relations in all fields

ISLAMABAD, Aug 1 (APP): Pakistan and Poland on Monday agreed to enhance their bilateral relations in all areas, especially to promote trade and economic ties, people to people contacts and decided to have next round of political bilateral consultations in Warsaw next year. Foreign Minister of Poland Radoslaw Sikorski and Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar held extensive talks here at Foreign Office on Monday and had detailed discussions on important issues relating to bilateral, Pak-EU and regional development. Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar while addressing a joint press conference here with Polish Foreign Minister said, "We discussed ways and means to enhance parliamentary contacts as well as economic and commercial cooperation."

She said, "It is encouraging that our two parliaments have established Pakistan Polish Friendship Groups recently. This will help promote our bilateral cooperation in strengthening democratic institutions in the two countries."

The volume of trade between the two countries is slightly over dollars 200 million which is far less than the potential and the two foreign ministers discussed several measures to expand the bilateral trade and investment.

Hina said, "Poland has evinced keen interest in increasing the investment in the development of energy sector in Pakistan."

Poland has assumed the 6th monthly EU Presidency from this July, therefore, Pak-EU relations were also discussed during the meeting and it was decided that Pakistan will get Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) Plus with effective from 2014 which will give boost to Pakistan's exports to EU countries.

Hina Rabbani Khar said both the foreign ministers agreed to step up efforts in order to finalize the 5-year engagement plan to launch Pak-EU strategic dialogue this year.

Pakistan has extended an invitation to Lady Catherine Ashton EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs to visit Pakistan in near future for Pak-EU strategic dialogue.

Both the foreign ministers also agreed to convene the third meeting of Pak-EU Joint Commission in November this year while dates for the 3rd Pak-EU summit are being finalized.

Hina said, "We very much appreciate the greater market access by the EU to Pakistan and hope that Pakistan specific package under consideration by the World Trade Organization will sail through.

She said the issue of Free Trade Agreement with EU was also discussed during the meeting.

Regarding the issue of ban on Pakistan's fisheries products, Hina Rabbani Khar said the export which was discontinued in 2008 on sanitary and phyto-sanitary reasons is likely to resume in the near future as it was discussed during the meeting today.

"Our two sides are working to finalize details in this regard," she added.

The Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorshi, who was the first Foreign Minister of his country to visit Pakistan said it is not his first visit as he visited Pakistan as journalist to cover the situation in Afghanistan following the invasion of Russian forces in 1980.

He appreciated role of Pakistan during that period to support the international community to defeat Russian forces in Afghanistan.

He said Pakistan also paid much in 1979 after the invasion of Russian forces in Afghanistan that forced Pakistan to accept millions of Afghan refugees.

The democratic process in Pakistan was also suffered after this incident, he said.

The Polish Foreign Minister said, "We feel grateful to Pakistan even today when it has been an important country in the fight against terrorism.

He also acknowledged the loss in the war against terrorism by the civilians and even by Pakistan Army. "We appreciate your sacrifices," he added.

The Polish Foreign Minister said, there is need to have cooperation adding "what we can do jointly better to fight extremism and terrorism."

He said international community should not repeat the mistakes of 1990 and extend full help and cooperation to Pakistan to fight the menace of extremism and terrorism.

Referring to Afghanistan issue, the Polish Foreign Minister said, "Pakistan needs to be part of the solution and should not be ignored as failure is not the option."

He said Pakistan is the central and a key country in the region and playing important role in promoting peace and security in the region.

He also appreciated Pakistan's good relations with its neighbours adding that it is very difficult to keep such good relations with the neighbours when there are hostile countries living as neighbours.

The two countries have also signed an instrument for cooperating in the investigation of murder of Polish geologist in Pakistan as it will provide a chance to Polish investigative agencies to investigate the murder in Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar while replying to a question about the delay in investigation said, due to lack of solid proof the investigation process was delayed.

She said four persons involved in this murder are still absconders, that was hampering to proceed with investigation.

She however assured that Pakistan is taking all measures to arrest the culprits involved in the murder of Polish geologist and give them strict punishment.

Replying to a question, the Polish Foreign Minister said even after the withdrawal of NATO and ISAF troops from Afghanistan, the EU and other countries will continue to extend full moral and diplomatic support to Afghanistan and Pakistan to ensure peace in the region.

The Polish Minister while acknowledging the sacrifices of Pakistan in war against terrorism said this aspect should be considered strictly and there is need to project such sacrifices more effectively.

Answering the question about approval of EU package of concessions being given to Pakistan following 2010 floods for increasing its exports to EU, the Polish Foreign Minister said the neighbouring country of Pakistan has raised objections to this package. He however said GSP plus in 2014 could be an alternative to this package.

The Polish Foreign Minister also condemned the murder of a journalist in Pakistan and said that he was shocked to hear this news.

Replying to a question about restrictions on the movement of foreign diplomats in Pakistan, Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar said there are no country specific restriction for the movement for any foreign diplomats within Pakistan. She said

there are general rules regarding the movement of diplomats on the basis of security and these are being applicable to all the diplomats.

Answering an other questions about the allegations from China that terrorists trained some other countries are involved in terrorism inside China, she said, Pakistan has not received any such allegation in writing.

Replying to another question, Khar said, Pakistan is more worried about cross border infiltration and cross border attacks on Pakistan side from Afghanistan adding that NATO and ISAF troops should take these concerns of Pakistan seriously.

All Day

China offered engineering pact for Iran pipeline -- The Nation: By: Ahmad Ahmadani

China offered engineering pact for Iran pipeline

By: Ahmad Ahmadani | Published: August 03, 2011

ISLAMABAD – Pakistan, which is likely to award engineering and equipment procurement contract for much awaited Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline soon, is expecting to get Chinese nod for the project to meet ever-growing energy needs of the country, TheNation has learnt.

“Pakistani delegation, led by Federal Water and Power Minister Naveed Qamar, has also sought investment and offered the engineering and equipment procurement contract for the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline to China, sources privy to the development shared while talking to this scribe, adding that Pakistan is likely to finalize an engineering and procurement deal with China for the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project, which may also provide financing in line with the growing energy cooperation between the two sides.

According to sources in the Ministry of Water and Power, Naveed Qamar, who is leading the Pakistani delegation in the 1st meeting of China-Pakistan Joint Energy Working Group (JEWG) said Tuesday that the growing energy demand in Pakistan is a challenge for the government, yet it provides immense opportunities to the Chinese investors to contribute towards reducing energy shortages in the country while sharing the benefits.

Pakistan, the minister said, is currently faced with energy demand-supply gap, saying that the government is fully committed to resolve the prevalent energy shortages and achieving energy security objectives on sustainable basis with active support of friendly countries, especially China.

Earlier, Pakistan had also made a formal offer to Russian energy giant Gazprom, the largest extractor of natural gas in the world, to participate in the Iran-Pakistan pipeline project in a meeting of the Pak-Russia Inter-governmental Commission held on September 22, 2010 in Russia. Again, as Russia and China are in vie with each other to win the construction contract, and a consortium of Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL), Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL) and an Italian company Eni are also lobbying to grab the engineering, procurement and construction contract for the pipeline, which will bring Iranian gas to Pakistan to meet its ever-soaring energy needs.

Currently, a Germany based consultancy firm ILF is conducting a route survey on the Pakistani side of the pipeline and will shortly be completing the assigned task. Then, the engineering and equipment procurement contract will be granted.

According to sources, SSGC and SNGPL had also sought a share with ILF in the consultancy contract, which caused a delay in completing the survey. It might be worth mentioning here that ILF got this contract for \$55 million and is currently working in collaboration with National Engineering Services of Pakistan (Nespak). Reportedly, a major part of the survey for laying the pipeline from Iranian border to Nawabshah has been completed and the remaining part is expected to be finished soon.

The deal is part of the long-delayed \$7.5 billion Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project. The capacity of Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline was 110 million cubic meters. Around 1,100 kilometers of the pipeline is reportedly installed in Iran, while the remaining 1,000 kilometers are planned to be set up in Pakistan. The 2,775-km pipeline was proposed to start from Asalouyeh (from the South Pars field) and stretch over 1,100 km through Iran while in Pakistan, it was proposed to pass through Balochistan and Sindh. In Khuzdar, a branch would spur-off to Karachi, while the main pipeline would continue towards Multan. The project will be funded through public-private partnership, which will cost Pakistan an estimated \$1.25 billion for its side of the pipeline.

It is worth mentioning here that after receiving final nod from Iran Pakistan has geared up its efforts to ensure smooth supply of imported gas to the country till 2012 under the proposed multi-billion dollar Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project (IPI). Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Asim last month announced that Pakistan would start the work for building the pipeline within the next six months. Similarly, Ejaz Chaudry, Secretary Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources, earlier while talking to TheNation confirmed that the incumbent government viewing the outages of gas has intensified work on the multi-billion dollar pipeline project to ensure gas supply from Iran to Pakistan in 2012.

It is relevant to mention that Pakistan is in dire need of gas and electricity and had been in talks with various countries to import to meet the crunching national needs as the energy shortages have worsened over the recent years. However, sources were upbeat that IP has emerged as a glimmer of hope to overcome the energy shortage due to gap in demand and supply by utilizing regional resources. Additionally, Pakistan and Iran have already signed an agreement on sovereign guarantee. They have also inked a gas sale and purchase deal for import of 750 million cubic feet per day of natural gas.

All Day

Chinese firm to ply 800 CNG buses in city -- The News

Chinese firm to ply 800 CNG buses in city

A Chinese firm will ply around 2,000 CNG buses in Sindh, while 800 of the buses will run in Karachi.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to this effect was signed at the Chief Minister House between Foton Motors (Buses) of China, Pak-Transport services and the Government of Sindh under a joint venture.

The MoU was signed by Joseph Verghese, Managing Director Foton Pak, Perey T, Blackerby President Foton, Secretary BOI Sindh Muhammad Younis Dagha, Commissioner Karachi Division Muhammad Hussain Syed and Secretary Finance Naveed Kamran Baloch.

Those who were present at the ceremony included Chief Minister Sindh Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Local Government Minister Agha Siraj Durrani, Law Minister Muhammad Ayaz Soomro, Chairman BOI Saleem Mandviwala, Chief Secretary Raja Muhammad Abbas, and Secretary Transport Gul Hasan Channa.

Joseph Verghese presented details of the MoU and Ye Zhaouyon, vice-president of Foton Group, highlighted the services being rendered by his group.

Minister for Local Government Agha Siraj Durrani also addressed the ceremony and welcomed the Chinese Foton group for making an investment in Sindh.

He said that Chinese and Pakistani people would work together in various sectors. He added that President Asif Ali Zardari was very keen on strengthening relations between the two countries in different fields.

Chief Minister Shah also welcomed cooperation from the government and people of China, and hoped that their relations would further improve day by day.

It was informed that the Chinese Bus Mass Transit would operate the buses in Karachi, Hyderabad and the rest of the province with environment-friendly fuel. It was stated that Foton Motors would provide and operate 2,000 CNG buses in the province, as the company had designed modern buses for Pakistan to meet specific culture and demographic needs of the country.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Mohammed Husain Syed told The News that initially 90 buses would be brought onto the city roads whose number would be increased up to 800. He said that the rest of the buses would be brought to Hyderabad, Sukkur and later to Larkana and other cities of the province.

All Day

ICBC entrance into Pak to develop banking sector -- Observer

ICBC entrance into Pak to develop banking sector

Staff Reporter

Share

Islamabad—July 19th marked the day that Bank Alfalah opened the doors of its banking experience of 13 years to the most recent entrants in the Pakistani banking sector – ICBC. The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) is not only the leading bank of China, but is also one of the largest banks of the world. Its entrance into the Pakistani financial sector, with its significant international banking experience, heralds promise for further development of the landscape of the banking industry.

Bank Alfalah, one of the leading commercial banks in the host market, designed a customized knowledge sharing program - "ICBC: Local Market Orientation Program"- in line with ICBC's aims and objectives to operate in the local market. The focus of the program was to transfuse experience and knowledge of local regulations and practices of the Pakistani banking industry. Bank Alfalah's senior

management and field experts from across its 378 local branches and 8 international branches/units, came together on this forum, to welcome the ICBC executives and contribute towards aligning ICBC's Pakistani banking operations with local regulations and guidelines.

The 3 day program commenced on 19th July, 2011 with inaugural addresses by Mr. Sirajuddin Aziz, CEO of Bank Alfalah Limited and Mr. Chen Peichen, Deputy CEO of ICBC Operations in Pakistan. Mr. Aziz welcomed the ICBC participants and introduced the platform of mutual learning hosted by Bank Alfalah, which was formulated to better suit the requirements of ICBC's Pakistani banking operations' commencement according to local regulatory guidelines. Mr. Aziz also emphasized the importance of the presence of a Chinese commercial bank in Pakistan, to further strengthen the bilateral ties of Pakistan and China. Moreover, he expressed hope of the seminar delivering upon its slogan and 'building affiliations that last', so that the enduring bond between ICBC and Bank Alfalah could be fortified for furthering the professional growth of both organizations.

Mr. Chen Peichen expressed his gratitude to Bank Alfalah for arranging the comprehensive curriculum for ICBC, and expressed hope for organizing more such platforms in the future, in order to take the alliance of Bank Alfalah and ICBC to a more advanced level.

Over the three days, the ICBC: Local Market Orientation Program successfully explored the Pakistani nuances and variations in the arenas of General Banking Operations, Trade Finance, Credits and Treasury. The senior management and field experts of Bank Alfalah felt honored to be a part of the prestigious platform that promulgated mutual learning and look forward to such alliances in the future; they also hoped that their endeavors proved successful in enriching ICBC's local banking enterprise.

All Day

PakSat-IR symbol of Pak-China cooperation in space science & technology: Masood Khan -- The Nation

PakSat-IR symbol of Pak-China cooperation in space science & technology:
Masood Khan

Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Masood Khan has said that Pakistan's new communication satellite -- PakSat-1R, is a symbol of Pakistan-China cooperation in the area of space science and technology.

"It is a symbol of Pakistan-China cooperation in the area of space science and technology. It is the first of the kind to be launched by China and Pakistan. Therefore it establishes a new platform, and it marks a new beginning" said Ambassador Khan in an interview with China News Agency on the occasion of launch of PakSat-1R from China.

The use of satellite will bring direct benefits to Pakistan's economy, Khan said adding that it will refine and expand our capabilities for the use of broadband Internet, digital broadcasting, mobile telephony, and disaster prevention and management. All these capabilities will enable us to focus more sharply on social development, especially on education and health sectors, he added.

The Pakistan Communication Satellite -- PakSat-1R is due to be launched in space from Chinese satellite launching site located at Xichang city during the second week of current month, depending on weather conditions. It will replace Paksat-1.

Ambassador Khan said that as we accomplished this goal of launching PakSat-1R, we will swiftly move on to expand our collaboration with China in related fields of space science and technology.

The launching of the satellite, he said coincides with the celebrations of 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

Masood Khan said Pakistan and China "are moving into the higher stages of aerospace cooperation. Remote sensing satellite is one such area. This satellite will cover crop monitoring, weather forecasting, urban planning, disaster preparedness and response, earth observation, and oceanography. These applications will have a direct impact on our agriculture, industry and services -- three vital sectors for Pakistan's economy."

Last year, Ambassador Khan said that Pakistan was hit by massive floods which caused large scale devastation across the country. It was at that time that we fully realized the importance of a remote sensing satellite.

In the long term, he said we also want to cooperate with China on satellite designs to develop Pakistan's indigenous capability.

He expressed Pakistan's desire to participate in China's Manned Space as well Deep Space Exploration programmes.

He, however regarded it as something for the future. It is our desire that the first non-Chinese astronaut to travel on board a Chinese spaceflight is a Pakistani. Referring to the advancement made by China in space technology, Ambassador Khan said that China is constantly forging ahead at a brisk pace. It has made extraordinary strides into space science and technology as well as aerospace industry.

Ambassador Khan said China's space technology industrial base is expanding. Shenzhou 7, the third manned spaceflight has established a new threshold for China.

He, however said that "China is not sitting on its laurels. It is constantly moving forward. It has already planned Shenzhou 8 which will be docked with Tiangong 1 space module. Tiangong-1 will place the first portion of China's planned space laboratory in orbit. This will be a breakthrough. The docking of Shenzhou 8 and Tiangong 1 is expected to be followed by Shenzhou 9. The Beidou is yet another technological achievement as China can launch and operate complex systems in space. These are all new frontiers that China is conquering" he remarked.

The people of Pakistan, Ambassador Khan said, are proud of these scientific achievements of China.

All Day

China to cooperate in livestock, energy sectors -- The Nation

China to cooperate in livestock, energy sectors

LAHORE – The Punjab government and China's state company Sinotec have decided to cooperate in livestock and energy sectors and agreements in this regard will soon be given a final shape.

This was decided in a meeting between Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and Chinese delegation led by President of Sinotec at a meeting here on Monday.

The CM welcomed the Chinese cooperation in livestock and energy sectors and said it would add a new chapter to Pak-China friendship. He mentioned that transparency in the execution of development projects was the hallmark of Punjab government and the projects to be executed with the collaboration of the Chinese company in energy and livestock sectors would also be completed expeditiously and in a transparent manner. He added that these sectors were of vital importance in the provincial economy and the government was implementing a comprehensive strategy for the uplift of these sectors. He further said cooperation of the Chinese company would bring about further improvement in these sectors and Punjab would benefit from the Chinese technology and expertise.

He also mentioned that there were vast opportunities of launching of hydle power projects in Punjab and sites had been identified at a number of places for this purpose. He said it was a matter of pleasure that Sinotec had decided to work on hydle power project at two places, and the Punjab government would welcome joint ventures in this regard. He also said there was also a vast scope of investment in livestock and dairy farming sectors, and Punjab and China could also launch joint ventures in these sectors. "The Punjab government is promoting public-private partnership for the development of various sectors and the decision of Sinotec to cooperate in livestock and dairy farming sectors is a matter of satisfaction," he added.

Shahbaz Sharif said China was a trusted friend of Pakistan and had played a commendable role in its progress, while Pak-China friendship was unswerving and China was such a sincere friend of Pakistan that it would be a matter of honour for the Punjab government to launch joint ventures with China. He mentioned that an agreement had been reached with the Chinese company for generation of power from Taunsa Barrage while another agreement has been signed with China's international company NORINCO for mass transit project. He also said an agreement had been signed with Sinotec during his visit to China regarding investment in agriculture, livestock and other sectors which was being given the final shape with the arrival of Sinotec delegation in Punjab. While asserting that joint ventures in livestock and energy sectors would be executed expeditiously and he would personally supervise these projects, he said he would always cherish the hospitality extended to him and his delegation during his visit to China. "The Chinese progress is a worthy example for Pakistan and Punjab government is interested in benefiting from Chinese expertise in various sectors. Working with Chinese companies is resulting in strengthening of bilateral relations between China and Pakistan as well as promotion of bilateral cooperation," he said. He also issued instructions for appointing Chairman Punjab Investment Board Rizwan Ullah Khan as the focal person for giving a final shape to the agreements with Sinotec at the earliest.

President of Sinotec Jin Guang Ming said the company had decided to cooperate in energy sectors due to transparent policies of the Punjab government and the favourable atmosphere for investment in the province and this cooperation was not on commercial basis but a symbol of Pak-China friendship. He added that the company would utilise the profit earned from these projects on further promoting bilateral cooperation with Punjab in various sectors. "Pakistan is an agrarian country and has vast fertile lands and there is a wide scope of investment in energy, livestock, agriculture and other sectors. The company will fully benefit from investment opportunities in the province, and has held fruitful discussions with the authorities concerned regarding investment in hydle power projects and livestock sectors in the light of which joint ventures will be launched," he said, adding Lahore was a historical city and the delegation was pleased to see the greenery of the city. Minister Education Mian Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman, Chairman Lahore Transport Company Kh. Ahmed Hasaan, Vice Chairman Punjab Investment Board, Chairman

Planning and Development, Secretaries of Finance, Agriculture, Transport, Livestock and Energy departments and concerned officers were present on the occasion. The Chinese delegation also included Project Manager Chen Ji Xuan and Song Shuang Ping.

All Day

Pakistan,Tajikistan express willingness to build railway link to Gwadar port -- APP

Pakistan,Tajikistan express willingness to build railway link to Gwadar port ISLAMABAD, Aug 9 (APP): Pakistan and Tajikistan on Tuesday expressed willingness to build railway link from China to Gwadar Port through Tajikistan and Afghanistan for proper utilization of the facilities already available at Gwadar Port. They agreed to work together towards this end in a quadrilateral format including China and Afghanistan,said a message received from Dushanbe. These views were shared by Federal Minister for Communications Dr. Arbab Alamgir Khan with Prime Minister of Tajikistan Oqil Oqilov and Foreign Minister of Tajikistan Hamrakhon Zarifi during his meetings with the Tajik dignitaries. The Minister briefed Prime Minister Oqilov and Foreign Minister Zarifi on the fruitful discussions he had yesterday with his Tajik counterpart, Hakimov Nizom, regarding confluence of ideas and plans on air and surface connectivity between Pakistan and Tajikistan and regional road and rail corridors. Minister Arbab Alamgir congratulated both Tajik leaders on the forthcoming 20th Independence Anniversary of Tajikistan and conveyed the best wishes of the President, the Prime Minister and the people of Pakistan to the Tajik nation. Tajik Prime Minister and Foreign Minister said that the Tajik Government highly valued its existing relations with Pakistan and was keen to further enhance people-to-people contacts, trade and tourism between the two countries. The Minister for Communications will visit the Ishkashim city in the Gorno-Badakhshan Province of Tajikistan tomorrow to see the area from where road link may be established between the two countries through Wakhan corridor to Chitral.

All Day

Beijing: For the first time, China will be launching a communication satellite for close ally Pakistan, a move that will mark “a new beginning” in bilateral space collaboration. -- FIRST POST

Beijing: For the first time, China will be launching a communication satellite for close ally Pakistan, a move that will mark “a new beginning” in bilateral space collaboration.

The satellite named PAKSAT-1R will be launched at an “appropriate time” in the coming days, state-run Xinhua news agency quoted an unnamed official as saying.

The satellite coincides with the celebrations of 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. Reuters

The satellite, which was made in China, would provide a variety of benefits, including high-power communication and weather monitoring facilities, besides strategic defence applications.

The satellite would be launched from Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest Sichuan Province by China’s space work horse, the Long March-3B carrier rocket, he said.

The new satellite is expected to replace PAKSAT-1, which was acquired by Pakistan in 2002 from the US-based Hughes Space and Communications Company after Indonesia had given it up due to power problems.

Appreciating China’s gesture, Pakistan’s Ambassador to Beijing, Masood Khan, said PAKSAT-1R is a symbol of Pak-China cooperation in the area of space science and technology.

“It is the first of the kind to be launched by China and Pakistan. Therefore, it establishes a new platform, and it marks a new beginning,” Pakistan’s state-run APP quoted Khan as telling the Chinese media.

In the long term, he said, “we also want to cooperate with China on satellite designs to develop Pakistan’s indigenous capability.”

Expressing desire to participate in China’s Manned Space as well Deep Space Exploration programmes in future, Khan said, “it is our desire that the first non-Chinese astronaut to travel on board a Chinese spaceflight is a Pakistani.”

The satellite would bring direct benefits to Pakistan’s economy, Khan said, adding that it would refine and enhance country’s capabilities for the use of broadband Internet, digital broadcasting, mobile telephony and disaster prevention and management.

Defence analysts claim that the remote sensing satellite with its high power cameras could provide a variety of applications in the defence field, including a peek into the troop movements on the Indian side.

Khan said the launching of the satellite coincides with the celebrations of 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, moving their aerospace cooperation to a higher stage.

The satellite will cover crop monitoring, weather forecasting, urban planning, disaster preparedness and response, earth observation and oceanography.

Pakistan felt the need for such a satellite when it was hit by massive floods last year which caused large scale devastation across the country, he said.

All Day

Pakistan's 'first' advanced communications satellite PAKSAT-1R, as a part of Pakistan's Space Programme 2040 -- The Express Tribune
KARACHI:

Billed as Pakistan's 'first' advanced communications satellite PAKSAT-1R, as a part of Pakistan's Space Programme 2040, was launched on Thursday at 9:17 pm on board China's Satellite Launch Vehicle from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan province.

The geostationary satellite would orbit at 23,000 miles above the surface of the earth and is expected to enhance the broadcast and broadband capabilities of the country. However, some scientists say that what Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco) has achieved today could have been done 30 years ago. They question whether our so-called space programme is on the right track.

Expected clients

PAKSAT-1R has a design life of 15 years and will provide TV broadcasting, Internet and data communication services across South and Central Asia, Eastern Europe, East Africa and the Far East. The satellite will now enable the extending of communication services to all areas of Pakistan.

Apart from Pakistan Army, there are more than 45 clients of PAKSAT-1R, including leading telecom companies such as Mobilink, and broadcasters such as Geo and ARY.

Technical details

The PAKSAT-1R weighs 5,115kg and is based on the DongFangHong-4 platform with 18 Ku-band and 12 C-band transponders onboard. The China Great Wall Industry Corporation (CGWIC) had been nominated as PAKSAT-1R's chief contractor after President Asif Ali Zardari and Chinese President Hu Jintao signed an agreement in October 2008. The company was made responsible for the design, manufacturing, final assembly, testing and launch of the satellite.

Cost

Suparco has kept mum about the cost of the multi-million dollar project. Sources within PAKSAT say that at the moment the entire cost has been borne by China which has to be paid back.

According to a press release, Defence Secretary Lt Gen Syed Athar Ali (R), Secretary Foreign Affairs Salman Bashir, Director General, Strategic Plans Division Lt Gen Khalid Ahmed Kidwai (R) and Ambassador of Pakistan to China Muhammad Masood Khan were present on the occasion. Suparco chairman Major General Ahmed Bilal was also reportedly present.

Published in The Express Tribune, August 12th, 2011.

All Day

.President for maximum utilization of Pak-China trade -- APP

President for maximum utilization of Pak-China trade

President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday urged for maximum utilization of the real trade and investment potential existing between Pakistan and China to the mutual benefit of the people of two countries.

The current volume of Pak-China bilateral trade was far below the real trade potential existing between the two countries.

The President said that there existed a win-win situation for the two countries to strengthen the existing equation with more investment and more economic cooperation as "our Chinese brothers have the expertise and we offer the opportunities and liberal incentive packages for investment in Pakistan in a variety of fields".

He said this while talking to a delegation of Chinese telecom conglomerate ZTE here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The delegation included Fan Qingfeng, Li Honghui, Peng Alguang and Najeeb Sadiq.

Secretary General to the President M. Salman Faruqi, Ambassador at Large Khalil Ahmad, Secretary Finance Dr. Waqar Masood Khan, Secretary IT & Telecom Saeed A. Khan and Spokesperson to the President Farhatullah Babar were also present during the meeting.

The President while recalling his previous visits to China said that Pakistan was keen to learn from the Chinese economic and development miracle and benefit from its expertise in diverse areas of defence, energy, industry, agriculture, communications and commerce and trade.

He said that his frequent visits were in line with the vision of PPP leadership and a government policy to jack up Pak-China bilateral cooperation to new heights and explore some new initiatives to further promote the economic ties between the two countries.

The President appreciated the ZTE's role in the development of Pakistan's telecommunication sector and said that Chinese companies had made significant contributions to Pakistan's economy through direct investment.

The President called upon ZTE to develop technical skills of the local labour force.

The President said that Pak-China cooperation and low cost Pakistan labour force could help develop the region as a manufacturing hub for the benefit of both countries.

He reiterated that ZTE may consider developing a research and development centre in telecommunication and a plant for manufacture of mobile handsets in Pakistan.

The President said that he was awaiting his next visit to China later this month to further consolidate the relations between the two countries which was 'an important factor for peace and stability in the region and the world'.

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All Day

Govt to import 1m tonnes urea for Rabi season -- DAILY TIMES

Govt to import 1m tonnes urea for Rabi season

LAHORE: The federal government should take solid steps to import at least one million tonnes urea for the Rabi season besides ensuring the provision of

uninterrupted gas supply to fertilizer factories.

Punjab Agriculture Minister Malik Ahmad Ali Aulakh said it was the responsibility of the federal government to ensure provision of agriculture inputs because in the absence of inputs production could not be increased.

He said during the last three months the cost of a bag of urea had surged to Rs 500, which was beyond the reach of poor farmers.

He said the fertilizer industry believed it could reduce the price if full gas supply was ensured to them. He said according to the schedule of National Fertilizer Marketing Limited (NFML) 153,750 tonnes urea had to be imported but only 124,000 tonnes arrived at Gwadar and Karachi out of which 39,000 tonnes was despatched to Punjab.

To avoid panic among farmers, the government should ensure timely availability of required fertilizer to them.

He said that urea should be made available to farmers at controlled rates to facilitate them for enhancing their per acre yield.

He said steps should be taken to check the smuggling of fertilizers besides ensuring stability in their prices through district administration. Punjab required 2.4 million tonnes urea and wheat was being sown on an area of 16 million acres and the sowing process would complete in one month. staff report

All Day

China Building Alternative Transport RoutesBEIJING (Nikkei)--China has started building alternative routes to import energy resources without passing through the Strait of Malacca. Roads, railways and pipelines are being built to connect three key ports i -- Nikkei

China Building Alternative Transport RoutesBEIJING (Nikkei)--China has started building alternative routes to import energy resources without passing through the Strait of Malacca. Roads, railways and pipelines are being built to connect three key ports in the Indian Ocean via land.

Pakistani Ambassador to China Masood Khan told The Nikkei in an interview that feasibility studies have started on a railroad to connect the port of Gwadar, Pakistan to Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region in western China.

There are also plans for pipelines. China is expected to finance a large portion of the projects through grants and loans.

Gwadar is just 500km off the Strait of Hormuz, the gateway to the Persian Gulf. If China can transport oil by land from Gwadar, it will be a significantly shorter route than passing through the Strait of Malacca, and thus will increase energy security.

A railway is being built between the port of Kyauk Phyu, Myanmar and Ruili, China's Yunnan Province. The railway is valued at roughly 70 billion yuan (approximately 845 billion yen) and will be operational by 2016, while an oil pipeline along a similar route will open by 2013. China is also developing the port of Chittagong, Bangladesh, one of the leading deep-water ports in Asia.

While China is increasing its naval capabilities, it is also aware that its dependence on sea lanes is a vulnerability. For instance, a naval blockade or pirate attack in the Strait of Malacca could harm China's energy supplies.

In the first five months of this year, China's dependence on overseas energy sources reached 55.2%, surpassing that of the U.S., at 53.5%, for the first time.

China's development has always been driven by its coastal cities, but once the new land routes are operational, the flow of goods could shift inland.

China is also thinking about strengthening its rail connections to Europe. In a visit to Europe in June, Prime Minister Wen Jiabao said, "China is willing to accelerate the construction of the Eurasia railway."

All Day

Gilani seeks ADB financing for Bhasha -- APP

Gilani seeks ADB financing for Bhasha

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani Thursday called upon the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to finance Pakistan's mega project of Basha Dam construction, which would solve the country's chronic energy crisis and also provide sufficient water to the agriculture sector that holds the key to food security of the country.

He expressed these views during a meeting with ADB Vice President Xiaoyu Zhao and Director General ADB Juan Marinda, who called on him here at the PM house. On the occasion, Gilani emphasised ADB's support for construction of Motorway from Karachi to Fasilabad. The connectivity of Gwadar with Ratodaro will link Karachi, Gwadar and Fasilabad, which is the hub of textile industry of Pakistan. He said priority areas of Pakistan were energy, water, roads and the overall development of infrastructure, an engine of growth in any economy.

Lauding the role of the ADB in undertaking projects in various sectors in Pakistan, he said that Pakistan expected that this partnership would continue, especially since it is critical for improving the quality of life of its people. He said that his government had constituted a high powered committee led by the finance minister to seek solutions to unscheduled load shedding in the country. The prime minister underlined the government's commitment to financial discipline, reducing the fiscal deficit, mobilising domestic resources and pursuing high growth strategy. On this occasion, the vice president of ADB said that he had a very useful meeting with government officials and addressed many issues. He assured the prime minister that ADP was committed to working with the government of Pakistan.

The prime minister sought ADB's support for construction of roads through Central Asia Regional Cooperation (CAREC) Funds for integrating Pakistan with Central Asia. It may be mentioned here that Pakistan has become 10th member of this organisation. The connectivity as planned under its umbrella will revolutionise trade among these countries by providing a trade corridor including enhancement of people-to-people contact.

In the meeting the Finance Minister, Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, Minister for Water and Power, Syed Nveed Qamar, and senior officials of relevant ministries were also present in the meeting.

All Day

US considering to assist in Diamer-Bhasha dam -- APP

US considering to assist in Diamer-Bhasha dam

WASHINGTON - The United States is considering a Pakistani request to the international community to support the construction of Diamer-Bhasha Dam.

Replying to a question, a state department spokesperson said that the US recognizes that such a hydroelectric project would help meet many of Pakistan's long term energy and water needs, and advance social and economic development in the country.

"We are considering how we can best support Pakistan's request, as are other bilateral donors and multilateral financial institutions. No final decisions have been made. We will continue to work with the Government of Pakistan to determine how best to use U.S. civilian assistance" the spokesperson said.

She said that the United States has long supported development projects that enhance the daily lives of people throughout the region. In doing so, the US always take into account a project's potential regional impact.

The spokesperson pointed out that as part of a broader signature energy program announced in 2009, the United States has provided support to complete the final phases of two hydroelectric dams in Pakistan: the Satpara Dam in Gilgit-Baltistan and the Gomal Zam Dam in South Waziristan.

"We are considering doing more in the sector", the spokesperson added.

All Day

Zardari urges Central Asian states to organise joint -- Pakistan Today
Zardari urges Central Asian states to organise joint

•President says peace in Afghanistan 'vital for the region'

ISLAMABAD - President Asif Ali Zardari, on Tuesday, called upon the central Asian states to focus on improving bilateral economic and commercial relations by organising business forums and launching joint ventures in various areas of mutual interest.

"We need to gear up the implantation of decisions taken on the platform of Joint Economic Forum," said the president while talking to the members of a delegation comprising of ambassadors from central Asian countries who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The delegation included Afghan Ambassador Mohammad Umer Daudzai, Ambassador of Azerbaijan Dashgin Mazi Oglu Shikarv, Kazakh Ambassador Bakhitbek Shabarbayed, Kyrgyz Ambassador Orozov Alik Karybaevich, Tajik Ambassador Zbaydullo Zubaydov, Turkmen Ambassador Berdiniyazov Sapar and Uzbek Ambassador Oybek A Usmanov.

Defence Minister Ahmed Mukhtar, Water and Power Minister Syed Naveed Qamar, Petroleum Minister Dr Asim Hussain, Senator Babar Awan, Spokesperson to the President Farhatullah Babar and other senior officials were also present.

Briefing the reporters, Babar said matters concerning mutual relations, peace and stability of the region, need for evolving regional solutions for the regional problems, promoting connectivity in the region and encouraging trade and economic activities were discussed during the meeting.

Babar said the president emphasised upon the need of taking advantage of the geographical proximity and forging a mutual partnership that could provide solution to the present issues confronting the states of the region. He said all countries in the region have a rich cultural heritage needed to be shared and passed on to the next generation.

He said peace and stability in Afghanistan was important and that Pakistan supported every effort intended towards peace and stability of Afghanistan. For economic development, he said, regional integration and utilising all available trade avenues including the transit trade agreements to promote mutual trade and boost business activities should be focused.

He said by improving connectivity and modes of communications, the countries of the region could enhance their trade and economic activities significantly.

He said that Pakistan, due to its geo-strategic location, offers shortest access to Afghanistan and Central Asian countries at Gwadar and Karachi seaports. Matters concerning further extending mutual cooperation in training programs for bankers, diplomats, business professionals, armed forces and law enforcing personnel were also discussed during the meeting.

Later the ambassadors attended Iftar-Dinner hosted by the president.

All Day

Central Asian countries: President calls for enhanced cooperation -- APP

ISLAMABAD: In a meeting with the ambassadors of the Central Asian countries at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday, President Zardari underscored the need to focus on economic development and regional integration.

Talking to the ambassadors, the president said that Pakistan and the Central Asian countries should utilise the available trade avenues to promote mutual trade and boost business activities.

He said that economic and commercial relations between Pakistan and the Central Asian countries should be promoted by organising business forums and launching joint ventures in the areas of mutual interest. "We need to implement the decisions taken on the platform of the Joint Economic Forum," he said.

The president said that by improving connectivity and modes of communications, the countries of the region could enhance their trade and economic activities significantly. He said that due to its geo-strategic location, Pakistan offered the shortest access to Afghanistan and Central Asian countries through Gwadar and Karachi seaports.

President Zardari called for the early implementation of the projects that focused on meeting the energy requirements of the countries. He said that the early implementation of such projects, which included electricity transmission lines and gas pipelines, would boost production levels in these countries, promoting economic activities and creating more jobs.

Ways to extend mutual cooperation in training programmes for bankers, diplomats, business professionals, armed forces and law-enforcement personnel were also discussed during the meeting.

All Day

Pakistan, China ties are unique: Hina Rabbani Khar -- APP

Pakistan, China ties are unique: Hina Rabbani Khar

Islamabad: Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar, who is on a visit to Beijing, has said Pakistan and China enjoy a unique relationship and dialogue was an ongoing process between the two countries.

Talking to media persons on arrival in Beijing, Khar said the leadership of both the countries had invested immensely on the enhancement of existing strong bonds of friendship.

Khar arrived late on Tuesday evening for a two-day visit at the invitation of her Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi.

She said President Asif Ali Zardari was carrying forward the ties to new heights by frequently visiting China.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani also paid several visits, she added.

She pointed out that Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to Pakistan in December last year was historic as it helped in further enhancing the bilateral relations.

The foreign minister said the visit of Premier Wen played an important role in further deepening the strong relationship.

Khar said, "The relationship strongly exists among people and governments of two countries and now we want to commensurate these ties with trade, economic and investment cooperation."

The foreign minister said China is one of the countries with which Pakistan has signed Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

She said the existing strong bonds of friendship between Pakistan and China was

multi-faceted and covered all areas including defence, economic and trade ties.

"We have strategic and robust relations with China," she said.

At the Beijing Capital International Airport, Khar was received by Ambassador Masood Khan, senior diplomats from Pakistan Embassy and officials from the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

Earlier Ambassador Masood Khan said that 'this is a very important visit coming at a time when Pakistan and China enjoy enviable solidarity in all areas'.

Khan pointed out that 'the foreign minister's visit will help us consolidate our strong ties and steer them towards even deeper strategic and political engagement and more productive economic cooperation'.

"It will be a meeting between time-tested and trusted friends and partners," Khan said, adding "Naturally, regional and international situation will be reviewed by the two sides."

Symbolically too, Khan said, the visit is important because this will be Khar's first visit to China after assuming office.

All Day

President directs expediting Guddu, Uch transmission line projects

-- APP

President directs expediting Guddu, Uch transmission line projects

ISLAMABAD, Aug 24 (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday directed that procedural formalities concerning Guddu and Uch transmission line projects should be completed in time so that the signing agreement could take place in September this year. The President said this while talking to a leading Chinese company dealing in power transmission projects that called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. President Zardari said Pakistan was facing difficulties in meeting its energy requirements. To improve energy resources, the President said that the government was focused on building mega hydropower projects in Diamer Bhasha and Bunji. The President said developing Thar coal fields and electricity generation through gasification of coal was also on the cards to meet energy requirements. He appreciated TBEA's interest in Pakistan and its \$3.5 billion agreement with Pakistan's NTDC (National Transmission and Despatch Company) and China Development Bank to supply transmission equipment to Pakistan.

He also welcomed company's interest in acquiring Heavy Electrical Complex, saying that the greater business ventures of the company in the country would contribute towards further strengthening Pak-China relationship.

He said Pakistan welcomed Chinese companies and businessmen to take advantage of the investment and business-friendly policies offered by the country. The President said the energy sector was one of the most important sectors where Pakistan needed assistance and cooperation of Chinese friends.

The President said, "we need to revamp existing transmission lines and build new ones for efficient transmission on one hand and to reduce line losses on the other." The contributions of TBEA, the President noted, would contribute significantly towards this end.

He reiterated the government's full support and facilitation to the incoming investors and businessmen, especially the Chinese and said the government would take care of their security requirements.

Ye Jun thanked the President for meeting and assured that TBEA would continue to make its contributions in assisting Pakistan in the energy sector.

It may be recalled that the President has been focusing on the strengthening of energy sector with the Chinese assistance and had also met the Chairman of the Board of TBEA during his previous visit to China.

The delegation was headed by Ye Jun, the head of the company called TBEA. He was accompanied by country representative of TBEA in Pakistan Zhou Liliang and Chen Qinliang.

The Pakistani side included Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Water and Power, Secretary General M. Salman Faruqi, Secretaries Finance and Economic Affairs divisions, Chairman WAPDA Shakeel Durrani, and other senior officials.

All Day

**Untitled eventTCP awards tender for import of 150,000 MT of urea --
DAILY TIMES**

TCP awards tender for import of 150,000 MT of urea

KARACHI: The Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) has awarded tender for the import of 150,000 metric tonnes urea to meet the urgent requirement of fertilizers for Kharif 2011 crop.

Nine bidders participated in the tender and the prices quoted by them ranged between \$534.50 to \$544.50 per metric tonne.

A tender for 65,000 metric tonnes was awarded to Key Trade Switzerland which had offered the lowest bid of \$534.50 per metric tonne. The remaining 85,000 metric tonnes was awarded to Transammonia AG, which had agreed to match the lowest bid. The federal government had given necessary permission to the TCP to offer price matching in case the lowest bidder did not offer the total tendered quantity.

The shipments against the tender are scheduled to arrive at Gwadar Port by September 30, 2011. staff report

All Day

4th Pak-China business forum -- PAKISTAN TODAY

4th Pak-China business forum on September

KARACHI - A high powered business delegation led by Federal Commerce Minister Makhdoom Amin Fahim, is expected to attend the 4th Pak-China Business Forum to be held on September 2, 2011.

Expo aimed to boost regional cooperation

According a statement issued by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Pakistani exporters would attend the 1st China-Eurasia Expo at Urumqi. A Pakistan pavilion for displaying a wide range of export quality products has also been arranged to highlight the industrial progress achieved by Pakistan. This Expo is aimed to boost regional economic cooperation among Central, West, South Asian and European countries and to further expand the collaboration in multilateral fields. Highlight of this Expo will be the "1+9" forums and the "China Eurasia Forum on Economic Development and Cooperation". Chinese Government will also hold 9 ministerial high-level forums during the event: News Ministers Forum; Overseas Chinese Businessmen & Xinjiang Development Forum; Agricultural Cooperation and Development Forum; Technical Exchange and Cooperation Forum; Financial Cooperation Forum; China-Eurasia Travel Cooperation and Development Forum; The Forum of Regional Cooperation in Shanghai Cooperation Organization Business Series Activity and Foreign Entrepreneur Conference.

30 distinguished dignitaries participating in the forum

The Chinese cultural exhibition will also be displayed during the Expo. The event is likely to be visited by dignitaries from various South Asian and European countries as well as many distinguished dignitaries from Pakistan. TDAP in collaboration with Pakistan Embassy at Beijing is also organising 4th Pak-China Business Forum on 2nd September, 2011 at Urumqi on the sidelines of the event. B2B meetings of Pakistani businessmen will be arranged with their Chinese and other European counterparts in this Forum. Thirty high profile businessmen are participating in this Business Forum representing different business sectors of Pakistan. Commerce Minister Makhdoom M. Amin Fahim, will deliver the keynote speech during the Business Forum and lead the delegation of Pakistani businessmen. Mr. Tariq Iqbal Puri, Chief Executive TDAP will officially represent Pakistan on the forum of "Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Business Day".

China can help with Pak-Iran gas pipeline project

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Saturday said Chinese companies should help Pakistan complete \$1.3 billion Iran gas pipeline project. Government is desperately looking for foreign funds to complete gas pipeline project but American opposition is keeping major donors away, it said. "Gas shortages have not only halted economic growth and can only be resolved through proper financing, said PEW President Dr. Murtaza Mughal. "Pakistan should also raise part of the finances through domestic funding for which banks can make a consortium," he said. American continue to stick to their stance despite the severe crisis in Pakistan which proves that they are not concerned about our economy but their own geopolitical interests, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal. The US is publically offering alternatives to Pakistan to hit Iran's energy sector but such offers are not applicable, he said. He said that US is ignoring the fact that gas contributes around 53 per cent in Pakistan energy mix which cannot be changed. Mughal said that fuel shortages have forced the government to ration supplies, resort to gas load shedding in summer for the very first time and face protests from industry. NNI

All Day

China would continue supporting Pakistan's socio-economic development -- APP

BEIJING, Aug 26 (APP):Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Farzana Raja met here Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin and discussed avenues of bilateral cooperation in social sector.Pakistan Ambassador's to China Masood Khan was also present on the occasion.Chinese Vice-Minister appreciated the efforts of BISP regarding poverty alleviation in Pakistan. The BISP has achieved tremendous success in a short span of time, said Chinese Foreign Minister.

He assured that China would continue supporting Pakistan's socio-economic

development as Pak-China friendship is everlasting.

He was of the opinion that existence and success of BISP is an indicative of the seriousness of the present government of Pakistan towards socio-economic development of its people.

He said that Chinese government would encourage business and corporate sector to invest in Pakistan.

He said that he has discussed the poverty issue of Pakistan with the World Food Programme.

The Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister lauded the efforts and sacrifices of Pakistan in the war against terrorism.

He said that Pakistan is a frontline state in the international war on terror and has suffered a lot because of this.

He said that China is ready to offer assistance to Pakistan and would also call the world to pay attention to Pakistan's vital role in international war against terrorism.

Farzana Raja thanked the Chinese Government and people for supporting Pakistan during floods and said China has been an all-weather friend of Pakistan.

He briefed the Chinese Minister about various initiatives of BISP which are bringing in positive socio-economic changes in the lives of millions of poor families.

President Asif Ali Zardari's forthcoming visit to China was also discussed between Farzana Raja and the Chinese Vice-foreign Minister

All Day

China is developing a new Euro-Asian rail continental bridge -- THE ECONOMIC TIMES

China, In the west, it has planned strategic linkages to Pakistan, Iran and across central Asia, incorporating the Gilgit-Baltistan tract into Xinjiang's logistics grid, particularly through a 900-km rail line from Gwadar port in Balochistan on Pakistan's south-west coast close to the Straits of Hormuz to join the line along Koh-I-Taftan (on Iranian border)-Spezand-Quetta-Chaman (on Afghan border) onwards through Khunjerab Pass in the Karakoram to Kashgar (Kashi) in China.

Among the eight rail lines aggregating 5,300 route kilometres that China plans to construct in Iran, the \$2-billion, 580-km line from Tehran through Hamadan, Malayer and Kermanshah to Khosravi on the border with Iraq, along with a branch between Arak and Malayer, will provide a new corridor linking it to the Mediterranean Sea through central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran.

The line will offer onward linkages via Iraq to the Mediterranean port of Latakia in Syria, thereby facilitating a southern route to Europe. Following the Tedzen (Turkmenistan)-Mashhad (Iran) rail tracks at Sarakhs, a through line will enable China to connect through central Asia with Europe via Turkey.

China's galloping economic and strategic footprints are reflected in its annual trade with five central Asian countries, worth \$27 billion, up from \$0.5 billion 20 years ago. China lent \$10 billion to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation countries, 'to shore up the struggling economies'.

In the east, China extends significant concessional development assistance to Bangladesh for infrastructure, including the second Padma bridge and a 130-km rail line from Chittagong to Gundum on the Myanmar-Bangladesh border.

Myanmar is a vital link between the land bridge connecting south Asia and south-west China, onwards to Europe through central Asia, for which it plans to link up with the Bay of Bengal port of Sittwe (Akyab) through the Mandalay and Irrawady rivers. The 232-km Lashio-Muse/Ruili rail line that China builds will complete the rail network across Myanmar.

In the north, China is busy extending the world's highest 1,142-km Golmud-Lhasa rail line, which was opened in July 2006, to Xigatse, Tibet's second-largest city. The 253-km extension through geothermal fields at a height of 4,000 m could cost \$2 billion and was launched in September 2010. Further extensions could go all the way up to Kathmandu and to Dromo, close to Bhutan and Sikkim, and possibly to Nyingchi near Arunachal Pradesh.

In the south, China is now Sri Lanka's biggest investor as well as aid donor. China is financing nearly all of Sri Lanka's big infrastructure projects, including ports, oil storage, airports, power plants, roads and an SEZ at Mirigama near Colombo.

Although there is no rail linkage between China and Myanmar, China and Laos, Myanmar and Thailand, Thailand and Cambodia, Cambodia and Vietnam, and Vietnam and Laos, China has pursued the ambitious 5,380-km Asean Kunming-Singapore rail venture, a corridor critical to the Trans Asian Railway project. Besides promoting rail links from Kunming in Yunnan province to Yangon in Myanmar, it contemplates helping Thailand with a 240-km Bangkok-Rayong high-speed rail.

All Day

Pak-China agree to look into the possibilities of launching joint Social Sector Projects -- SANA NEWS

Pak-China agree to look into the possibilities of launching joint Social Sector Projects

South Asian News Agency (SANA) · August 27, 2011 · Share/SaveISLAMABAD : Pakistan and China agreed to look into the possibilities of launching joint Social Sector Projects (SSP) to learn from each other's experiences.

Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Farzana Raja during her current visit to China met Chairperson China Women Federation (CWF), Ms. Meng Xiaosi in Beijing and discussed matters of mutual interest especially the common goal of women empowerment said a press release issued here on Saturday.

Both agreed that cooperation would add a new chapter to Sino-Pak bilateral relations and will enhance people to people contacts.

Ms. Meng Xiaosi appreciated the proposal forwarded by Farzana Raja to launch various joint projects so that both the countries could learn from each other's experiences. Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP thanked the CWF for its support

during the last year's floods in Pakistan. She said that in the time of need CWF had sent goods worth more than \$ 70,000 to flood affected BISP beneficiaries which underlines the strong bonding between the people of China and Pakistan.

Chairperson briefed the chairman CWF about the various interventions of BISP aiming at women empowerment in Pakistan. She told that BISP is trying to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of poverty alleviation through women empowerment. Also, by virtue of BISP, 10 million women in Pakistan have got CNICs and thus got recognition in the society, she further added. During the meeting, common initiatives were discussed, which have been started by both the organization in their respective countries for enhancing the socio-economic status of women.

Chairperson BISP also invited Chairperson CWF to visit Pakistan so that the later can have an on hand knowledge of BISP's interventions in the social sector.

Chairperson China Women Federation appreciated the efforts of BISP and said that the programme is doing a great job of women in Pakistan. She lauded the efforts of Farzana Raja for socio-economic empowerment of women raising their status in society and given them self respect and dignity. Chairman China Women Federation said that Pak-China friendship goes back to ancient times and this common heritage has been passed from generation to generation. Presently Pakistan and china have high quality strategic partnership.

All Day

China-Euroasia Expo 2011 a major event: Masood Khan -- APP

China-Euroasia Expo 2011 a major event: Masood Khan

BEIJING, Aug 29 (APP): Ambassador Masood Khan on Monday said that China-Eurasia Expo 2011 was a major event which would cover trade and economic relations not only between China and Central and South Asia, but also between China and the entire Asian Continent and Europe. President Asif Ali Zardari will be the chief guest at the inaugural cultural performance as well as a key speaker at the main forum on 'China-Eurasia Forum on Economic Development and Cooperation', Ambassador Khan said in an interview with APP.

He said that President Zardari's visit would be a good occasion to take stock of the situation and strategize to steer the entire region towards the economic development, generation of livelihoods, and enhancing economic connectivity. He further said that nine ministerial forums would take up subjects such as agriculture, tourism, media, culture and finance.

President Zardari, Ambassador Khan said, would use this opportunity to share his vision about enhanced connectivity between Pakistan and China to shorten trade and travel distances between the Gulf and Western regions of China by establishing corridors passing through the territory of Pakistan.

President Zardari will have a meeting with Executive Vice Premier Li Keqiang, who is a fifth generation leader, said the Ambassador.

"Naturally, when the two leaders will meet, they will discuss strengthening of strategic partnership, economic cooperation, and trade ties," added the Ambassador.

He said that the two sides would review the entire gamut of bilateral relations, with the sharp focus on the dividends of Expo 2011 for Pakistan and China. The President will also be hosted by the top provincial leadership.

Pakistan and China, the Ambassador said, had recently established a Joint Energy Working Group which had identified joint projects covering conventional and renewable energy to deal with the power shortages in Pakistan as well as to generate abundant energy to meet long-term consumer and industrial needs of Pakistan.

The President will explore with the Chinese leadership ways to put these projects on fast track and resolve financial, technical and procedural issues, he added.

"The President's focus will also be on finance and banking. ICBC has recently opened branches in Islamabad and Karachi. We hope that the Bank will expand its operations in Pakistan and provide credit for mega projects. State Bank of Pakistan has also been discussing a Currency Swap Arrangement with the People's Bank of China," Khan noted.

Ambassador Khan said that this time CEOs heading corporations specializing in alternate energy (wind power), oil and gas exploration, electric transformation and transmission, vehicle manufacturing, and shipping would be calling on the President. Some have existing businesses; others want to explore new avenues. A major emphasis, however will be on finance and banking links.

The President has advocated road-rail-air networks connecting Pakistan's northern areas with Xinjiang and energy (oil and gas pipelines) and communication (fiber optic) corridors between Pakistan and China that would connect Shanghai to Urumqi to Gwadar to the Strait of Hormuz.

"These new economic arteries will transform the destiny of the region and usher in a new period of peace and stability", he noted.

This Expo, Ambassador Khan said, "replaces an economic relations and trade fair that China used to organize since 1992. The scale of the Expo is bigger and it fits into China's Grand Western Development Strategy".

Khan pointed out that as China develops its Western region, especially Xinjiang, it wants to invite neighbouring countries, such as Pakistan to participate in this development process and reinforce cross-border economic complementarities.

Ambassador Masood Khan said that the Expo will have 321 booths which will display the investment environment of Central, West, and South Asian, as well as European countries, he said adding the Expo will be used for introducing investment policies; matching investment; exploring cooperative projects; and demonstrating future commodities.

"Pakistan has also established its own pavilion under the aegis of the Trade

Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP). It will be located in the Eurasia (international) section", Khan noted.

Ambassador Masood Khan said Pakistan's relations with Xinjiang province are already strong. The trade between the two sides has been increasing. Pakistan looks forward to participating in the Kashgar Special Economic Zone (SEZ), which will turn this region into a gateway to Central and South Asia.

He said businessmen and entrepreneurs from Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Karachi have already gained exposure in the Xinjiang markets. The time is ripe for expanding these links. The Kashgar SEZ will be a catalyst in this regard.

In the realm of counter-terrorism, Pakistan and China enjoy full solidarity and trust, Khan said and added that for years, Pakistan and China have been working productively to counter terrorism and to frustrate the designs of ETIM, he said adding that this cooperation has been intensified.

"China has always recognized Pakistan's contribution in the war against terrorism and noted Pakistan's resolve that it would never allow its soil to be used for terrorist acts. China has also supported Pakistan's efforts to uphold its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity", Khan remarked.

All Day

3rd Pak-China Business Forum held in Shanghai

KARACHI - The Chinese Government has assured that its traders and businessmen will participate in the 6th Expo Pakistan being held in Karachi from October 2011 20-23. As the Pakistani side has attended various exhibitions and business forums held in China during the last eight months, the Chinese delegation would also explore further trade and business opportunities in Pakistan. According to sources, this was affirmed by Chinese Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) Vice Chairman Zhao Jianding, and of Shanghai Municipal Commission Commerce Director General Yu Jian Ming, on the occasion of 3rd Pakistan-China Business Forum held in Shanghai on August 30, 2011. They further stated that there is need to increase the trade and business relations of Pakistani businessmen with region located at Eastern Coast of China and at the Yangtze River Delta. Speaking on the occasion, Tariq Puri, Chief Executive Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) that stated that the TDAP is extending all necessary support to the CCPIT in organising a "China Pavilion" at the Expo Pakistan 2011, in order to facilitate the participation of Chinese companies in this upcoming event, which also celebrates the 60th year of friendship between the two countries.

Puri stated that Pakistan has already declared China as the focus country for its trade initiatives in 2011-2012 and plans to participate in more than 20 fairs in China. Through this outreach programme, TDAP is accessing different regions of China to introduce and establish the brand "Pakistan" which can be relied for its quality and competitive offerings in various sectors like textile, leather, fisheries, food products, marble, gemstones and minerals.

TDAP and Pakistan's Consulate General of Shanghai has clubbed the third forum with inter-textile exhibition of home textiles held in Shanghai from August 29-31, 2011. TDAP CE Tariq Puri delivered a keynote speech apprising participants about the flourishing textile sector of Pakistan. He said that it is a good opportunity for Pakistani businessmen to introduce and display their products. This event has helped in boosting bilateral trade between China and Pakistan and to ensure exposure of home textiles of Pakistan in the Chinese market.

All Day

President Zardari arrives in Urumqi to attend China-Eurasia Expo -- By APP

President Zardari arrives in Urumqi to attend China-Eurasia Expo
URUMQI - 30th August 2011

President Asif Ali Zardari was given a warm red-carpet welcome when he arrived here Tuesday on a three-day visit to China to participate in the first ever China-Eurasia Expo being held in the historic city of Urumqi, the capital of Xingjian Uygur Autonomous Region and the largest province of China.

During the visit, which is aimed at strengthening business to business linkages between the two countries, the President besides attending the Expo will meet Chinese Vice Premier Li Kequang.

President Zardari will also hold meetings with the Chinese corporate leaders during which he is expected to discuss the prospects of enhanced Pak-China trade and investment cooperation in diverse fields.

The President besides attending the opening ceremony of China-Eurasia Expo will also address the main event 'China-Eurasia Forum on Economic Development and Cooperation' on September 1 (Thursday).

He will also visit the Pakistani pavilion being set up at the China-Eurasia Expo.

All Day

President Asif Ali Zardari received a red-carpet welcome when he arrived here on Tuesday -- URUMQI:

URUMQI:

President Asif Ali Zardari received a red-carpet welcome when he arrived here on Tuesday on a three-day visit to China to participate in the first China-Eurasia Expo being held in Urumqi.

Upon arrival at the Urumqi airport, the president was received by the vice governor of Xinjiang province. Pakistan's Ambassador to China Masood Khan and other officials from the Pakistan embassy were also present at the airport to receive the president.

The president, besides attending the expo, will meet the Chinese Vice Premier Li Kequang during the visit. He will also hold meetings with Chinese corporate leaders to discuss the prospects of enhanced Pakistan-China trade and investment cooperation in diverse fields.

Besides attending the opening ceremony of China-Eurasia Expo 2011, the president will address the China-Eurasia Forum on Economic Development and Cooperation on Thursday.

He will also visit the Pakistani pavilion being set up at the expo.

The first China-Eurasia expo, which will replace the former Urumqi Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Fair, is expected to be a platform for diplomacy between China and the Eurasian states.

Ambassador Masood Khan said that Pakistan, owing to its territorial and historic linkages with Xinjiang, could benefit from the fast development of the region.

He said that President Zardari had a vision for regional economic development through enhanced connectivity. He said that the president's participation in the expo and the key-note address during the China-Eurasia Forum on Economic Development and Cooperation would provide him with a good opportunity to share his thoughts on regional economic integration.

Published in The Express Tribune, August 31st, 2011.

All Day

China “appreciates Zardari’s gesture of bringing with him CM Gilgit – Baltistan” -- Posted by Pamir Times

China “appreciates Zardari’s gesture of bringing with him CM Gilgit – Baltistan”

“Re-linking of KKH one of the important issues discussed at high level meeting”
URUMQI, Aug 31 (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Chinese Executive Vice Premier Li Keqiang on Wednesday agreed to further bolster the existing close and multi-faceted strategic ties between the two countries through enhanced cooperation in diverse fields, with particular focus on trade, energy, communication, infrastructure development and agriculture sectors. President Zardari and China’s Executive Vice Premier, who met here on the eve of first China-Eurasia Expo, besides discussing in detail the whole range of bilateral relations as well as ways and means to further strengthen these ties, also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

During the meeting, the President was assisted by Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar, Commerce Minister Makhdoom Amin Fahim, Defence Minister Ch Ahmed Mukhtar, Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Dr. Asim Hussain, Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah, Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhary Abdul Majeed, Chairman of Board of Investment Salim H. Mandviwala, President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Senator Haji Ghulam Ali, Pakistan’s Ambassador to China Masood Khan and Spokesperson Farhatullah Babar.

Farhatullah Babar told mediapersons that the Chinese Executive Vice Premier appreciated President Zardari’s gesture of bringing with him the Chief Minister of Gilgit Baltistan and welcomed him to the meeting.

The President expressed his satisfaction over the growing Pak-China strategic and defence cooperation. He also appreciated the Chinese help in launching PAK-SAT 1R satellite on Aug 12 this year and termed it another milestone in Pak-China relations.

He said that the two sides needed to expand existing maritime cooperation into a more comprehensive strategic maritime partnership. Pakistan would welcome Chinese investment in trans-regional cooperation projects, involving economic project cooperation between Pakistan, Afghanistan and China, he added.

Welcomed the opening of ICBC’s branches in Pakistan, the President said, “we would welcome further Chinese investment in our banking sector.” He hoped that the People’s Bank of China would speed up conclusion of a currency swap agreement.

He also lauded China for its substantial, timely and targeted assistance for the recovery of flood victims as well as help and support to overcome Attaabad lake problem in Gilgit-Baltistan.

The President said since it was important to re-establish the strategic road link of Karakoram Highway (KKH), the Government of Pakistan had accepted the proposal of China Reconstruction Bridge Corporation (CRBC) for the construction of 13 kms of new route and rehabilitation of 22 kilometers of existing sections of KKH by lowering water level of the lake.

The widening and up-gradation of Karakoram Highway would further facilitate and enhance the trade and people-to-people contacts, he added. The President also sought Chinese investment in the proposed new city of Zulfikarabad in Sindh. Apprising the Chinese Vice Premier about Pakistan’s plan to float infrastructure bonds backed by the natural resources in oil and gas, he invited the Chinese investment in the Infrastructure Bonds.

The President also apprised the Chinese Executive Vice Premier about the challenges facing Pakistan and appreciated China’s support for Pakistan’s stability and social development in the challenging times.

He also appreciated China’s principled stand in support of Pakistan in the aftermath of killing of Osama Bin Laden and for standing by it at every critical juncture. Pakistan will continue to seek guidance and assistance in the common pursuit of rooting out terrorism from the region, he added.

The President thanked China for its continued support for Pakistan’s stability and sovereignty as well as for standing by it at every international forum.

About Pak-India relations, the President said Pakistan wished to have good neighbourly relations with India and was committed to a constructive, sustained and result-oriented engagement.

He said Pakistan and India had taken some positive steps in this respect and hoped that the peace process would gain momentum in the days to come.

Pakistan would like to continue to work with India to resolve all outstanding issues peacefully and in a just manner, he added.

Discussing the situation in Afghanistan, President Zardari said that stability and peace in Afghanistan was critical for peace in the region. He added that Pakistan was supportive of an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process of reconciliation.

The President also welcomed the Chinese development projects in Afghanistan and said that the economic development of Afghanistan was vital for its political stability and peace.

About militancy, the President said, "although militants were created by the international community as a war weapon to fight a rival ideology, it is now our responsibility to deal with them."

"It is a long-drawn battle and we are fully capable and poised to fight this menace", he said and highlighted the importance of international unity as well as support to Pakistan.

All Day

China, Pakistan vow to boost ties -- URUMQI (NNI):

China, Pakistan vow to boost ties

Posted on September 3, 2011

URUMQI (NNI): The leaders of China and Pakistan have vowed to strengthen strategic ties between decades old close friend countries. President Asif Ali Zardari during his visit to China on an official tour, met with the Deputy Prime Minister of China Li Keqiang on delegation level in Urumqi. During the meeting both leaders have agreed to expand Sino-Pak strategic ties. The Sino-Pak delegations also exchanged views on enhancement of cooperation in various fields including trade, energy, communication and agriculture. Both the leaders met here on the eve of first China-Eurasia Expo, besides discussing in detail the whole range of bilateral relations as well as ways and means to further strengthen these ties. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interests. During Sino-Pak dialogue in Urumqi day, various prominent ministers of both countries including foreign affairs, defense and trade were also present in the meeting. Spokesperson Farhatullah Babar told media persons that the Chinese Executive Vice Premier appreciated President Zardari's gesture of bringing with him the Chief Minister of Gilgit Baltistan and welcomed him to the meeting. President Zardari described China as Pakistan's closest friend and a strategic partner as high level of trust existed between the leadership and people of the two countries. He said that the political parties, state institutions and people of Pakistan considered China as the lifeline for their country. The President recalled the visit of Premier Wen Jiabao to Pakistan in December 2010 as a heart warming event and expressed satisfaction over the progress in Pakistan-China political, defence, security and economic co-operation, with determination to take it to 'new heights'. The President appreciated Ambassador Masood Khan for his role in further strengthening the Pak-China ties and described him as Pakistan's most important ambassador in the world. President Zardari said that Pakistan greatly valued China's economic support and assistance and wanted to enhance economic and trade links, with an ultimate goal of closer economic integration. He stressed the need for closer Pak-China collaboration in agriculture, irrigation, energy, infrastructure development and railways etc. The President sought Chinese investment in Pakistan's water and energy related mega projects, including Thar coal gasification for electricity generation and hydro-power projects. He expressed his confidence that the Pak-China Joint Energy Working Group, the first meeting of which was held recently, would find new ways to make and implement long-term plans for conventional, renewable and nuclear energy cooperation between the two countries. The President in this respect also proposed setting up of an umbrella corporation under energy cooperation mechanism called 'Pakistan China Power Corporation'. The corporation would include specialists and entities from all fields – conventional and alternate. The President noted with satisfaction the increase in bilateral trade volume by \$ 2 billion to \$ 8.7 billion, which depicted the overall growth of 28 per cent and added that since the current trade did not commensurate with the close and strategic ties there was a need to take steps to meet the target of \$ 15 billion in the next three to four years and achieve even more. President Zardari during the meeting also reiterated Pakistan's full support to China's core issues, including its position on Taiwan and Tibet.

All Day

Fast work likely on Balochistan communication projects -- THE NATION

Fast work likely on Balochistan communication projects

Published: September 04, 2011

ISLAMABAD - In order to complete the delayed road projects of comparatively deprived province, the government is likely to speed up work on Balochistan's communication projects soon.

In this prioritising policy, work on Gwadar Link Road and other delayed projects would be sped up, as some of the projects could not be completed in stipulated time due to certain reasons, sources in Communication Ministry told TheNation. They said over 40 per cent was still remaining on Sorab-Basima-Naag-Panjgur-Hoshab (454-km) Road even after passage of three years, as this project was considered to be one of the important projects of this province.

Another important project - the Gwadar Port road - is yet to be completed. The delayed payment and various other factors remained the reasons behind its delay. Work on this project would be carried out on priority basis, said the sources.

Other projects including (N-25) Widening of Kalat-Quetta-Chaman, Kalat-Quetta(60 km), Quetta-Chaman(57 Km), Lakpass Tunnel (180M), Musli Bagh-Qila Saifulla (50km), Ormara-Pasni section and others are still not completed even after passage of their completion dates. Work on these projects would be started with pace to complete them as early as possible, said the sources.

It is relevant to mention here that a couple of weeks back, the Federal Minister for Finance Dr Abdul Hafeez Sheikh had held a meeting discussing the progress of different sections of Gwadar Link Road to Rattodaro and other projects.

Considering the importance of these projects, the meeting decided a mechanism to prioritize comparatively deprived province Balochistan extra ordinary delayed projects for early completion.

Abdul Hafeez Sheikh had said that Gwadar Port Project was vital for the uplifting desert areas and coastal lines of Balochistan.

It is relevant to mention here that M-8 (GWADAR-TURBAT-HOSHAB (193-km) that has 75 per cent completed and there were much chances to complete it by December 2012 on its completion date. Likewise, work on N-85 (Hosbad-Panjgur-Naag-Basima-Sorab) (454 KM) is underway and its completion date is in June 2014.

All Day

Pak-China discuss PoK-Xinjiang rail line -- APP

China have started discussion on building a cross-border railway linking northern areas of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir [Images] with Kashgar, an old Chinese Silk road town in the restive northwestern Xinjiang province.

Masood Khan, Pakistan's Ambassador to China, said that a feasibility study of the railway had been conducted but there was still no time-table for starting the construction.

"By using this option, you can shorten China's trading routes from the Gulf to Shanghai by about 5,000 miles. It is very short," Pakistan state-run APP news agency quoted Khan as telling the Chinese media.

He said talks about a cross border pipeline that can carry oil and gas to China via inland Eurasia have also begun.

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari [Images], who concluded his three day visit to the troubled Chinese province last week, said the region plays a strategic role in firming up the relationship between China and Pakistan.

China has blamed militants of the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) trained in Pakistan based terror camps for creating unrest in Muslim Uygur majority in Xinjiang.

Pakistan's Information Minister Firdous Ashiq Awan, who is in Beijing [Images] on an official visit, underlined the need to change strategy to counter ETIM militants.

"They (terrorists outfits) keep on changing their strategies and actions. So we must work in close collaboration and also change our actions, and that can only be done through close coordination and mutual understanding," Awan told the Chinese media.

With better coordinated efforts, we can curtail terrorism, she said, condemning the recent attacks by the banned ETIM militants in Kashgar, close to PoK. China is already helping Pakistan and has always supported its efforts to eliminate the menace, she was quoted as saying by APP.

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All Day

Pak-China discuss rail line to connect PoK with Xinjiang -- THE ASIAN AGE

Pak-China discuss rail line to connect PoK with Xinjiang

Sep 04, 2011 | Beijing | PTI.Tags: Pak-China tiesPoKPoK-Xinjiang rail

Share ..Pakistan and China have started discussion on building a cross-border railway linking northern areas of Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK) with Kashgar, an old Chinese Silk road town in the restive northwestern Xinjiang province.

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Related Articles.Army chopper lands in PoK, crew in 'military custody'

China has blamed militants of the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) trained in Pakistan based terror camps for creating unrest in Muslim Uygur majority in Xinjiang. Pakistan's Information Minister Firdous Ashiq Awan, who is here on an official visit, underlined the need to change strategy to counter ETIM militants.

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Pakistan Information Minister underlined that Pakistan is committed to fight terrorism and has always supported steps to ensure peace and stability in the region.

Awan said China and Pakistan are working in close coordination for peace in the region and both the countries have mechanism in place for intelligence sharing to stamp out scourge of terrorism and extremism. Awan said APP was planning to formulate specific segment of news sharing in Chinese language.

She said Pakistan was in 'talks to give landing rights' to Chinese state-run TV channel CCTV as given to international electronic media outlets. The minister said that we are also examining how the Chinese language programmes in Pakistan vis-

a-vis Pakistani programmes, including drama, documentaries, arts and culture and youth programmes can be telecast in each other countries.

"We want deep interaction between Radio Pakistan and China Radio International (CRI)," she noted.

"Most importantly, we are seeking the help of Chinese government in establishing Media University where we can impart trainings to media professionals in various fields as this would help better orientations for them," Awan said.

All Day

An important four-power summit concluded in Tajikistan on September 2 where Pakistan, Tajikistan, Russia and Afghanistan -- THE NEWS
An important four-power summit concluded in Tajikistan on September 2 where Pakistan, Tajikistan, Russia and Afghanistan agreed to work closely to combat terrorism, drug trafficking and organised crime, and stressed the importance of linking their countries through modern highways and railroads. Significantly, Russia lamented the lack of progress in Pakistan-Afghanistan energy projects that could help bring stability to the volatile region. "There's a whole range of projects that have been on the table for a long time which have seen no movement forward and which should be implemented," the Russian president said, referring to the transnational gas pipeline and the CASA-1000 through which power will be sent from Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Indeed, like previous years, this year too there was talk of Central Asian electricity, and like previous years, the transport infrastructure needed to be able to achieve this continues to be missing. Given that Pakistan has been consistently looking to Tajikistan to strengthen its national power grid and Tajikistan has been eyeing Gwadar for an outlet to the sea through Pakistan, it is important to correct this infrastructure deficit and aim for the early establishment of air, road and rail links from Central Asia to Pakistan. In this regard, the road link from Dushanbe to Chitral in Pakistan and through Iskatul Gulkhana in Afghanistan is a welcome idea. It will also link the ports in Gwadar and Karachi to Dushanbe and onwards to Russia.

In Tajikistan, the leaders also stressed cooperation to fight and eradicate terrorism and extremism. Most important in this regard was the Russian and Pakistani suggestion that the Nato-led coalition in Afghanistan step up training of local security forces as it completes its phased withdrawal so that the new Afghan force is able to independently provide for the defence capabilities of the state, and combat extremist groups and drug traffickers. Russia is most keen to demonstrate it is playing a constructive role in improving security in a region where it has had a major influence historically and where it now wants to expand its footprint, especially as relations between Islamabad and Washington plummet. The thrust of the Tajikistan summit, as of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, is to replace terrorism with trade as the mode of communication between states. Indeed, if Pakistan wants to become a player in the Central Asian region, it is essential to establish trade and trade routes and stand firmly against the export of extremism from non-state actors. For decades, Pakistan has been quietly supplying the food markets of Central Asia through smuggling. The Pakistani potential for growing food crops can only be realised if it becomes a permanent source of supply to the region through secure and formal trade routes.

All Day

Zardari, Li Keqiang agree to bolster Pak-China strategic Ties -- 'Pakistan Times' Foreign Desk

URUMQI (China): President Asif Ali Zardari and Chinese Executive Vice Premier Li Keqiang on Wednesday agreed to further bolster the existing close and multi-faceted strategic ties between the two countries through enhanced cooperation in diverse fields, with particular focus on trade, energy, communication, infrastructure development and agriculture sectors.

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The President was assisted by Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar, Commerce Minister Makhdoom Amin Fahim, Defence Minister Ch Ahmed Mukhtar, Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Dr. Asim Hussain, Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah, Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhary Abdul Majeed, Chairman of Board of Investment Salim H. Mandviwala, President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Senator Haji Ghulam Ali, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Masood Khan and Spokesperson Farhatullah Babar.

Babar told mediapersons that the Chinese Executive Vice Premier appreciated President Zardari's gesture of bringing with him the Chief Minister of Gilgit Baltistan and welcomed him to the meeting.

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The President appreciated Ambassador Masood Khan for his role in further strengthening the Pak-China ties and described him as Pakistan's most important ambassador in the world. President Zardari said that Pakistan greatly valued China's economic support and assistance and wanted to enhance economic and trade links, with an ultimate goal of closer economic integration. He stressed the need for closer Pak-China collaboration in agriculture, irrigation, energy, infrastructure development and railways etc.

The President sought Chinese investment in Pakistan's water and energy related mega projects, including Thar coal gasification for electricity generation and hydro-power projects. He expressed his confidence that the Pak-China Joint Energy Working Group, the first meeting of which was held recently, would find new ways to make and implement long-term plans for conventional, renewable and nuclear energy cooperation between the two countries. The President in this respect also proposed setting up of an umbrella corporation under energy cooperation mechanism called 'Pakistan China Power Corporation'. The corporation would include specialists and entities from all fields - conventional and alternate.

The President noted with satisfaction the increase in bilateral trade volume by \$ 2 billion to \$ 8.7 billion, which depicted the overall growth of 28 per cent and added that since the current trade did not commensurate with the close and strategic ties there was a need to take steps to meet the target of \$ 15 billion in the next three to four years and achieve even more. President Zardari during the meeting also reiterated Pakistan's full support to China's core issues, including its position on Taiwan and Tibet. Pakistan is firmly opposed to any attempts to undermine China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, he added.

The President expressed his confidence that the government and the patriotic people of China would succeed in frustrating designs of the evil forces of terrorism, extremism and any attempt to undermine territorial integrity. He said that Pakistan was committed to fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The President expressed his satisfaction over the growing Pak-China strategic and defence cooperation. He also appreciated the Chinese help in launching PAK-SAT 1R satellite on Aug 12 this year and termed it another milestone in Pak-China relations.

He said that the two sides needed to expand existing maritime cooperation into a more comprehensive strategic maritime partnership. Pakistan would welcome Chinese investment in trans-regional cooperation projects, involving economic project cooperation between Pakistan, Afghanistan and China, he added. Welcoming the opening of ICBC's branches in Pakistan, the President said, "we would welcome further Chinese investment in our banking sector." He hoped that the People's Bank of China would speed up conclusion of a currency swap agreement. He also lauded China for its substantial, timely and targeted assistance for the recovery of flood victims as well as help and support to overcome Attabad lake problem in Gilgit-Baltistan.

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contacts, he added. The President also sought Chinese investment in the proposed new city of Zulfikarabad in Sindh.

Apprising the Chinese Vice Premier about Pakistan's plan to float infrastructure bonds backed by the natural resources in oil and gas, he invited the Chinese investment in the Infrastructure Bonds. The President also apprised the Chinese Executive Vice Premier about the challenges facing Pakistan and appreciated China's support for Pakistan's stability and social development in the challenging times. He also appreciated China's principled stand in support of Pakistan in the aftermath of killing of Osama Bin Laden and for standing by it at every critical juncture. Pakistan will continue to seek guidance and assistance in the common pursuit of rooting out terrorism from the region, he added.

The President thanked China for its continued support for Pakistan's stability and sovereignty as well as for standing by it at every international forum. About Pak-India relations, the President said Pakistan wished to have good neighbourly relations with India and was committed to a constructive, sustained and result-oriented engagement. He said Pakistan and India had taken some positive steps in this respect and hoped that the peace process would gain momentum in the days to come. Pakistan would like to continue to work with India to resolve all outstanding issues peacefully and in a just manner, he added.

Discussing the situation in Afghanistan, President Zardari said that stability and peace in Afghanistan was critical for peace in the region. He added that Pakistan was supportive of an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process of reconciliation. The President also welcomed the Chinese development projects in Afghanistan and said that the economic development of Afghanistan was vital for its political stability and peace. About militancy, the President said, "although militants were created by the international community as a war weapon to fight a rival ideology, it is now our responsibility to deal with them." "It is a long-drawn battle and we are fully capable and poised to fight this menace", he said and highlighted the importance of international unity as well as support to Pakistan.

All Day

A ship MV Hyderabad carrying 35,000 metric tons (MT) of urea has arrived and berthed at Gwadar Port -- DAWN

KARACHI: A ship MV Hyderabad carrying 35,000 metric tons (MT) of urea has arrived and berthed at Gwadar Port on Monday, said a Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) official.

He said two more vessels MV Siam Topaz and MV Warnow Merker, each carrying 25,000 MT urea are scheduled to arrive at Gwadar Port on Wednesday and Thursday respectively.

The shipment arrived via MV Hyderabad comprises urea imported from M/s Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) under the Saudi Fund for Development.

This shipment is in addition to the 50,000 MT urea, already supplied by them in July this year, under the same arrangements, said the official.

The urea being carried by MV Siam Topaz and MV Warnow Merker is in accordance to TCP's second tender awarded to M/s Transammonia AG Switzerland and M/s Key Trade Ag. Switzerland.

The TCP official said M/s National Fertilizer Marketing Limited (NFML) will transport the imported urea from the port to subsequent sales points established for the farmers.

All Day

Gilani arrives in Astana on two-day visit -- APP

Gilani arrives in Astana on two-day visit

ASTANA (Kazakhstan), Sept 6 (APP): Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani arrived here Tuesday on a two-day official visit to hold talks with the Kazakh leadership on diverse issues particularly trade and energy. The Prime Minister was received at the Astana International Airport by Kairat Sarybai, Deputy Foreign Minister and Co-chairman of Pak-Kazakh Commission Pakistan's Ambassador to Kazakhstan Muhammad Akhtar Tufail and Kazakh Ambassador in Pakistan Bakhitbek Shabarbaev were also present. The Prime Minister was given a salute by a smartly turned out contingent of Kazakh armed forces as he alighted from his aircraft.

Two youngsters clad in traditional outfits presented bouquets to the visiting dignitary. The Prime Minister's entourage included Governor of Punjab Latif Khosa, Minister for Production Anwar Ali Cheema, member of the National Assembly Qamar Zaman Kaira, Senator Ghulam Ali and Faisal Ahmad, a businessman. Prime Minister Gilani is visiting Kazakhstan for the first time on the invitation of his counterpart Karim Massimov.

This is also the first bilateral visit by a Pakistani leader to Kazakhstan after Prime Minister Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto visited this Central Asian state in 1995.

Ambassador Akhtar Tufail told APP that the Prime Minister's visit was significant in resuming relations with Kazakhstan after 16 years on bilateral basis. However, the two countries have been supporting each other at international fora, including SCO and OIC (Organization of Islamic Countries), he said.

He said the talks between Pakistani and Kazakh leadership would focus on trade, energy, science and technology, terrorism and intelligence sharing. He said the two sides would also discuss the importance of regional stability with specific reference to Afghan peace.

He mentioned the recent interest shown by Kazakh government to join the TAPI - the proposed gas line between Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

He said that the landlocked Kazakhstan was also interested in exploring the potential of Gwadar seaport, that offered it the shortest route to the Arabian Sea. Ambassador Tufail said that the Prime Minister's visit was part of Pakistan's policy of regional outreach and strengthening relations with all its important neighbours, including the Central Asian states.

He said that the Prime Minister would also witness the signing of an agreement between Pakistan and Kazakhstan's chambers of commerce and industries.

During his stay, Prime Minister Gilani will hold talks with his Kazakh counterpart Karim Massimov and President Nursultan Nazarbayev to seek potential in areas of trade and commerce.

Pakistan wants to expand relations with the Central Asian state, which is rich in natural resources.

Gilani will also hold a joint interaction with media along with Prime Minister Massimov besides giving interviews to the leading Kazakh dailies.

The Prime Minister will visit the Monument of the Motherland Defenders and will also lay a wreath at the Eternal Flame.

Earlier, President Asif Ali Zardari visited Kazakhstan this June to attend the summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

All Day

TCP-imported urea arrives at Gwadar Port -- THE NEWS

TCP-imported urea arrives at Gwadar Port

Staff Report

KARACHI: Ship MV Hyderabad carrying 35,000 metric tonnes of imported urea has arrived and berthed at Gwadar Port Monday.

The discharge of the cargo has also commenced while two more vessels MV Siam Topaz and MV Warnow Merker, each carrying 25,000 MT urea are scheduled to arrive at Gwadar Port on September 7 and 8, 2011 respectively.

The shipment arrived by MV Hyderabad relates to the urea imported from Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) under the Saudi Fund for Development, in addition to 50,000 MT urea, already supplied by them during July 2011 under the same arrangements.

The urea carrying by MV Siam Topaz and MV Warnow Merker is in response to Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) second import tender awarded to Transammonia AG, Switzerland and Key Trade Ag, Switzerland.

National Fertilizer Marketing Limited (NFML) will be transporting the imported urea from the Port for subsequent sale to the farmers.

All Day

China to give \$4.7 mn emergency aid to Pakistan -- APP

China to give \$4.7 mn emergency aid to Pakistan

Aid of 30 million yuan (around \$4.7 million) to help the flood-affected people in the country's south, the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan said Sunday.

Liu Jian called on Pakistani Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar Sunday to express the sympathy and solidarity of the Chinese people with Pakistan, Xinhua reported.

Diplomats and staff at the Chinese embassy in Islamabad recently voluntarily donated Rs.600,000 (about \$6,860) for people affected by the floods.

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi has also sent a message to his Pakistani counterpart expressing condolences for the victims and sympathy for the affected people.

Pakistan Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has said at least 141 people have died and four million have been left homeless in the floods that hit the southern regions of the country.

All Day

Pakistani PM Gillani in Tehran Political Desk -- APP

Pakistani PM Gillani in Tehran Political Desk

Iranian Interior Minister Mostafa Mohammad-Najjar received Pakistani Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani on Sunday in Tehran. (IRNA photo)
TEHRAN – Pakistani Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, accompanied with Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar, arrived in Tehran on Sunday to hold talks with the Iranian leadership to enhance bilateral cooperation in diverse fields especially economy and trade.

The Pakistani prime minister was received at the airport by Iranian Interior Minister Mostafa Mohammad-Najjar and officials from Pakistan's embassy in Tehran.

According to Pakistan's embassy officials, Gillani and his delegation was given a red carpet welcome at the airport.

The Pakistani prime minister also has in its delegation minister for professional and technical training, Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Federal Minister Mir Israr Ullah Khan Zehri, and Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam.

Since Gillani took office in March 2008, this is his first visit to Iran.

The prime minister will call on the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and First Vice-President Mohammad Reza Rahimi as well as meet Speaker of the Majlis Ali Larijani.

The two sides will discuss the entire gamut of Pakistan-Iran bilateral relations including the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project, opening of a new border post, and construction of an oil pipeline between the two countries and an oil refinery at Gwadar as well as regional and international issues.

The two sides will also focus on areas of security, industry, banking, trade, agriculture, oil and gas, transportation, communication, information and broadcasting, culture, science and education.

The Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline is being built between Asaloooyeh in southern Iran and Iranshahr near the border with Pakistan to carry gas from Iran's South Pars field to Punjab and Sindh provinces of Pakistan.

Iran is expected to begin supplying gas to Pakistan by middle of 2014 with daily sales of 750 million cubic feet reaching one billion cubic feet per day by mid 2015.

This week, the two neighbors signed an Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement covering a vast range of bilateral commercial activities, the Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

The agreement was signed at the conclusion of the 18th session of their Joint Economic Commission (JEC) held in Islamabad on September 7-8.

At JEC session, they also signed two memorandums of understanding for setting up of a jointly owned Pakistan-Iran Investment Company and on cooperation between Pakistan Television Corporation and Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting.

The two countries have formed joint working groups to facilitate cooperation in agriculture and energy sector with Iran offering to sell 1100 megawatts of electricity to Pakistan, which is facing energy shortages.

Prime Minister Gilani in his talks with the Iranian leadership will fine tune the projects discussed at the Joint Economic Commission meetings.

Pakistan hopes to expand volume of trade with Iran from the current \$1 billion to \$5 billion within the next three years.

Both countries will look into impediments obstructing full implementation of Pakistan-Iran Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) concluded in 2004. Already both sides have given bilateral trade concessions under PTA on more than 600 items.

Pakistan has proposed a bilateral Free Trade Agreement besides measures for economic integration and reduction in business transaction costs. Iran has expressed its keenness for opening of bank branches in each other's countries and negotiations are continuing on these issues.

Tehran has given its nod to review all tariff and non-tariff barriers on exports of Pakistan to Iran.

Both countries also plan to sign a memorandum of understanding to stop money laundering with cooperation between their Financial Intelligence Units.

The two countries are also considering building of Quetta-Taftan railway track, establishment of border markets and linking through optic fiber to boost commercial activities.

All Day

True friends: China first country to offer flood aid -- By PPI

True friends: China first country to offer flood aid

By PPI

Published: September 11, 2011

Chinese Government to dispatch relief goods worth 30 million RMB (US \$4.7million) for Pakistan flood affectees. PHOTO: REUTERS

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese Ambassador, HE Liu Jian called on Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar Sunday to convey the decision of the Chinese Government to dispatch relief goods worth 30 million RMB (US \$4.7million) for the flood affectees.

He also conveyed sympathies of the Chinese Government regarding the devastation caused by the widespread monsoon rains.

The Foreign Minister thanked the Ambassador for the prompt response to the appeal for relief assistance.

She stated that as true friend of Pakistan, China was the first country to announce assistance for flood affected people in 2011.

The Foreign Minister underlined the magnitude of devastation caused by the floods. She apprised the Ambassador that the priority at this stage of relief and rescue was waterproof tents.

In the aftermath of the 2010 floods, China was one of the major international aid donors to Pakistan, providing over \$200 million in emergency flood aid.

While the Pakistan government has called for foreign aid to help with the devastating floods, PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif has spoken against foreign aid, saying that government resources were adequate and there was no need for seeking help from foreign countries.

Current flooding has reportedly taken 199 lives and destroyed or damaged nearly one million houses, and flooded 4.2 million acres of land.

All Day

China hands over US\$ 50,000 cheque to NDMA for flood -- PAKISTAN TODAY

ISLAMABAD - To assist Pakistan in relieving flood affectees, the Ambassador China to Pakistan Liu Jieng presented a cheque of US\$ 50,000 to the Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Dr. Zafar Qadir.

The Chinese ambassador also promised to extend further aid of US\$ 4.7 Million for the flood ravaged areas. China will also provide tents for the flood affectees, he added.

On this occasion Qadir said that this aid contribution from China will go a long way in strengthening the long standing bilateral ties between the neighborly countries. The recent floods have disrupted life and destroyed vital infrastructure in Sindh. The health, education and communication infrastructure has sustained substantial damage. A considerable part of land including cropped land has been inundated which has caused damage to 80% of cash crops. The fiscal scale of flood incurred damages range into Billions.

All Day

Senator Talha discusses Pak, China trade cooperation with Kashgar leadership -- BUSINESS RECORDER

Commissioner Cheng Zhen Shan and Akbar Ghafoor Deputy Commissioner of Kashgar Prefecture called on Senator Talha Mehmood and his delegation at the Kashgar Hotel Monday.

During the meeting Senator Talha said "Pakistan is passing through a difficult time, but we are confident that we will overcome our problems".

Senator Talha is leading a parliamentary delegation comprising of representatives from various political parties including JUI (F), PPP, ANP and United Party.

The delegation comprised of Naeem Hussain Chattha (Senator, PML-Q), Haji Muhammad Adeel (Senator, ANP), Abdul Haque alias Mian Mitha (MNA, PPP), Syed Ghulam Shah Bokhari (United Party) and Asim Kakakhel (JUI-F).

The parliamentary delegation has been invited to China by CPPCC and after visiting Beijing, the delegation is on visit to Kashgar followed by Urumqi in their ten-day stay.

Their visit is part of the 60th anniversary celebrations of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. The governments of Pakistan and China have declared 2011 as the Year of Friendship.

He assured that his Committee is taking special measures to ensure the security of the Chinese working in Pakistan.

He pointed out that the President of the Federation of Commerce is from his party and he will ask him to send a delegation of leading businessmen to explore investment opportunities in Kashgar Special Economic Zone.

Yesterday the delegation visited Kashgar Special Economic Zone and were briefed about the plans for the SEZ.

In the afternoon the delegation had a luncheon meeting with Pakistani businessmen in Kashgar.

Upon reaching Urumqi on Monday Night, the delegation would visit Xinjiang Medical university and interact with Pakistani students.

Later the delegation would meet Governor Nur Bekri and Aisihati Kelimubai, Chairman CPPCC of Xinjiang. Followed by a banquet hosted by the Chairman.

All Day

Central Asia and trade expansion -- APP

Central Asia and trade expansion

The project to import energy and gas from the central Asian republics is in the pipeline and is a very important development for economic expansion of trade and bilateral relations. The recent visits of the top leaderships to the central Asian republics are significant in the context of expansion of Pakistan's trade in the future. With regard to this region, two great discoveries were made in the nineteenth and the twentieth centuries. This is the period when socio-economic and other history of the world was being compiled and written. One was the finding of the origins of the Gandhara heritage and the other was the discovery of the Indus valley or the Harappa civilisation. It gave a great perspective to the diversity of a cultural richness and economic history of development of a mercantile community in the region.

The trade routes through the north and north-west of the country have always been significant part of economic development of this region. From the days of the rise of the Indus valley civilisation to this day, these routes have been the conduit of trading in a vast variety of goods. Chronicles available from the times of Alexander's visit to Taxila and other parts of this region speak of thriving and prospering trading towns. As Buddhism spread to the Ghandara area, the monasteries had become the trading centres of repute. The coming of Buddhism had resulted in bringing great social and revolutionary reforms. In socio-political and economic terms, it produced thinking somewhat equivalent to liberal democratic thought today. It brought significant developments in social equality and harmony, thus challenging the orthodoxy that resisted any change. Buddha chose the popular language Magadhi for his teachings, instead of the classical language of the day which was not understood by the ordinary folks. From fifth to the seventh century, travelogues of at least three important Chinese visitors to these regions speak volumes of the potential these present day opportunities have in store for developing these trade openings.

A very timely and recent opening of an exhibition in New York on the Gandhara heritage of Pakistan, with artifacts borrowed from the Lahore and Karachi museums, speaks greatly of the rich history of the Pakistan area. This region has been home to not only one of the three significant and ancient civilisations but has been a repository of many later developments in different eras, spreading through the two millenniums to this day, that thrived in trade, commerce, art and architecture. Alexander entered South Asia through the Chitral region and visited Udayana, the present day valley of Swat, before crossing the Indus and heading south. The valley, along with other important towns of the Gandhara region, was home to many Buddhist monasteries that were also operating as centers of trade and commerce. The projection of an image of Pakistan as a country that can be genuinely portrayed as a country with a vast and important heritage of some of the great civilisations in world history, is sure to go a long way in helping to bring this country in the forefront of economic activity and trade.

The rail link from Pakistan to Europe has recently been completed and is sure to enhance trade through land to the Middle East and beyond. Along with the land routes, the building of railway passage through the northern routes is a sine qua non for the great expansion of trade through southern ports of Karachi and Gwadar. The Afghan-Pak trade is doing well but the great potential is to open access to the farther regions. We missed the opportunity back in the eighties when the developed countries had generously offered to upgrade the north-south road and rail links. The concerns of the world community are still the same and all help can be forthcoming if we can put up a transparent and efficient system to seriously implement the projects. The Motorway between Peshawar and Lahore/Faislabad needs to be extended all the way south down to the two important ports. Its natural access and expansion in to the central Asian region must be expedited through better diplomatic skills and projecting the rightful image of this country.

All Day

Minister reviews Chinese financing -- FRONTIER POST

Minister reviews Chinese financing

Posted on September 13, 2011

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Federal Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh has asked the concerned officials of Economic Affairs Division and Ministry of Commerce to prepare a full list of the memorandums of understanding (MOUs) so far signed with different countries and particularly with China. The list must contain the financial implications of these MOUs, their present stage and their magnitude after these projects are materialized. He also asked to include five-year game plan, its magnitude and to draw a clear picture indicating the feasibilities and bottlenecks in their way of materializing. This is he said while chairing the Pak China Portfolio Review Meeting. The minister also remarked that private to private sector business cooperation be also encouraged so that the people to people contact between the two countries may progress in trade and other socio economic fields. Currently China provides financing to Pakistan in form of grants, concessional loans, preferential buyer's credit and export/buyer's credit at different rates in which US\$ 1748 Million and RMB 270 million has already been provided to Pakistan on different portfolios in the recent past. The meeting at length discussed the projects namely "KKH Improvement projects" "KKH re-alignment Project" "\$ 200 million grant for flood affected areas" "Neelum Jhelum Hydropower project" "Construction of Small and Medium size dams" and "RMB 200 million grant to Ministry of Science and Technology" and negotiations with China Exim Bank with concerned federal ministries/ departments. for the completion of these projects It may be added that the Economic affairs division had a detailed meeting on 25/08/2011 with ministry of science and technology in which two weeks time was sought for the determination of the status of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) projects after the devolution process.

All Day

Pak takes part in Int'l Investment, Trade Fair, Arab Economic Forum in North West China -- APP

Pak takes part in Int'l Investment, Trade Fair, Arab Economic Forum in North West China

Date : 22-09-2011

YICHUAN, SEPT 21 (app): The opening ceremony of China (Ningxia) International Investment and Trade Fair and the Second China-Arab States Economic and Trade Forum kicked off in the Muslim dominated Ningxia Hu Autonomous Region's capital, Yinchuan here on Wednesday. The Chairman, CPPCC, Jia Qinglin was Chief Guest on the occasion. Pakistan has also established a pavilion at the fair which displays country's cultural heritage, food products and handicraft items. More than 76 countries and international organizations including 22 Arab countries are represented at the fair. During his speech, President of Mauritania, Muhammad Ould Abdel Aziz said that multilateral cooperation between China and Arab countries has grown from strength to strength with the passage of time.

He pointed out that China is the first choice for Arab investors.

The economies of China and Arab countries are highly complementary, he said adding that there is immense scope of sustainable mutual growth.

Later, in his keynote address at the Summit meeting of the second China-Arab States Economic and Trade Forum, Jia Qinglin said that China and Arab countries have a time-honored history of friendship dating back to two thousand years when the ancient Silk Road integrated the two regions together.

He said the friendly relations between the two have been deepening and broadening in the last few decades making their relations a good example of South-South cooperation.

"China and Arab countries are good brothers, partners and friends", Jia Qinglin remarked.

He mentioned that Arab countries are the 7th largest trading partner of China. He said Chinese investment in Arab countries has exceeded US\$ 15 billion while their investment in China is around US\$ 2.6 billion.

Ambassadors and officials from various countries were present on the occasion.

All Day

China sign agreements worth \$250 mn -- APP

China sign agreements worth \$250 mn

Pakistan and China have signed a number of agreements worth about \$250 million.

The agreements were in economic and technical cooperation, relief goods, emergency humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation of some damaged parts of the national highways networks, reported Associated Press of Pakistan.

The agreements were signed at a special ceremony here that was witnessed by President Asif Ali Zardari.

Agreements signed involved about \$ 250 million of Chinese assistance.

The signing took place Monday, a day when Chinese Vice Premier Meng Jianzhu arrived here on a two-day official visit to hold talks with the Pakistani leadership.

The visit by the Chinese leader, who holds charge of the public security portfolio, comes at a time of intense strain between Islamabad and Washington with the US pressurising Pakistan to launch an offensive against suspected militant elements in North Waziristan tribal agency.

US officials have accused Pakistan and its intelligence agency of supporting Taliban's Haqqani network. Pakistan has denied the accusations.

Zardari thanked China for its support to Pakistan on all issues of major concern to the country and its people.

He said that Pakistan was at present passing through a critical phase as it was battling terrorism as well as trying to reconstruct infrastructure that was damaged in floods.

All Day

China is best to handle Gwadar, says Brig Mir -- THE NATION

China is best to handle Gwadar, says Brig Mir

LAHORE - Pakistan can earn up to \$60 billion a year by properly using the Gwadar Port, a former military official says. Brig Nadir Mir said in an interview to Family magazine that former president Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz had taken a very wrong decision by signing an agreement with Singapore for the control of Gwadar Port. The step, he alleged, had been taken to please the US and India.

In his opinion China was the best country to handle the port.

Brig Mir said up to \$3 billion could be earned only by exporting fish from this port.

This was a better option than seeking assistance from the US, he emphasized. He proposed that the people of Balochistan should be made shareholders in the Gwadar Port. Also, he said, the reservations about settlement of people from other areas should be addressed. The non-locals should not have the right to vote for 20 years.

The brigadier said the construction of a defence base at Gwadar would bolster Pakistan's defence. Answering a question, Brig Mir said there was no secessionist movement in Balochistan till the assassination of Nawab Akbar Bugti. However, he said the tragedy provided the enemies of Pakistan an opportunity to start disturbances there.

All Day

Information ministry seeking control of Pak-China Friendship Centre -- APP

Information ministry seeking control of Pak-China Friendship Centre
GIFT: 2.5b rupees is the cost of the Pak China Friendship Centre which was sponsored by the Chinese government.

ISLAMABAD:

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is making efforts to take control of Pakistan-China Friendship Centre, presently under the supervision of Capital Development of Authority (CDA), it has been learnt.

"There is no logic in giving a cultural centre to a civic body," said a senior official of the information ministry. He said that cultural activities do not fall under the purview of CDA, which serves to provide civic facilities to residents of Islamabad.

He said that the centre could be used generate revenues to fund the various cultural activities conducted by the information ministry.

The official said that the information minister will soon write to the prime minister to bring the Pak-China Friendship Centre under supervision of the information ministry, as an allied department of Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

Sources said that some senior officials of CDA are reluctant to give up control of the centre, which includes a fully equipped auditorium with 800 seats, an exhibition centre, a conference room for 250 people and a multipurpose hall.

In the last meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting, Information Minister Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan also expressed her reservation over giving cultural departments to different ministries. She said that since PNCA has been given to the information ministry then the Pak-China Friendship Centre should also be given to the same ministry as it is a cultural centre and has nothing to do with CDA.

The Pak-China Friendship Centre, inaugurated early this year, was a gift from the Chinese government. The Rs2.5 billion project took two years to complete and was left under the control of the Ministry of Culture.

However, after the devolution of the ministry under the 18th Amendment, the centre was handed over to CDA, Islamabad's civic body, while other cultural department including Lok Virsa and PNCA were given to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Published in The Express Tribune, October 4th, 2011.

All Day

BUSINESS PERISCOPE: Urea ship arrives, one more to come: TCP -- Dawn

BUSINESS PERISCOPE: Urea ship arrives, one more to come: TCP

KARACHI: A ship carrying 27,420 metric tonnes of urea imported by Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) has berthed at Gwadar Port Wednesday and began discharge of cargo. According to TCP Thursday, one more vessel carrying 52,066 MT urea is scheduled to arrive at Gwadar Port on October 10. Both the shipments are in response to TCP's tender awarded to Transammonia AG, Switzerland. In pursuance of decisions of the ECC of the Cabinet, a total of 610,000 MT urea has been imported by the TCP during the current year to meet the domestic demand. National Fertilizer Marketing Limited (NFML) was handling its subsequent marketing/sale. staff report

All Day

China to give \$5million aid in cash to Pakistan -- APP

China to give \$5million aid in cash to Pakistan

Published: October 7, 2011

Chinese Ambassador Liu Jain called upon Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar in Islamabad on Friday. China announced a further \$5 million in aid. PHOTO: APP
ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Liu Jian in meeting with Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar on Friday told her that the Chinese government would be providing \$5 million in cash to the flood-hit people in the country, Foreign Office said.

China has already donated \$4.7 million for the flood victims while supplying an additional 7000 tents recently, Foreign Office statement said.

Khar appreciated China's timely assistance and this bears testimony to the time-tested friendship enjoyed by the two countries.

China was the first to announce assistance for flood-hit Pakistanis days before President Asif Ali Zardari launched international appeal for aid.

All Day

MoU signing with Chinese chamber -- THE NEWS

MoU signing with Chinese chamber

LAHORE: The textile sector is upbeat on the prospects of trade enhancement and joint ventures after signing a memorandum of understanding with Shandong Chamber of Commerce as Shandong generates \$100 billion of Chinese textiles exports, accounting for 60 percent yarn and fabric consumed in China, an official said on Friday.

Pak-China Investment Company Limited (PCICL) after evaluating the high prospects of mutually beneficial trade in textile between Pakistan and China facilitated the signing of MoU between All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) and Shandong Chamber of Commerce, he said.

PCICL Managing Director Cao Wen Jiang said that the situation is similar to the conditions that prevail between the United States and Mexico.

The wages of Chinese basic textile workers are now three times the average wage of Rs8,000 drawn by Pakistani textile worker, he said.

You Wei Li, Deputy Chairman, Shandong Chamber of Commerce, said that the Shandong province is close to the South Korea and has a population of eight million with annual exports of \$200 billion.

More than 50 percent of the exports are of textiles, he said.

APTMA Punjab Chairman Ahsan Bashir said that China is gradually opting out of low value-added textiles, including yarn, which is the basic raw material for its textile industry.

The Chinese are looking for joint ventures in yarn production in Pakistan to ensure sustained supplies of this raw material to their industry, he said, adding that the free trade agreement (FTA) that China signed with Pakistan provides it huge advantage over its global competitors.

High textile delegations would frequently visit Shandong to accelerate trade and joint ventures in spinning fabric and apparel sectors, he said. Adil Butt, a leading apparel exporter, said that the Chinese have agreed to establish an apparel manufacturing unit in Pakistan in collaboration with local investors.

The unit would be run and managed by the Chinese that would reflect the Chinese style of operation and working, he said, adding that this venture would help bring positive change in work ethics of local apparel units.

APTMA Former Chairman Gohar Ejaz said that realising the acute power shortage in Pakistan, the Chinese have agreed to identify and set up coal-based power projects for the energy requirements of the textile clusters in Pakistan.

Since the market access for textile and clothing is of significant interest for the two countries, it was decided that Pakistan and China would enhance their endeavours and develop joint strategies to serve their mutual interests, he said. Pak-China Investment Company would facilitate financial support for joint ventures between the two countries. Pakistan's Finance Minister Dr Hafeez Shaikh is the chairman of the company.

All Day

Chinese Battery-Powered Bikes should be promoted: Butt -- ONLINE

Chinese Battery-Powered Bikes should be promoted: Butt
ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) on Saturday appreciated Chinese invention and technological advancement in manufacturing battery-powered bikes and urged for its promotion in Pakistan.

According to a press release, Chinese businessmen showed interest to support the private sector development by promoting economic co-operation between the business sectors of the two countries.

The Chinese delegates highlighted the incentives of these battery-powered bikes and said that these bikes were not only providing benefit to the people but would also help the Government in its efforts to cut oil import bill and stop further environmental degradation. They also hinted at the possibility of these batteries being replaced by Solar Recharge batteries in alternate models.

Speaking on the occasion, Yassar Sakhi Butt, President ICCI appreciated Chinese invention and technological advancement in manufacturing battery-powered bikes as these are promising extremely low-cost environment-friendly transportation.

He said that Pakistan is facing severe energy crisis and it was become difficult for a common man to bear transport expenditure, so the idea of battery-powered bikes would ease the transport burden on the common man, protecting the environment and relieving the oil import bill.

ICCI President said that we welcome Chinese support at all levels and at all times, needles to say that Chinese companies are already engaged in different fields such as defense, telecom, petroleum, but this cooperation should further goes in agriculture, tourism and renewable energy sectors.

Yassar Sakhi Butt said that the year 2011 was declared as 'Pak-China Friendship Year' and emphasized on the need for the exchange of business delegations by both sides.

All Day

Chinese may invest in Thar coal -- THE NEWS

Chinese may invest in Thar coal

BEIJING: Ambassador of Pakistan to China Masood Khan has said that he would contact the Chinese conglomerate King Hu Group to invest in coal mining and railway infrastructure in Pakistan.

Khan said the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing had arranged a visit of the company officials to Pakistan for initial study of investment in Thar Coal and Power Project.

He said that news were afloat that the company has backed out from a billion dollar deal.

It is not possible for a company to back out if it hasn't gone forward, Khan said. "King Hu group was in Pakistan for only an initial study."

More than five Chinese companies are working on the Thar coal project and they have no fear of security, the Pak envoy said. One of biggest coal mining company in china, China Coal is working on Thar coal project with Engro Pakistan and they are making huge investments in the area, Khan said.

China is also working in Pakistan on mega projects including the upgrading of dams, manufacturing plants and other infrastructure projects, Khan said.

All Day

Iranian, Azerbaijan ambassadors meet governor -- Dawn

Iranian, Azerbaijan ambassadors meet governor

Published: October 15, 2011

LAHORE - Ambassador of Azerbaijan in Pakistan DASHGIN SHIKAROV called on Governor Punjab Sardar Latif Khan Khosa at Governor House, here on Friday and discussed bilateral relations between two countries and matters of mutual interests. Governor said Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of Azerbaijan. He said Pakistan valued close brotherly relation with Azerbaijan, which were based on historical, cultural and religion commonalities. Governor thanked Azerbaijan Government's support and donation for the flood affected people of Pakistan.

Latif Khosa further said bilateral trade and economic cooperation could be greatly enhanced.

He was of the opinion that the bilateral trade volume, which currently stood at USD 11.55 million per annum was not commensurate with the potential the two countries had for the purpose.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Azerbaijan said the two countries had deep rooted relations and Azerbaijan would extend its cooperation and expertise in energy sector to help overcome energy crises in Pakistan.

Later, the outgoing Iranian Ambassador MASHALLAH SHAKARI also called on Governor who appreciated the efforts of the Ambassador to strengthen bilateral relations. Khosa said Pakistan would welcome Iranian assistance and help in re-habitation efforts and Irani Companies could participate in the construction of infrastructure projects in the flood affected areas.

Latif Khosa said both the countries need to expedite Gas Pipeline project, 1000 MW Taftan-Quetta Power Transmission Line and 100 MW Gwadar Supply Projects.

Governor said cooperation between two countries was growing and we would further foster and strengthen relations between the two brotherly countries.

The outgoing Iranian Ambassador Mashallah Shakri said Pak-Iran relations were based on mutual understanding. He said Iran and Pakistan had similar traditions, culture and both countries would further cement their ties.

All Day

Pak-Iran gas pipeline to bring industrial revolution: envoy Economic Desk -- (Source: agencies)

Mashallah Shakeri, Ambassador of Iran in Pakistan, said that Pak-Iran gas pipeline project would bring industrial revolution in Pakistan.

Addressing a meeting at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), on Friday, he said that after quitting India from gas pipeline project, despite severe pressure. Iran did not let Pakistan and kept engaged with Pakistan on gas pipeline project.

Mashallah Shakeri further added that till next month the gas pipeline would reach to Pakistani border and under this agreement Pakistan would get 16 cubic feet gas from Iran.

Pak-Iran gas pipeline would strengthen relations of both the countries while it will escalate opportunities of trade and investment, he maintained.

Moreover, dialogue is in progress under which Iran will provide 1,000 megawatt electricity to Pakistan while it would help Pakistan to cope with the ongoing energy crises of Pakistan, said the Ambassador.

Iran has signed an agreement with government of the Punjab to establish a slaughter house in Lahore, he said.

On the occasion, President of LCCI Irfan Qaiser Sheikh said that trade volume between Pakistan and Iran is \$ 1 billion which would reach till \$ 5 billion in 2015. He proposed for Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul train service which will increase trade opportunities.

The senior vice president of LCCI, the vice president, former presidents and members of Executive Committee, Iranian Consul General in Lahore and others

were also present on the occasion.

He said there was no doubt about it that both the sides consistently managed to maintain a bilateral trade over one billion dollar mark. However, this is far below the true trade potential exists in both the sides, he added.

"I strongly believe we have a potential to increase our bilateral trade to S\$5 billions by 2015. staff reported.

Iran, Pakistan should launch joint ventures in various sectors'
Iran and Pakistan should launch joint ventures in coal energy, dairy farming and other sectors, Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan Mashallah Shakeri said.

Speaking at Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry, he said Pakistani businessmen should avail Iranian expertise as both countries have great potential for enhancing economic cooperation among business communities. "Exchange of business delegations could pave way to explore areas of common interest.

Iran would provide technical and other assistance to Pakistan to overcome energy crisis."

Shakeri hoped industrial exchange program would help promote trade relations. Iran is willing to import rice, meat, fruits and many other items from Pakistan. Iran and Punjab government were going to set up slaughterhouses in Lahore.

He said Iran made tremendous progress in various sectors and there is vast scope of cooperation in energy sector. "We could also help Pakistan in producing electricity from water, coal, air and solar options." Both countries should enhance further cooperation in trade, industry, other sectors.

LCCI President Irfan Qaiser felt both countries have yet to realize their full potential. Pakistan and Iran have large domestic markets and unique geo-strategic competitive advantage. He gave proposals as to how both brotherly countries could enhance bilateral trade and two-way business.

He said Iran, Pakistan gas pipeline project, supply of electricity, offer to help Pakistan tackle its growing energy crisis and in starting of Islamabad, Tehran, Istanbul train service would go a long way. There is no doubt that both sides consistently managed to maintain bilateral trade over \$1 billion mark. However, this is far below true trade potential existing in both sides, he observed.

"I strongly believe we have potential to increase annual bilateral trade to \$5 billion by 2015.

Facilitating bilateral trade in local currencies can be instrumental in seriously improving two-way trade. China and Russia already started trade in their local currencies. Barter trade should also be actively facilitated since it can be highly efficient mode of buying and selling. It is high time that we also put in place such mechanisms," Irfan Qaiser added.

All Day

CDWP to take up 39 projects worth Rs 124.655 billion -- DAILY TIMES
CDWP to take up 39 projects worth Rs 124.655 billion

By Ijaz Kakakhel

ISLAMABAD: The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) of the Planning Commission (PC) is likely to take up recommend 39 projects costing Rs 124.655 billion with Rs 73.254 billion as foreign exchange component (FEC) in its next meeting scheduled for Oct 14.

PC Deputy Chairman Dr Nadeemul Haq will chair it. The meeting will take up national importance projects in different fields including agriculture and food, education, energy, governance, industry commerce, physical planning and housing, mass media and culture and sports, science and technology, higher education, transport and communication and water resources.

The CDWP will consider one projects on agriculture and food namely, 'Gwadar, Lasbela Livelihood Support Project IFAD Funding worth Rs 2.998 billion with Rs 2.550 billion as FEC, one scheme for education sector, namely 'Punjab School Libraries Project worth Rs 1.694 billion with Rs 392.534 million as FEC.

The meeting will consider five energy related projects with total cost of Rs 15.381 billion with Rs 11.899 billion as foreign exchange component (FEC). These projects are: 'Long Term Operation of Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (LTOK) Rs 868.197 million with Rs 447.159 million as FEC', 'PC-II for Joint Pre-project feasibility and design Study of a 1000 Megawatts (MW) Nuclear Power Plant for Karachi Rs 1.139 billion with Rs 1.036 billion as FEC', '26 MW Hydropower Project at Shagarthang, Skardu, revised and ADB funding Rs 4.843 billion with Rs 3.860 billion as FEC'. More energy related projects are: 'Replacement of Conventional Street Lights with Light Emitting DIODE (LED) Lights at Islamabad, ADB funding and CDA self financing Rs 6.524.450 billion with Rs 5.620.716 billion as FEC', 'Grid Stations further consists of three project with total cost of Rs 2.005 billion with Rs 934.590 million.

The CDWP will also consider a single project on governance, namely, 'Strengthening of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) System in Northern Areas, Gilgit Rs125.358 million with Rs 42 million as FEC. The Industry and Commerce sector has two projects with total cost of Rs1.250 billion with Rs 805 million as FEC. These projects are 'Establishment of Provincial Training Centre for Mine Workers and Emergency Response Training Quetta, with financial assistance of government of Australia with total cost of Rs 1.150 billion with Rs 805 million as FEC', 'Up-gradation of NFC Institute of Engineering and Technology (NFC IET) Facility Rs 100 million.

The meeting will consider six projects related to Physical Planning and Housing (PP&H) with total cost of Rs 17.374 billion with Rs 12.389 billion as FEC. These projects are 'Construction of Petroleum House, G-5 Islamabad with Rs 911.121 million', 'Post Flood Reconstruction of projects in P.H.E Sector FATA Rs 101.460 million', 'Up-gradation and development of Shrine Hazrat Bibi Pak Daman, Lahore Rs 270 million', 'Rehabilitation and improvement of drainage scheme, Larkana City Rs 944.945 million', 'Municipal Services Delivery Programme, Sindh (USAID Grant) Rs 6.668 billion with Rs 5.016 billion as FEC', and 'Municipal Services Delivery Programme (MSDP) Rs 8.479billion.

The high level meeting will also consider a single project of Mass Media, Culture and Sports, namely, 'Replacement of 10 KW MW with 100 KW MW Transmitter under US Aid Programme and shifting of existing Broadcasting House to new site (US Aid) Rs 389.291 million with Rs 291.300 million as FEC. The Science and Technology sector has also a single project, namely 'Establishment of Pakistan institute of Cost and Contract (PICC) Rs 117.749 million.

The Higher Education has six important projects with total cost of Rs 3.814 billion with Rs 1.258 billion as FEC. These projects are; 'Strengthening of Institute of

Business Administration (IBM) Karachi, revised Rs 399.780 million with Rs 132.410 million', 'Development of Malakand University, Chakdara, Dir Lower revised Rs 706.428 million with Rs 286.620 million as FEC', 'Strengthening and Upgrading of Peshawar Campus of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa University of Engineering and Technology, Peshawar (revised) Rs 650.218 million with Rs 166.793 million'. Other important projects of the higher education sector are 'Immediate Needs of the University of Science and Technology Bannu (Revised) Rs 704.767 million with Rs 71.223 million as FEC', 'Strengthening and Development of department of Civil Engineering, Software Engineering and Institute of Science and Technology including allied facilities and services, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro (revised) Rs 676.545 million with Rs 244.685 million as FEC', and 'Strengthening and Development of Department of Bio-Medical

Engineering Institute Environment Engineering and Management, Communal Facilities for Students and Staff including allied services, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro (revised) Rs 677.061 million with Rs 356.906 million as FEC'.

Transport and Communication sector consists of 11 national importance projects with total cost of Rs 78.014 billion with Rs 43.626 billion as FEC. These projects are 'construction of Bridge across River Indus Linking Jheekruk with Mulla Katiar Rs 5.883 billion', 'Hasanabdal-Havelian-Mansehra Expressway E-35 (110 km) ADB Rs 46.810 billion with Rs 41.618 billion as FEC', 'Construction of Interchange on National Highway N-5 at Aziz Chowk, Gujranwala Rs 2.348 billion', 'Improvement and widening of N-45 (141 km) section-1, Chakdara, Timargara, section-2, Akhagram-Dir section-3, Kalkatak-Chitral Rs 9.202 billion', 'Rehabilitation of Rolling Stock and Track in Connection with Bali out package Rs 4.656 billion with Rs 1.808 billion'.

More important projects of the transport and communication sector are 'Reconstruction and rehabilitation of road infrastructure damaged due to flood and heavy rain 2010 Rs 1.790 billion', 'Construction of Fish Landing Jetty and Allied Harbour Works at Surbundar (revised) Rs 1.113 billion', 'Construction of Fish Landing Jetty and Allied Harbour Works at Pishukan (revised) Rs 1.043 billion', 'Rehabilitation of Metalled Road from Jhal Magsi Nausherhra to Nuttai (N-65) length 115 km Rs 500million'. The construction and widening of Black topped roads in Balochistan at five different places with total cost of Rs 2.532 billion and Flood Schemes in 3 different parts of FATA with total cost of Rs 2.133 billion.

The Water Resources sector consists of total four projects with total cost of Rs 3.494 billion. These projects are 'Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of the Damaged Caused by 2010 Flood to Water Sector Infrastructures (flood, irrigation and drainage) Rs 781.495 million', 'Flood restoration works in Rahim Yar Khan Canal Circle Rs 1.219 billion' and 'rehabilitation and restoration of water management infrastructure, Office buildings and land development and Purchase and repair of Machinery in Flood Affected areas of Balochistan Rs 1.217 billion.

According to the rules, the CDWP can approve a project valuing up to Rs 1 billion and the projects costlier than it will be sent to Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for recommendations.

All Day

Govt releases Rs46.6bn under PSDP in July-SeptFrom the Newspaper | Business | By Kalbe Ali -- DAWN

Govt releases Rs46.6bn under PSDP in July-SeptFrom the Newspaper | Business | By Kalbe Ali

October 16, 2011 (3 weeks ago)The Pakistan Railways received Rs770.053 million for procurement/ manufacture of 530 high capacity wagons. - File photo
ISLAMABAD: Despite financial constraints the federal government has been making fund releases on regular basis for its vital water and power initiatives under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2011-12.

During the first quarter (July-September) of this fiscal year the government released

Rs46.6 billion, which forms 16 per cent of the Rs290 billion PSDP.

According to figures released by the Planning Commission (PC), the highest amount of Rs26.9 billion had been released for infrastructure projects, Rs19.4 billion for social sector development projects and Rs293 million for 'other projects category'.

However, the federal government had not released any amount for People's Works Programme-I and II, which have allocation of Rs5 billion and Rs28 billion, respectively, in 2011-12. The Planning Commission is currently managing 1,252 projects which have a total cost of Rs2.83 trillion, however the local allocations for this fiscal year amounts to Rs253.5 billion, whereas funding amounting to Rs36.5 billion would be provided from foreign aid.

Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission received Rs2.33 billion for Chashma Nuclear Power Project (C3 & C4) being constructed in collaboration with China. The total cost of these two new nuclear power projects is Rs189.91 billion.

PAEC also received Rs271 million for Chashma Nuclear Power Project CII, Mianwali, which has a total cost of Rs51.04 billion.

In the water and power sector, the Federal government released Rs3.6 billion for land acquisition to construct Diamer Basha Dam, the cost of land acquisition requires Rs60.05 billion, the Dam is expected to generate 4,500MW electricity after commissioning.

An amount of Rs3 billion had been released for raising of Mangla Dam including resettlement project during the July-September 2011-12. The total allocation for this project is Rs62.55 billion.

Mirani Dam project received Rs100 million, Sabakzai Dam Rs200 million, Satpara Multipurpose Dam Rs1 billion, Gomal Zam Dam project Rs250 million, Greater Thal Canal (Phase-I) Rs100 million Kachhi Canal (Phase-I) Rs750 million and Raineer Canal (Phase-I) Rs750 million.

The Lower Indus Right Bank Irrigation and Drainage project, Sindh received Rs500 million, Balochistan Effluent Disposal into RBOD. (RBOD-III) Rs500 million and Land and Water Monitoring/Evaluation of Indus Plains (SMO) Rs100 million.

Revamping/Rehabilitation of Irrigation & Drainage System of Sindh Rs180 million, Extension of Right Bank Outfall Drain from Sehwan to Sea, (RBODII), Dadu and Thatta District of Sindh Rs1.3 billion, Lining of Distributaries and Minors in Sindh Rs240 million, Construction of 100 Delay Action Dams, Balochistan Rs120 million, Construction of 20 small Dams in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rs100 million, Re-construction of Shadi Kour Dam, District Gwadar Rs100 million.

The Pakistan Railways received Rs770.053 million for procurement/ manufacture of 530 high capacity wagons. Track rehabilitation plan Rs100 million, doubling of track Khanewal-to-Raiwind Section (China) Rs415 million, Revival of Karachi Circular Railways Rs10 million, Procurement/ Manufacture of 202 New Design Passenger Carriages Rs100 million.

Out of the Rs8.2 billion block allocation for Azad Jammu and Kashmir government only Rs1.64 billion had been released during the first quarter of current fiscal year, for construction of Rathua Haryam Bridge across Reservoir Channel on Mirpur-Islamgarh Road Rs200 million.

October 17, 2011

Mon

All Day

**Pak-China civil nuclear cooperation meets international obligations:
Spokesman FM -- IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency).**

Pak-China civil nuclear cooperation meets international obligations: Spokesman FM
BEIJING, Oct 17 (APP): China Monday reiterated that the civil nuclear cooperation
with Pakistan fulfils international obligations. The spokesman for Chinese Foreign
Ministry Liu Weimin while responding to a question on China-Pakistan civil nuclear
cooperation for Cheshma nuclear power plant, said that such cooperation between
the countries is in line with international obligations. Liu said that "the civil nuclear
cooperation between China and Pakistan is for peaceful purposes". He further said
that the cooperation is also subject to supervision of the IAEA (International Atomic
Energy Agency).

All Day

China wishes Pakistan to be elected as non-permanent member of UNSC, Pak hails Beijing endorsement -- APP

China wishes Pakistan to be elected as non-permanent member of UNSC, Pak hails Beijing endorsement

BEIJING, OCT 19 (APP): China and Pakistan are all weather strategic partners to each and China wishes Pakistan to be elected as non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. China attaches great importance to Pakistan's wish to be elected said foreign ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu here Wednesday while responding to a question on China's support to Pakistan for the election for the coveted slot. She further said that we wish Pakistan to play a greater role in upholding international peace and security. Welcoming China's announcement, Ambassador Masood Khan said that we are grateful to China for its public support and endorsement of Pakistan's candidacy for the Non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council. This is a rare and precious gesture. We value and cherish it. This shows the depth of our relationship and mutual trust between the two countries, Ambassador Khan remarked.

We thank China for its good wishes towards Pakistan. Upon election, as strategic partner, in collaboration with China, we look forward to working towards regional and international peace and security, Khan noted.

The UN General Assembly is set to meet on Friday to elect five non-permanent members of the Security Council, as candidates for a seat on the world's body's power centre stepped up their campaign.

Those elected will serve from January 1, 2012, through the end of 2013.

The new elected members will replace Lebanon, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil, Gabon and Nigeria, whose terms end on December 31.

Pakistan, a six-term candidate for the Asian seat on the 15-member Council, faces a challenge from Kyrgyzstan, a Central Asian country, which is contesting the election for the first time.

The Asian seat is being vacated by Lebanon.

Pakistan's earlier terms on the Council were in 2003-04, 1993-94, 1983-84, 1976-77, 1968-69 and 1952-53.

The General Assembly, which is composed of 193 members, holds elections for non-permanent members by secret ballot.

All Day

Hatf-VII strengthens Pak defence -- Observer

Hatf-VII strengthens Pak defence

PAKISTAN successfully test fired the multi tube indigenously developed cruise missile Hatf-VII (Babur) having a range of 700 KM. The low flying, terrain-hugging missile with high manoeuvrability and stealth capabilities is a valuable addition which would certainly further strengthen the defence of the country.

Pakistan periodically test fires its missiles to validate and upgrade its missile system keeping in view its security needs and to counter the massive military build up in our neighbourhood. In view of limited resources and experience of the past, Pakistan cannot afford to depend on imported hi-tech equipment because in difficult times, sanctions are enforced and the country is left with no spare parts to keep its direly needed system functioning. At the same time India is on a massive arms buying spree by acquiring aircraft carrier, nuclear submarine and hi-tech aircraft in addition to indigenously developing a variety of nuclear capable missiles. Pakistan has been fast loosing the defence balance with India and it could seriously affect our security if urgent attention was not paid to it. The Naval Chief Admiral Mohammad Asif Sandila while speaking at the graduation ceremony of PAF at Risalpur was perfectly right in emphasising that indeed peace is dear but defence of Pakistan is the dearest and as the global atmosphere was rapidly changing, the Pakistan defence forces needed to advance according to new trends. In this situation, the country has to ensure its minimum deterrence capability, which is only possible if we try to stand on our own feet. Fortunately our scientists and engineers have proved that they can deliver if they were provided the required resources. It is encouraging that Pakistan Navy has placed orders with Karachi shipyard and engineering works for building a fast missile attack craft in collaboration with China. The project of missile carrier

craft will further bolster the strength of Pakistan navy and improve the defence capabilities of Pakistan. We are confident that the nuclear and missile deterrence, development and production of naval platforms and aircraft with the expertise of Pakistani scientists and engineers and the collaboration of China would help meet our defence needs because only a strong defence is guarantee to security and sovereignty of the country.

All Day

Pakistan-Tajikistan road to cost Rs.2 bn -- Muslim World News

Pakistan-Tajikistan road to cost Rs.2 bn

Submitted by admin4 on 19 October 2011 - 2:43pm

Muslim World News

By IANS,

Islamabad : A road that would connect Pakistan with Tajikistan is estimated to cost Rs.2 billion.

The proposed road between Gilgit-Baltistan and Tajikistan would open up new avenues of progress and prosperity in the region, reported Associated Press of Pakistan.

The estimated Rs.2 billion road would connect Pakistan to the land-locked Central Asian states.

Pakistan is the only country through which the Central Asian states could do business with the world either through Gwadar port in Balochistan province or the proposed Gilgit-Tajikistan road.

Pir Karam Ali Shah, Gilgit-Baltistan governor, had recently met both President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani to apprise them of the importance of the 220-km-long road.

All Day

Display centre for Pakistani exports set up in Chengdu -- APP

Display centre for Pakistani exports set up in Chengdu

KARACHI: Sichuan sub-council of China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) has established Sichuan International Commodity Display Centre at World Trade Office building adjacent to FPCCI Chengdu office, which aims at promoting Pakistani export products in China. This was informed by Tariq Sayeed, former President of FPCCI and patron-in-chief of Pak-China Business Council, who held a detailed meeting with officials of CCPIT Sichuan sub-council led by Chairman Li Gang on 19th October 2011 in Sichuan capital city Chengdu. The meeting was also attended by Zhao Jiang, Director International Relations and Director Exhibitions and Zhang Lixia, Business Manager of the Display Centre. The establishment of Display Centre is an important step forward towards promotion of Pakistani products in Sichuan province in particular and in China in general" said Sayeed and appreciated the vision of CCPIT for giving greater market access to Pakistan as well as South Asian countries. He also appreciated the Chairman Sichuan sub-council for allocating free space for display of Pakistan exports products. The Display Centre has special allocated area for business-to-business meetings wherein the businessmen from Pakistan would be able to meet their counterparts in China. FPCCI Chengdu Office established in 2010 is the first ever overseas establishment while the FPCCI Kunming office at International Liaison city has also become functional for last six months" said Sayeed and further added that these initiatives have already helped for further deepening Pak-China relations and growth in export to China from Pakistan is one of the dividends of such initiatives. staff report

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All Day

Expo begins today Pakistan likely to secure \$100m ordersBy Parvaiz

Ishfaq Rana | From the Newspaper -- APP

Expo begins today Pakistan likely to secure \$100m ordersBy Parvaiz Ishfaq Rana | From the Newspaper

October 20, 2011 (2 weeks ago)

The TDAP will now concentrate on value addition in agriculture produce, minerals, stones, plastic and chemicals. - File photo

KARACHI: Over 600 foreign dignitaries from 52 countries representing different sectors will participate in the Expo Pakistan beginning today (Thursday) at the Karachi Expo Centre.

Briefing the media about the event TDAP chief executive Tariq Puri said that the 6th Expo Pakistan to be opened by Minister of Commerce Makhdoom Amin Fahim will have international flavor because the Chinese pavilion will be centre of attraction to mark the 60th anniversary of Pak China relations.

He said that there will also be a Japanese pavilion to celebrate Pak-Japan 60th anniversary of bilateral relations falling next year.

The TDAP chief said in total 300 stalls were booked, out of which 10 booths will be displaying Chinese goods, including electric bicycle and 15 stalls belong to Japanese products. The remaining 275 stalls are booked by local producers.

He further said that the TDAP expected that around \$100 million worth of export orders would be booked during the 4-day mega event. This will be improvement over last expo when the country got \$80 million business.

Tariq Puri said that on the sidelines of the Expo there will be investment conference being jointly organised by TDAP and Board of Investment (BoI).

He disclosed that the representatives of 13 bilateral business forums will be attending the conference and there is highly encouraging response from the international community.

Mr Puri said the focus of the expo this year is on non-textile sectors and commercial

councilors of Pakistan the world over were specifically advised to concentrate on non-traditional products.

Therefore, the stalls booked by local producers will have diversified products on display. The 4-day event will be equally divided for visits by foreign buyers and for general public. Spot sales will also be allowed.

When the Expo Pakistan was planned the city of Karachi was witnessing unrest but today there is a festive mood and the event has given impetus to allied trades and to hotel industry.

Responding to a question Tariq Puri said that the cost of the event had been cut from over Rs120 million to Rs100 million.

The income earned by the TDAP from space rent of stalls is Rs15 million and this year no complimentary stalls have been given to any organisation.

The TDAP will now concentrate on value addition in agriculture produce, minerals, stones, plastic and chemicals

However, he admitted that many foreign buyers were coming as state guests and their boarding and lodging and air fair cost is being met by TDAP.

All Day

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Submitted by admin4 on 19 October 2011 - 2:43pm

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Islamabad : A road that would connect Pakistan with Tajikistan is estimated to cost Rs.2 billion.

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The estimated Rs.2 billion road would connect Pakistan to the land-locked Central Asian states.

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Pir Karam Ali Shah, Gilgit-Baltistan governor, had recently met both President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani to apprise them of the importance of the 220-km-long road.

All Day

China seen investing \$11bn in energy sector -- APP

China seen investing \$11bn in energy sector

BEIJING: Ambassador to China Masood Khan has said that Pakistan envisions a Chinese investment of more than \$11 billion in the energy sector during the next five years.

The Ambassador expressed these views in his introductory remarks at a Road Show held here for the management, operation, maintenance and rehabilitations of the nine public sector thermal power complexes through private sector Operation and Maintenance contractors by Pakistan's Private Infrastructure Board (PPIB).

He said that a major part of Pak-China economic cooperation is focused on energy development.

He pointed out that PPIB is a prestigious organization. Since 1994, under its aegis, the energy generation capacity of the private sector has increased to more than 8000 megawatts. PPIB have even more ambitious plans for the future and expects to add an additional 8000 megawatts in the next 5-6 years.

The Government of Pakistan has now asked PPIB to outsource management, operation, maintenance (O&M) and up gradation of nine public sector thermal power plants, with an installed capacity of around 4500 megawatts, to the private sector. These plants are currently producing only 1,400 to 2,000 megawatts of electricity.

Chinese enterprises have undertaken numerous projects in Pakistan in hydropower, thermal, nuclear and alternate energy sectors, he said adding the 5-year development programme in particular encompasses the whole spectrum of economic cooperation but lays special emphasis on energy cooperation.

The Mangla dam raising, Kohala dam, Neelum Jhelum dam, the Nandipur and the Chichokimalian Thermal power projects are some of the important projects being undertaken by Chinese enterprises in Pakistan.

A number of big hydro, coal and alternate energy worth billions of dollars are in the pipeline, he noted.

Last year, our top leadership decided to set up a Pakistan China Joint Energy Working Group (JEWG).

The Group's first session held in August this year has identified a vast array of coal, hydro, thermal, and alternate energy projects. This Ministerial level working group will ensure that all projects undertaken between Pakistan and China have the full support of our governments.

He said that most economic analysts now believe that a major portion of future global growth is going to take place in developing countries, particularly in Asia.

In Pakistan, despite the adverse international economic situation due to weak demand in Europe and the recent financial crisis, the economy remains essentially robust with high demand for consumer goods and energy.

During recent years, Khan said that in tandem with our strong political and strategic ties, economic cooperation with China has grown substantially.

Last year our overall bilateral trade with China grew by 28 per cent and Pakistan exports to China increased by 37 per cent setting a good trend, he noted.

We also have Free Trade Agreements on goods, investment, and services, a Free Trade Commission, and a Five Year Economic and Trade Development Programme for structured and targeted economic cooperation, he added.

He said that we invite the Chinese corporations to consider participating in the management and operations of these projects because of five reasons: (1) Pakistan and China enjoy ideal relations; (2) Pakistan's environment is hospitable for Chinese investments; (3) Chinese corporations have proven competency to take on such portfolios because of their prolonged exposure and experience in Pakistani markets; (4) China is fast emerging as the biggest energy investor in Pakistan; and (5) investments in Pakistan are win-win partnerships.

Khan expressed the hope that private management of these enterprises will ensure timely investments, increased efficiency and enhanced productivity. The Government of Pakistan is offering generous incentives through taxation, tariffs and guarantees.

He concluded by saying that we in Pakistan are proud of our growing relations with cutting edge, world class Chinese energy corporations which have chosen Pakistan for their present and future investments. – APP

All Day

Pak seeks USD 11 bn investment from China

Pak seeks USD 11 bn investment from China

Amid strains in its ties with the US, Pakistan has asked its all-weather ally China to invest over USD 11 billion in its various energy projects.

Pakistan envisions a Chinese investment of more than USD 11 billion in the energy sector during the next five years, Islamabad's envoy, Masood Khan, said. He was speaking at a Road Show held here for management, operation, maintenance and rehabilitation of the nine public sector thermal power complexes through private sector Operation and Maintenance contractors by Pakistan's Private Infrastructure Board (PIB).

Khan said that a major part of Pak-China economic cooperation is focused on energy development to be routed through the privatisation of the PIB which generates 8000 mw of power through different sources.

The first Pakistan-China Joint Energy Working Group (JEWG) meeting held here two months ago has identified a vast array of coal, hydro, thermal and alternate energy projects. At the JEWG meeting, Pakistan's Water and Power Minister Syed Naveed Qamar had proposed 19 new energy projects to China to overcome power crisis, in addition to a host of hydro and nuclear energy projects currently being implemented.

The new proposed projects include four power generation plants of 2,297 megawatts and one coal power project of 405 megawatts. Besides constructing two nuclear power reactors of 350 mw each at Chashma, China has committed to build two more in addition to a one giga mw nuclear power project, which could only be possible after Beijing fully develops the mega reactors as it cannot export foreign technology which it currently uses.

Also, China is assisting in three major dams, including USD 13 billion Diamer-Basha dam in Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), which has a planned capacity of 4500 mw.

India has expressed its reservations to China over projects in the PoK region. Meanwhile, a Chinese expert has cautioned Beijing about investments in Pakistan, citing risks owing to political and economic uncertainties in that country despite close ties.

Hydro and nuclear projects all involve huge, long-term investments and Chinese firms should not underestimate risk factors like political and economic uncertainties, Wang Jianmao, an economics professor at China Europe International Business School in Shanghai told state-run Global Times daily recently.

"Due to political reasons, Chinese foreign-aid investments tended not to have high returns, but it should not continue to be so, as China is expected to keep diversifying investments for the next 10 to 20 years," Wang said. Khan said Pakistan invited the Chinese corporation because the two countries enjoy ideal relations.

He said Pakistan's environment is hospitable for Chinese investments and Beijing's corporations have proven competency to take on such portfolios because of their prolonged exposure and experience in Pakistani markets. China is fast emerging as the biggest energy investor in Pakistan and its investments in Pakistan are win-win partnerships, he added.

Hoping for timely investments, he said Pakistan is offering generous incentives through taxation, tariffs and guarantees.

All Day

Gwadar declared winter capital of Balochistan -- THE NEWS

Gwadar declared winter capital of Balochistan

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Nawab Aslam Raisani has issued directives declaring port city of Gwadar as winter provincial capital of the province. A handout issued here on Thursday said that according to the directives issued by Chief Minister Secretariat, Gwadar will remain winter provincial capital of Balochistan from October 21 to March 31. All provincial official departments have been asked to finalise their arrangements in this regard.

All Day

Gwadar winter capital of Balochistan -- THE NATION

Gwadar winter capital of Balochistan

Published: October 27, 2011

QUETTA - Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Muhammad Aslam Raisani

Wednesday announced Gwadar would be the winter capital of the province.

In an official handout, he said the winter capital would function from October 21 to March. The chief minister directed the departments concerned to make all measures for implementing his orders immediately.

Meanwhile, militants attacked a check post of Frontier Corps (FC) with rocket in Panjgour, a bordering town near Iran on Wednesday. According to reports reaching here, unidentified militants fired a rocket targeting a check post of FC located at Qalam Chowk. The rocket landed with a huge explosion near check post. However, no loss of life and damage to property was reported in the attack. Heavy firing was heard after the blast that created panic amongst the people of the locality.

All Day

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani has declared Gwadar as the winter capital of Balochistan. -- DAWN

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani has declared Gwadar as the winter capital of Balochistan.

"Gwadar will be the winter provincial capital of Balochistan from Oct 21 to March 3," the chief minister announced here on Wednesday.

He directed all government departments to make necessary arrangements for implementing the decision.

The proposal of making the coastal town the winter capital of the province was made by Speaker Aslam Bhootani two years ago.—Staff Correspondent

All Day

Winter Provincial Capital Gwadar — Infrastructure ready

Winter Provincial Capital Gwadar — Infrastructure ready

Ghulam Tahir

Quetta—Chief Secretary Balochistan Ahmad Bakhsh Lehri says infrastructure is ready for making Gwadar winter provincial headquarters for releasing population pressure in Quetta city.

Addressing media conference here, he said five more urban cities in the province are being developed as the existing civic amenities are not enough to sustain over two million population in Quetta.

He said under the master plan Gwadar is upcoming coastal city with lot of economic and transport facilities. Three berths of the Gwadar seaport are functioning and there is provision of 80 berths which would start functioning with passage of time. The activities at the seaport are slow because the road linking Gwadar with Rathodaro is not complete for paucity of funds. The Chief Secretary said that federal government had been approached to release adequate funds to complete the project so that transport facilities should be available to carry goods to Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which would reduce pressure on Karachi seaport.

All Day

Businessmen need training to explore trade potential of Pakistan, China -- APP

Businessmen need training to explore trade potential of Pakistan, China
ISLAMABAD, Oct 28 (APP): Chinese trade delegation stressed on Friday for holding of more cultural and trade related workshops and seminars in China and Pakistan, to educate and create awareness amongst stakeholders about the trade potential. The Chinese delegation headed by Mme. Geng Ying, Chairman of China Cultural Heritage Foundation visited Pak-China Friendship Centre and met with the delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) led by its President Yassar Sakhi Butt. "The purpose of their visit was to strengthen friendship of the two countries through exchange of business delegations", said Mme. Geng Ying. The Chinese delegation was representing the sectors of oil and gas, construction, pottery, marble, gem and stones and solar energy.

Addressing the delegation Yassar Sakhi Butt said that China was a sincere friend of Pakistan and playing an important role in its progress. "We are all proud of friendship with China, which is long standing and has become even stronger as time goes by", he added.

He said people of the two countries had deep love and affection for each other and it was need of the hour that bilateral relations between the two countries should be strengthened.

He lauded that China has made unprecedented economic development over the last 30 years.

Pakistan's exports to China should be enhanced through governmental support to businessmen for participation in trade fairs, exhibitions and to explore Chinese market for expansion of trade, he maintained.

The ICCI President also stressed that Pakistan has enormous potential in coal mining and China could help us in overcoming the prevailing energy crisis and Pakistan could get expertise from China in energy sector.

All Day

Five-day festival reflects Pak-China ties -- THE NATION

Five-day festival reflects Pak-China ties

By: Zafar Bakhtawari | Published: October 28, 2011

ISLAMABAD – Pak-China friendship is deeper than the oceans higher than the Himalayas and sweeter than the honey. A close neighbour can be more helpful than a distant relative. We all know that Pakistan and China have maintained an everlasting friendship in which both the countries have supported each other in every front, weather it is economic, defence, international affairs and culture.

Weather the Karakorum Highway linking the two countries can be taken as the symbol of Pak-China friendship in the 20th century, the Gawadar port under construction in Balochistan province will be another mega-project symbolising the two countries friendship in the 21st century. They decided to make the year 2011 the year of friendship and a to mark the friendship between both the countries they have built a beautiful piece of architecture in the heart of Islamabad and named it Pak-China friendship centre, which has state of the art facilities in it.

A couple of days back, PNCAs, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and China Culture Heritage Foundation (CCHF) organised a Chinese Exhibition titled 'Oriental Charm' at Pak-China Friendship Centre marking the Pak-China Friendship year 2011.

The hall was well decorated for the occasion where banners were displayed in the main hall. People from all walks of life attended the inaugural program. Chinese Ambassador Liu Jian and Sajjad Kamran Additional Foreign Secretary inaugurated the 5-day cultural festival. Chairman China Cultural Heritage Foundation Madam Geng Ying was also present on the occasion. The Chief Guest on this prestigious occasion was Additional Foreign Secretary, Sajjad Kamran. Chinese Ambassador on the occasion said Art is the common language of all mankind. From these art works, you can gain much insight into Chinese people's way of life, tastes, values, national psyche and character, as well as factors leading to China's past glory and today's rejuvenation. By promoting the cultural exchange between our two countries, we can know each other better, and thus build our all-weather friendship on a more solid base. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations, and also a year of friendship agreed by leaders of both

countries.

It is a befitting time to pay tribute to forefathers of this legendary friendship. Souvenirs that included the details of the artists and their artwork were distributed among the guests, which gave them further insight into the Chinese culture and the contributions of renowned Chinese artists. This effort was done to enhance the cultural awareness between the countries. As this cultural awareness programs would increase the brotherhood between the two countries.

The Additional Foreign Secretary, Sajjad Kamran said on the occasion that it is an honour for him to join our Chinese friends and distinguished guests at the opening ceremony of the Chinese Cultural Exhibition, aptly named as "Oriental Lingering Charm".

True, the oriental charm is lasting. He added that Madam Geng's visit therefore marks an important event this year when we celebrate the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. China's undeniable support for Pakistan in difficult times is deeply appreciated. Pakistan-China cooperation covers a number of areas of mutual interest.

An important segment of this cooperation is cultural and people to people interaction. Cultural exchanges between Pakistan and China are centuries old. The historical Silk Road now known as Karakoram Highway binds our cultural past and the present together. He further said that the richness and variety of the Chinese culture is only too well-known.

Madam Geng Ying is a renowned artist who has played a key role in promoting the Chinese culture at home and abroad.

This exhibition will certainly provide a unique opportunity to the visitors to experience what the Chinese culture has to offer at its best.

It would also renew our cultural linkages on which we can rightly pride ourselves.

All Day

Pak-China friendship: Fast attack missile craft keel laid in Karachi -- DAWN

Pak-China friendship: Fast attack missile craft keel laid in Karachi
By Fahim Patel - Oct 28th, 2011 (No Comment)

3Karachi: Keel laying ceremony of the first Fast Attack Craft (Missile) for Pakistan Navy was held at Karachi Shipyard today. Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Tayyab Ali Dogar was the chief guest on the occasion.

The construction of the state of the art Missile Craft is a Pak-China joint venture. Under the contract, one craft each would be constructed in Pakistan and China.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest said that execution of many projects and joint ventures is a reflection of ever increasing cooperation between Pakistan and China. Keel laying of the missile craft today is a step forward in this direction.

He apprised that the missile being built in China has already been launched on September 20, 2011 and is expected to be delivered to Pakistan in April 2012. He hoped that successful completion of this project will pave way for more projects to be undertaken in future.

Congratulating the construction team, the chief guest said that these missile crafts will bolster maritime defense of Pakistan.

He expressed his confidence that Karachi Shipyard along with Chinese technical assistance team will make relentless efforts for timely accomplishment of this project.

Apprising the audience about the characteristics of the craft, the Managing Director of KSEW Rear Admiral Hassan Nasir Shah said that the craft has a maximum speed of 30 knots and is propelled by 4 diesel engines. It would also be equipped with latest weapons and sensors.

The ceremony was attended by senior naval officers, engineers and technicians of Chinese and Karachi shipyard.

All Day

Karzai's challenge: Emerging Pakistan-Afghanistan Ties -- THE CANADIAN

Karzai's challenge: Emerging Pakistan-Afghanistan Ties

Date: 29 October 2011 Posted By : by Dr. Abdul Ruff

The entry of Pakistan into the notorious UNSC as a member without veto that would have made Islamabad powerful enough to dictate terms to all global criminal rogues led by NATO terror syndicate has now forced both USA and Afghanistan to change its atrociously arrogant postures against Pakistan, although a visible policy shift is not discernible from these anti-Islamic scoundrel nations.

The Obama regime now says Pentagon would not wage an open war with Pakistan, but would only continue the ongoing terror war inside Pakistan killing innocent Muslims as the birth right of US criminals. The CIA says the Pak-US dialogue process is going on with success. USA also asks its puppet regime in Kabul to accelerate Afghan-led reconciliation talks in which Pakistan should also play its role. Now US is realizing that launching new military operation in Pakistan doesn't suit Pakistan's situation and is also looking for other means for tackling the issue of "militancy" including the reconciliation process.

Every thing remains at instructions level from Washington. In stead of admitting the Pentagon-India manipulating the surcharged atmosphere in both Pakistan and Afghanistan, USA continues to bluff that Pakistani Taliban has established havens in Afghanistan posing threats of attacks against Pakistan.

Today, Afghanistan and Afghans are being seen as pro-US, pro-India and anti-Pakistan and anti-Islam. It is difficult to differentiate between US terrorism and private militancy. Afghanistan and Pakistan have served as graveyards for superpowers that are the fanciful myths that exalt the Pakistani identity as US servants and Afghan identity as heroic warriors.

Both Washington and Kabul have, possibly to fool the world, repeatedly said Pakistan is providing sanctuary to terrorist groups launching attacks in Afghanistan. Not long ago, Gilani said Pakistani agencies and the CIA were working together towards this end and had hit high-value targets. He said he could not declare that Pakistan had become powerful enough to stand against America but relations between the two countries were based on mutual interest.

Since the USA has not yet openly declared the true picture of Al-Qaeda, Taliban and Haqqani network as being the CIA creations, it is deadly impossible to comply with US claims on threat perceptions.

Recently Afghan Ambassador Muhammad Omar Daudzai said in an interview with Waqt TV that both Pakistan and Afghanistan were facing a common enemy. He rightly emphasized that both the countries would have to work together to tackle their common problems. He particularly stated that this common enemy was a master of stratagem trying to pit both the nation against each other.

The enemy is obviously the US, which on the one hand has literally crushed the Afghan nation under its brutal occupation, something that has led to deaths of millions of innocent Muslims and on the other, its drone attacks and unilateral operations inside Pakistan have thrown us in the eye of the storm..

Upon election of Pakistan to the notorious UNSC, Afghan puppet President Hamid Karzai said that if the USA and Pakistan ever went to war, his country would back Islamabad — a statement that contrasts with his harsh criticism of his eastern neighbor during US minister Hillary Rodham Clinton's recent visit to Kabul. He now says "his country" is indebted to Pakistan for taking in millions of Afghan refugees over the years and stressed that Kabul would not allow any nation — be it the USA, India, Russia, China or anyone else — to dictate its policies. Karzai even labelled Pakistan as Afghanistan's "twin brother". This change of Karzai mind is intriguing.

Such words in diplomatic talks mean that Afghanistan cannot turn enemy against

the state of Pakistan to please others. Such a scenario is exceedingly unlikely, and Karzai's remarks appeared to be less a serious statement of policy than an overture to Pakistan, whose cooperation is sorely needed if Afghanistan is to have a chance at stability after years of conflict and civil war.

Nonetheless, Karzai's comments contrasted sharply with his show of alliance with Washington during Clinton's visit last week, during which the American ramped up the pressure on Islamabad to crack down on militants using its territory for attacks into Afghanistan.

Karzai also vented his grievances against the US, asking it to stop entering Afghan homes especially when men are away on fictitious pretexts. The Obama forces are conducting the Soviet era night raids to attack Muslims, in reality not only causing not only civilian casualties, but also outrage among the population that regards the sanctity of homes as a matter of honour.

Afghan's puppet present Hamid Karzai, who is accustomed to blowing hot and cold in his attitude towards Pakistan, is apparently passing through a kindlier phase. His remark, "Afghanistan will stand by Pakistan, if attacked by the US," astonished the global audience. He declared that even in the case of an attack by India, or for that matter, by any other quarter, Afghans would side with Pakistan. Karzai administration feels that the remnants of the former Taliban government are being supported by factions within Pakistan for the same above reasons. Karzai naturally says and speaks what the CIA asks him to. In 2006 Karzai warned that "Iran and Pakistan and others are not fooling anyone" when it come to interfering in his country.

For the first time, Karzai acknowledged Pakistan's generous treatment of the five million Afghan refugees, who had fled the country during the Soviet invasion and provided shelter and taken care of by Pakistan, he argues that has strengthened the spirit of brotherhood among the people of Afghanistan for their Pakistani counterparts.

II

Many Pakistanis and Afghans see in each other's nation a common bond based on religion, history, culture, language and ethnic ties.

Afghanistan–Pakistan relations are relatively new that began in August 1947 when Pakistan came into existence as an independent nation. Since 1947 the ties had not been very encouraging, but since then, in order to advance its illegal hidden agendas in the region, America, on the pretext of Sept-11 hoax has very systematically divided Pakistan and Afghanistan almost on a permanent basis. Both have the US puppet regimes and CIA make both fight each other while promoting US illegal interests in the region.

Pakistan and Afghanistan are usually described as inseparable states due to their historical, religious, cultural, linguistic, and ethnic ties, as well as their multiple trade and economic ties. Both neighbouring states are Islamic republics and part of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation- SAARC. However, the relationship between the two countries has been affected by the Durand Line, the issues of Pashtunistan and Balochistan, the 1980s Soviet war, the rise of the Taliban, the 2001-present US terror war, and the growing influence of India in Afghanistan to control this increasingly destabilizing nation.

The Durand Line border was established after the 1893 Durand Line Agreement between Mortimer Durand of colonial British India and Amir Abdul R Khan of Afghanistan for fixing the limit of their respective spheres of influence. Pakistan inherited this agreement after its partition from India in 1947 but there has never been a formal agreement or ratification between Islamabad and Kabul. The Afghan government still refuses to recognize the poorly-marked Durand Line as the international border between the two states.

Southern and eastern Afghanistan is predominately a Pashto-speaking region, like

the adjacent Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, federally administered Tribal Areas, and northern Balochistan in Pakistan. This entire area is inhabited by the indigenous Pashtuns who belong to different Pashtun tribes, now converted by the western terrocracies into terrorist zones. The Pashtuns have lived in this region for thousands of years, since at least the 1st millennium BC.

That the Afghans have always been supported by P

All Day

Chinese firm donates 1m Yuan to Pak flood victims -- THE NEWS

Chinese firm donates 1m Yuan to Pak flood victims

By Fareeha Khalid - Nov 2nd, 2011 (No Comment)

4Islamabad: China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) Tuesday donated 1 million Chinese Yuan for the flood affected people of Pakistan, says a press release received from Beijing on Tuesday.

The Vice President of CRBC, Liu Hong while handing over the Cheque to Ambassador Masood Khan at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing said that the Chinese people and government received the tragedy with sorrow that "caused great loss to Pakistani people and also broke our hearts."

The disaster would not stop the resilient and brave Pakistani people's march for pursuing economic prosperity.

He said that last year his organization donated US\$ 150,000 to Pakistan Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund.

"Through years of co-operation in different projects, CRBC has already cultivated deep friendship with Pakistan,' Liu observed.

He said that we are very proud and honoured that CRBC could participate in the Karakorum Highway (KKH) improvement project that connects China and Pakistan with economic, political and strategic importance.

He further said that it is a happy augury to note that the supplemental commercial contract for the KKH Realignment Project has also been signed after mutual efforts by the two countries.

Earlier, Ambassador Masood Khan while expressing thanks to Liu Hong for CRBC's financial assistance on behalf of the people of Pakistan and the government for the flood affectees in southern Pakistan said that this gesture will bring smiles on the faces of the people facing this natural calamity.

He said that CRBC was working on the expansion of KKH, the main artery of road communication between Pakistan and China which on completion will bring prosperity to the region.

Terming Mr. Liu a "great friend of Pakistan", Ambassador Khan appreciated the gesture of relief assistance from CRBC.

He said that unfortunately this year's floods have also affected the southern part of Pakistan and caused widespread devastation there.

He praised CRBC for helping Pakistan to solve one of the most serious disasters in Pakistan which was the Ataabad Lake and the company's efforts towards reconstruction of KKH, the friendship highway between the two countries.

Ambassador Masood Khan said that when the project is completed, the KKH will become an all-weather road with no interruption of transportation between Pakistan and China.

All Day

First ship carrying 50,000 tons urea is scheduled to arrive on November 20, -- Jhang News

In response to TCP tender, awarded for import of urea, first ship carrying 50,000 tons urea is scheduled to arrive on November 20, and the second ship carrying 45,000 tons is due on November 22, 2011 at Gwadar Port.

According to a press release, the arrival of balance quantity of this tender is expected by end of November or first week of December.

Out of total target for import of 700,000 tons for Rabi crop, assigned by the government, the TCP has so far procured 260,000 tons urea, whereas the tender for balance quantity of 440,000 tons is scheduled to be opened on Thursday, November 10, 2011.

National Fertiliser Marketing Limited (NFML) has been informed to make necessary arrangements accordingly for transportation and marketing of the imported urea to ensure prompt and timely supply of the same to farmers.

All Day

یوریا کھاد کا پہلا جہاز 20 نومبر کو گوادر پورٹ پر لانگر انداز ہوگا، ٹریڈنگ کارپوریشن -- اردو نیوز

اسلام آباد ٹریڈنگ کارپوریشن آف پاکستان کی جانب سے یوریا کے درآمدی ٹینڈر کے نتیجے میں 26 ہزار میٹرک ٹن یوریا کھاد کا پہلا جہاز 20 نومبر کو گوادر پورٹ پر لانگر انداز ہوگا۔ ٹریڈنگ کارپوریشن آف پاکستان نے ربیع سیزن کے لیے 7 لاکھ ٹن یوریا درآمد کرنے کا ہدف مقرر کیا ہے، جس سلسلے میں یوریا کی آمد کا سلسلہ شروع ہو گیا ہے۔ حکومت کی جانب سے ربیع سیزن کے لیے 7 لاکھ ٹن یوریا کھاد درآمد کرنے کا ہدف مقرر کیا گیا ہے، ٹی سی پی کی جانب سے اب تک تقریباً 2 لاکھ 60 ہزار ٹن یوریا درآمد کی گئی ہے جبکہ بقیہ 4 لاکھ 40 ہزار ٹن یوریا کی درآمد کے لیے 10 نومبر تک ٹینڈرز کا اجراء متوقع ہے۔

All Day

Turkmenistan, Pakistan reach TAPI gas price agreement (IMP) -- By Robert M Cutler

Turkmenistan, Pakistan reach TAPI gas price agreement
By Robert M Cutler

MONTREAL - Pakistan and Turkmenistan have reportedly reached bilateral agreement over the price of gas through the planned Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) natural gas pipeline. An editorial in the national Pakistani newspaper The Dawn treats the agreement as an accomplished fact, and a former director-general of the Associated Press of Pakistan writes in the UAE-based Khaleej Times that the two sides will sign the agreement on November 15 in Ashgabat.

According to this credible but unconfirmed published information, Pakistan's price to Turkmenistan will be 69% of Brent crude oil parity price (including transit fee) for between 13 and 14 billion cubic meters per year (bcm/y). This figure could exceed 20 bcm/y

Dilbert

if a facility is constructed for export of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the Pakistani port city of Gwadar in the southwest of the country.

Just a few days earlier India's president Pratibha Devisingh Patil, in his congratulations on the 20th anniversary of Turkmenistan's independence, expressed his happiness over the TAPI natural gas pipeline's "successful promotion". India, which signed a bilateral price accord with Turkmenistan some time ago, will receive the same quantity of gas as Pakistan (not counting the Gwadar extension), and Afghanistan will get 5 bcm/y.

Nor is this necessarily the upper limit. Turkmenistan's Oil and Gas Ministry concluded from a survey last year that by the end of the decade the total demand for natural gas in Pakistan and India together might reach as much as 186 bcm/y, whereas their indigenous production could not exceed 100 bcm/y, according to the independent Trend News Agency in Azerbaijan.

Turkmenistan's Oil and Gas Minister Bayramgeldy Nediroy, at an international conference on energy security in Ashgabat sponsored by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), also indirectly confirmed at the weekend the agreement with Pakistan, saying, "Preparations are under way for the imminent signing of an agreement on the sale and purchase of natural gas." Reuters quoted Nediroy as adding, "There are no doubts that this [TAPI] project will be realized."

The deal will have a lifespan of 30 years and require 1 trillion cubic meters of Turkmenistan's natural gas, according to Nediroy. President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow said last year that this gas would come from the South Yolotan field. The most recent iteration of the British firm Gaffney Kline's audit of South Yolotan's reserves increased the original estimate to a range of 13.1 to 21.2 trillion cubic meters. The pipeline is planned for a length of 1,700 kilometers, running to Herat in Pakistan, then along (perhaps underground) the Herat-Kandahar highway, passing through Quetta and Multan to the Indian border town of Fazilka.

There is no announced agreement between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan over the gas price, although the implicit calculation of transit costs in the Pakistani deal suggests that a figure has been estimated. That some agreement may appear on the horizon is suggested by the modest steps that Turkmenistan has been taking to promote economic development, and thus security, in Afghanistan.

Earlier this year, the two countries agreed to build a 120-kilometer railway line between Ashgabat and Kabul, with Turkmenistan constructing 85 kilometers internally from the Atamyrat district (Lebap province) to the border town of Ymamnazar, and the Afghan extension running to Akina also to be planned and constructed by the Turkmenistan side, in accordance with Kabul's suggestion. A

southward extension to the Afghan town of Andkhoy (Faryab province) would subsequently be added. Turkmenistan has also declared its intention to increase electricity exports to Afghanistan. Earlier this year, Berdimuhamedow authorized construction of a new supply line to quintuple this level to 300 megawatts per year.

At the OSCE-sponsored conference in Ashgabat, another Turkmen official speaking anonymously told Reuters that Berdimuhamedow would sign an agreement to increase the amount of natural gas being supplied to China. The government in Ashgabat has said that it expects to export 17 bcm to Beijing this year, and possibly as much as 20 bcm next year. Total exports to China could eventually ramp up to as much as 60 bcm/y.

Berdimuhamedow himself took the opportunity of the conference to underline his foreign ministry's rejection last week of Russia's assertion of veto power over the Trans-Caspian Gas Pipeline (TCGP) project for natural gas to Azerbaijan and, from there through Georgia and Turkey, to Europe. Putting his prestige publicly on the line, he declared to the assembled international diplomats and representatives of global energy companies, that exports to Europe were "an important vector of our new energy policy", indeed "the most important characteristic of Turkmenistan's foreign-policy strategy", while the "trans-Caspian pipeline system is correspondingly an important project testifying to Turkmenistan's readiness for mutually advantageous cooperation with all interested parties".

Two days after the conclusion of the conference, the Turkmen government announced the creation of a bilateral working group on energy cooperation with Romania. However, the gas that Turkmenistan would export to Azerbaijan for transit via Turkey (possibly through the proposed Nabucco pipeline) to Europe would not go through Romania. Turkmenistan is several thousand kilometers from Romania as the crow flies, across the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea basins.

The creation of this working group can therefore only mean that the White Stream project is now an active possibility on Ashgabat's radar. This project, the consortium for which did not put in a bid for Azerbaijan's Shah Deniz Two gas, proposes a subsequent pipeline for additional gas from Turkmenistan across the South Caucasus and under the Black Sea from Georgia to Romania.

All Day

Pakistan to seek Iran gas for key port's industries -- The Express Tribune
"Pakistan to seek Iran gas for key port's industries"

Islamabad – Pakistan has decided to seek gas to meet requirements of industrial estates at Gwadar Port in southwestern Balochistan province, a report said Tuesday.

Pakistan will approach Iran for additional supplies of 250 million cubic feet of gas per day (mmcf) for the port, The Express Tribune reported.

The government will negotiate with Iran to extend gas import volume from the existing 750 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) to one billion cubic feet per day (bcf) to meet the requirements of Balochistan at Gwadar Port for industrial estates.

Secretary of Petroleum Ijaz Chaudhry said that Iran has already expressed its desire to provide 250 mmcf of additional gas that could be used for industrial estates at Gwadar Port. He maintained that the Ministry of Petroleum had already moved a summary to the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet in 2010 seeking approval for import of this enhanced volume.

Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Mohammad Aslam Raisani reiterated its demand of 250 mmcf gas allocation out of supplies under Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project to meet requirements of industrial estates at Gwadar in a meeting held with Secretary of Petroleum and Natural Resources Muhammad Ejaz Chaudhry in Islamabad on Monday.

Sources said that Raisani said that Balochistan required 250 mmcf gas for industrial estates at Gwadar Port and therefore gas should be allocated under the IP gas pipeline project.

An energy expert said that the government should meet Balochistan's demand to allocate gas under the IP pipeline project that would boost economic activities in Gwader.

All Day

Turkmen gas reserves brighten hope for Pakistan -- Business Observer

Islamabad—As Pakistan moved ahead with sealing a gas-import accord with Turkmenistan the Turkmen Deputy Prime Minister Baimurad Khodzhamukhamedov reported that the estimated Turkmen oil and gas reserves have increased by more than 1.5-fold since 2006.

During Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov's recent visit to Islamabad the two states signed a number of accords including that of oil and gas sales and purchase. Experts have appreciated Pakistani move as "well-timed".

Pakistan and Turkmenistan reached an accord on November 13, 2011 for delivery of 1.3 billion cubic feet a day of Turkmen gas at 69 per cent of crude oil parity price under the \$7.6 billion Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (Tapi) pipeline project.

Pakistan and Turkmenistan agreed to formally sign a sales and purchase agreement in Ashkabad on Nov 15. The pipeline is expected to bring gas to Pakistan by December 2016, depending on a credible security apparatus in Afghanistan where it will provide 500mmcf of gas.

It was reported that Turkmenistan also offered to increase gas throughput to about two billion cubic feet a day if the two sides agreed on transporting about 700 million cubic feet a day (mmcf) to Gwadar port for eventual sale or export as liquefied natural gas (LNG).

According to reports reaching here total hydrocarbon reserves in Turkmen as of October 1, 2011 measured 72.21 billion tonnes, compared to 45.44 billion tonnes on January 1, 2006. The latest figures were compiled by Turkmen officials after reviewed data from the British firm Gaffney, Cline & Associates.

British auditing firm Gaffney, Cline & Associates (GCA) has recently reported that Turkmenistan might have the world's second largest natural-gas field.

GCA early this year submitted a revised audit in mid-June to Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov saying that South Yolotan is second only to Qatar's South Pars field.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has stressed that "development of the oil and gas industry was one of the priorities of the ongoing reform in all spheres of the national economy." He also noted that "natural gas reserves in Turkmen fields amount to 26 trillion 200 billion cubic meters."

Turkmenistan plans to build third oil refinery in western part of the country.

All Day

Steps afoot to make Gwadar winter capital: CS Balochistan -- APP

Steps afoot to make Gwadar winter capital: CS Balochistan

QUETTA, Nov 16 (APP): Chief Secretary Balochistan Mir Ahmad Bakhsh Lehri has visited coastal town of Gwadar to review the arrangements to make it winter capital of Balochistan. According to a handout issued here on Wednesday, on the instructions of Chief Minister Balochistan Nawab Aslam Raisani, CS Balochistan Mir Lehri along with Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Balochistan Hafiz Abdul Basit visited Gwadar to review arrangements in connection with building of office premises for key government departments.

Speaking on the occasion, the CS Balochistan viewed that Gwadar has capacity to become one of best sea ports of the world due to its geographical position. "We are going to make Gwadar winter capital of Balochistan in order to boost trade activities and make this port functional," Mir Lehri said.

He said that ports used to play vital role in economic development of any country. He added that with turning Gwadar as trade center would help removing sense of deprivation amongst local people.

He said that serious measures were being taken to make Gwadar winter capital of Balochistan during period from October to March.

He along with Hafiz Abdul Basit inspected various official premises including District and Provincial Complex, Sangar Housing Scheme Rest House, Pearl Continental Hotel, BCDA Complex, College Complex, Fisheries Complex and others.

Commissioner Makran Division Muhammad Aslam Jamali, Deputy Commissioner Makran Abdul Rehman Dashti and Director General Gwadar Development Authority Shoaib Ahmed Gola were also present.

Meanwhile, official sources told APP that 32 percent construction work on Sarbandar Jetty project and 75 percent construction work on District and Provincial Complex project in Gwadar have been completed.

All Day

گوار بندرگاہ اپنے محل وقوع کے لحاظ سے دنیا کی بہترین پورٹ بننے کی بھرپور صلاحیت رکھتی ہے احمدبخش لہڑی -- ڈیلی عوام

کوئٹہ (خ ن) گوار بندرگاہ اپنے محل وقوع کے لحاظ سے دنیا کی بہترین پورٹ بننے کی بھرپور صلاحیت رکھتی ہے گوار کو سرمائی دارالحکومت بنانے کا مقصد یہاں پر تجارتی سرگرمیوں کو فروغ دینا اور گوار بندرگاہ کی اہمیت کو اجاگر کرنا ہے، ان خیالات کا اظہار چیف سیکرٹری بلوچستان احمدبخش لہڑی نے منگل کے روز ضلع گوار کے دورے کے موقع پر لوگوں سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کیا، وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان کے پرنسپل سیکرٹری حافظ عبدالباسط بھی اس موقع پر ان کے ہمراہ تھے۔ چیف سیکرٹری نے کہا کہ کسی بھی ملک کی معاشی ترقی میں ساحل سمندر کے کردار سے انکار نہیں کیا جاسکتا، گوار بندرگاہ کی مکمل فعالی اور یہاں پر سرمایہ کاری اور تجارتی سرگرمیوں میں اضافے سے بالخصوص صوبہ بلوچستان اور ملک بھر میں معاشی و تجارتی سرگرمیوں کو فروغ ملے گا اور ملک کی درآمدات و برآمدات میں اضافہ ہوگا، گوار کو سرمائی دارالحکومت بنانے کے صوبائی حکومت کے فیصلے کے حوالے سے انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ بھی اسی سلسلے کی ایک کڑی ہے دارالحکومت بننے سے جہاں ترقیاتی سرگرمیوں کا آغاز ہوگا وہاں بیرون ملک تجارت کو بھی فروغ ملے گا، انہوں نے کہا کہ گوار کو تجارتی مرکز کے طور پر ترقی دینے سے یہاں کے لوگوں کا احساس محرومی دور ہوگا، چیف سیکرٹری بلوچستان میر احمدبخش لہڑی نے اس موقع پر گوار کو سرمائی دارالحکومت بنانے کے حوالے سے مختلف انتظامات کا جائزہ لیتے ہوئے ڈسٹرکٹ اینڈ پراونشل کمپلیکس، سنگار ہاؤسنگ سکیم ریسٹ ہاؤس، پی سی ہوٹل، بی سی ڈی اے کمپلیکس، کالج کمپلیکس، فشریز کمپلیکس اور مختلف عمارتوں کا معائنہ کیا، دریں اثناء کمشنر مکران ڈویژن محمد اسلم جمالی، ڈائریکٹر جنرل جی ڈی اے شعیب احمد گولہ اور ڈپٹی کمشنر گوار عبدالرحمن دشتی نے چیف سیکرٹری بلوچستان کو ضلع گوار میں جاری مختلف ترقیاتی منصوبوں کے بارے میں تفصیلات بتائیں۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ 34 کروڑ روپے کی لاگت سے ڈسٹرکٹ اینڈ پراونشل کمپلیکس پر کام تیزی سے جاری ہے جس کا 75% کام مکمل کر لیا گیا ہے یہ کمپلیکس 200 ایکڑ رقبے پر محیط ہے، اس کے علاوہ مذکورہ کمپلیکس کے لئے 120 رہائشی مکانات جبکہ فلیش کابی سی ون بھی جمع کیا جا چکا ہے جس پر صوبائی حکومت کی جانب سے منظوری کے بعد عملدرآمد ہوگا، چیف سیکرٹری کو بتایا گیا کہ 87 کروڑ روپے کی لاگت سے سر بندر جیٹی کے منصوبے پر کام کا 32% مکمل کیا جا چکا ہے جبکہ دو کروڑ بیس لاکھ روپے کی لاگت سے سنگار ہاؤسنگ اسکیم ریسٹ ہاؤس کا تقریباً 98% کام مکمل ہو گیا ہے، چیف سیکرٹری بلوچستان میر احمدبخش لہڑی نے جاری ترقیاتی منصوبوں کی بروقت تکمیل اور کوالٹی میٹریل کے استعمال کو برصورت یقینی بنانے کی ہدایت کی، جبکہ پی سی گوار کے حکام کو ہوٹل کی دوبارہ فعالیت کی ہدایت بھی کی گئی۔ چیف سیکرٹری بلوچستان نے کمشنر مکران اور ڈپٹی کمشنر کو گوار میں ہونے والے کابینہ اجلاس کے انتظامات کے سلسلے میں

خصوصی ہدایات جاری کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ تمام انتظامات کو حتمی شکل دے کر صوبائی حکومت کو رپورٹ کریں

All Day

Conference to strengthen regional economic connectivity -- Pakistan Today

ISLAMABAD - Ministers from 10 countries spanning the Caucuses, and Central, East and South Asia will gather to mark a decade of achievement, including \$17 billion of investments in energy, trade and transportation under Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Programme. Finance minister Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh is likely to lead Pakistan in CAREC 10th Ministerial Conference at Baku, Azerbaijan, starting from 22nd November till 24th November. It's the first time that Pakistan is attending CAREC ministerial conference as a full member country. Established in 2001, CAREC brings together Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, People's Republic of China (PRC), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It promotes implementation of regional projects in energy, transport, and trade facilitation from northern PRC to Caucasus and Europe, and from Kazakhstan to warm water ports of Karachi, Gwadar and beyond.

CAREC partnership accounts for more than 120 projects to date, including six extensive transport corridors and energy networks that are beginning to improve lives and livelihoods across the region.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has contributed \$5.5 billion to total CAREC investment since 2001. Ring road, rail and electricity projects in Afghanistan, and East-West Corridor in Azerbaijan are flagship programmes that embody CAREC. About 4,000 km of road and 2,250 km of railway lines have been built or upgraded, opening up corridors of trade and opportunity. Streamlined customs procedures are moving people and their businesses across borders faster and at less cost. Electricity transmission lines and upgraded power plants are beginning to boost vital energy trade in the region that will bring prosperity and security.

Ministerial conference will also launch CAREC 2020 as the new roadmap for the next 10 years. This will provide a blueprint to help countries expand trade, spur competitiveness in broader global economy, and reposition Central Asia as pivot of regional trade. Six multilateral institutions support work of CAREC that includes ADB, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and World Bank. ADB has served as CAREC Secretariat since 2001.

All Day

Oman has given a grant of \$17 million to the Balochistan government for building an airport of international standard in Gwadar. -- Daily Dawn
Oman has given a grant of \$17 million to the Balochistan government for building an airport of international standard in Gwadar. According to official sources, 43,000 acres of land have been acquired for the airport that will have latest facilities.

The Civil Aviation Authority's Director General Air Marshal (retd) Khalid Chaudhry discussed the project with Balochistan Chief Secretary Mir Ahmed Bakhsh Lehri.

The airport will be designed for both passenger and cargo flights.

The sources said the provincial government was taking serious steps to make Gwadar the winter capital of Balochistan besides making the port functional.

"The chief secretary has issued directives to ensure reopening of a five-star hotel in the town that was closed a few months ago," they said, adding that the hotel's administration had been asked to take steps in this regard.

The chief secretary and the Chief Minister's Principal Secretary Hafiz Abdul Basit have held meetings in Gwadar to increase the pace of the implementation of the government's announcement that the town will be the provincial capital from October to March each year.

About 80 per cent construction work on a district and provincial complex and major portions of other official buildings have been completed and the government has asked contractor companies to accelerate the work. The government is also mulling over holding a session of the Balochistan Assembly in Gwadar and local officials have been asked to review arrangements in this regard.

The decision by Nawab Aslam Raisani's government to make Gwadar the winter capital has increased the importance of the coastal town.

"The move will have a deep impact on the economy and trade of the region and will also help remove the sense of deprivation among local people," provincial minister Mir Hamal Kalamati said.

All Day

ٹی سی پی کے اعلامیہ کے مطابق 75 ہزار ٹن کھاد لیکر دو جہاز گوادر پورٹ پہنچ گئے ہیں، دو میں سے ایک جہاز 50 ہزار میٹرک ٹن اور دوسرا 25 ہزار میٹرک ٹن کھاد لیکر آیا -- جنگ
کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) ٹریڈنگ کارپوریشن آف پاکستان (ٹی سی پی) کے اعلامیہ کے مطابق 75 ہزار ٹن کھاد لیکر دو جہاز گوادر پورٹ پہنچ گئے ہیں، دو میں سے ایک جہاز 50 ہزار میٹرک ٹن اور دوسرا 25 ہزار میٹرک ٹن کھاد لیکر آیا ہے۔ جبکہ ایک جہاز 25 ہزار ٹن کھاد لیکر 22 نومبر کو گوادر پورٹ پہنچے گا جبکہ آئندہ ایک ہفتے کے دوران قطر سے 45 ہزار کھاد لیکر جہاز گوادر پورٹ پہنچے گا، ٹی سی پی نے دو مختلف ٹینڈر کے ذریعے 6 لاکھ میٹرک ٹن کھاد کے سودے کئے ہیں۔

All Day

گوادر پورٹ پر 2 بحری جہاز کھاد لے کر پہنچ گئے -- جسارت نیوز
کوئٹہ (نمائندہ جسارت) گوادر بندرگاہ پر 2 بڑے بحری جہاز 7 لاکھ میٹرک ٹن یوریا کھاد لے کر لنگر انداز ہو گئے اور جہازوں سے یوریا اتارنے اور اسے ملک کے دیگر حصوں تک پہنچانے کا کام شروع کر دیا گیا۔ کوئٹہ سے جاری سرکاری اعلامیہ کے مطابق موجودہ صوبائی حکومت کی کوششوں سے گزشتہ 4 سال سے گوادر بندرگاہ کے ذریعے یوریا اور گندم درآمد کی جا رہی ہے جس سے ایک جانب تو گوادر بندرگاہ جزوی طور پر فعال ہو گئی ہے جبکہ دوسری جانب علاقے میں معاشی و اقتصادی سرگرمیوں میں بھی تیزی آئی ہے اور مقامی لوگوں کے لیے روزگار کے مواقعوں میں اضافہ ہوا ہے جس میں روزانہ کی بنیاد پر مزدوری کرنے والے اور کوسٹل ہائی وے پر بوٹل کے کاروبار کرنے والوں کو بھی خاطر خواہ فائدہ پہنچ رہا ہے، سینکڑوں کی تعداد میں ٹرک اور ٹرالرز گوادر بندرگاہ سے گندم اور یوریا ملک کے مختلف حصوں میں پہنچانے کے لیے پہنچ چکے ہیں اور ٹرانسپورٹیشن کا کام تیزی سے جاری ہے۔ علاوہ ازیں وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان نواب محمد اسلم خان رئیس نے کہا ہے کہ گوادر پورٹ کو پوری طرح فعال کرنے اور گوادر میں ترقی کے عمل کو تیز کرنے میں موجودہ حکومت گہری دلچسپی رکھتی ہے اور اس سلسلے میں تیزی کے ساتھ اقدامات کیے جا رہے ہیں۔ کوئٹہ سے جاری ہونے والے ایک بیان میں انہوں نے کہا کہ گوادر پورٹ نہ صرف بلوچستان کی ترقی بلکہ پاکستان کے بہتر مستقبل کے لیے کلیدی اہمیت کی حامل ہے، اس پورٹ کے فعال ہونے سے ملک کی 2 بندرگاہوں کراچی اور بن قاسم پر دباؤ کم ہوگا، علاوہ ازیں خطے کی تجارتی سرگرمیوں میں غیر معمولی اضافہ ہوگا، جس کا براہ راست فائدہ ملک اور صوبہ کے عوام کو پہنچے گا۔

All Day

ISGS to open branch offices in Gwadar and Sukkur -- APP

ISLAMABAD: In order to ensure fast tract implementation of the Iran Pakistan Gas pipeline project, a branch office of the Inter State Gas System (Private) Limited (ISGS) would be established in Gwadar and Sukkur to expedite work.

It was also proposed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources that a separate Energy Department may be established in the Balochistan provincial government, for which the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources will provide all possible assistance. This has been decided during a meeting between Chief Minister (CM) Balochistan, Nawab Mohammad Aslam Raisani Secretary, Petroleum and Natural Resources Mr Muhammad Ejaz Chaudhry, here in Islamabad on Monday. Secretary, Petroleum and Natural Resources apprised CM Balochistan regarding status of various oil and gas development projects being implemented by the Federal government in Balochistan province. Aghaz-e-Huqooqe Balochistan announced by the Prime Minister of Pakistan was also discussed and it was committed that Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources would facilitate the government of Balochistan in providing employment opportunities to the locals in various oil and gas projects. CM Balochistan was also updated on the progress made in the Iran-Pakistan (IP) Gas Pipeline Project and the CM assured that the government of Balochistan would facilitate in land acquisition for the project. Moreover, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India (TAPI) pipeline project was also discussed.

End.

All Day

Raisani seeks Afghan transit trade via Gwadar -- RECORDER REPORT

Chief Minister Balochistan Nawab Aslam Raisani has emphasised the need to import Afghan Transit Trade goods through Gwadar port.

In a handout issued here on Monday, he said the provincial government wanted to see operation of Afghan Transit Trade through Gwadar port in order to make it operational.

"We decided to make Gwadar winter capital of Balochistan to boost economy and trade of the region," he said adding that arrival of large ships loaded with wheat and fertilisers was likely at Gwadar port.

He viewed that development of Gwadar port linked with bright future of Pakistan.

He said that making Gwadar port operational would decrease burden on Karachi and Bin Qasim ports.

He said that with efforts put by the Balochistan government, wheat was being imported through Gwadar port.

November 23, 2011

Wed

All Day

Balochistan government seeks share in PPL, SSGC -- Business Recorder

Balochistan government seeks share in PPL, SSGC

Balochistan government has expressed its desire to purchase share in Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) and Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC).

Official sources said on Tuesday that Balochistan Chief Minister told Federal Petroleum Secretary Muhammad Ejaz Chaudhry who held a meeting with him.

"We want to purchase share in PPL and SSGC while the provincial government is also going to establish its own energy department which would include a separate section to deal with exploration of oil and gas in the province," Nawab Raisani said.

He said the Balochistan government had been taking serious steps to make Gwadar winter capital as it would put positive impacts on the economy of the entire region including Pakistan and Central Asian states.

All Day

CAREC approves over 100 projects worth \$17 billion -- Business Recorder
 ISLAMABAD - Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) has approved over 100 CAREC-related projects worth \$17 billion. The projects include six land transport corridors that cover 3,600 kilometers of roads and 2,000 kilometers of railways. They traverse the CAREC region north-south and east-west; linking Europe, East Asia, South Asia, Middle East, and beyond; connecting all member countries.

Secretary Economic Affairs Division Abdul Wajid Rana and officials from ministry of commerce and finance represented Pakistan at the 10th ministerial conference at Baku, Azerbaijan.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has allocated \$4.7 billion over the next three years to support Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC), 2020's goals of trade expansion and improved competitiveness.

ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda, while announcing the allocation for CAREC 2020 goals at ministerial conference said we stand ready to assist in accelerating the development of physical infrastructure connectivity, the development of economic corridors, and the improvement of the knowledge base needed to support CAREC's priorities.

Established in 2001, CAREC brings together Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It promotes the implementation of regional projects in energy, transport, and trade facilitation from northern China to Caucasus and Europe, and from Kazakhstan to the warm water ports of Karachi, Gwadar and beyond.

About 4,000 km of road and 2,250 km of railway lines have been built or upgraded, opening up corridors of trade and opportunity. Streamlined custom procedures are moving people and their businesses across borders, faster and at a less cost. The electricity transmission lines and upgraded power plants are beginning to boost the vital energy trade in the region that will bring prosperity and security.

The ministers and senior representatives of development agencies have discussed support for the new 10-year strategy for Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) programme.

The six multilateral institutions support the work of CAREC that includes ADB, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and World Bank. ADB has served as the CAREC secretariat since 2001.

The multilateral institutions at the forum echoed their support for the work of CAREC and some also offered substantial financial assistance over the next decade. Senior representatives of bilateral agencies from France, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, and United States also attended the forum and supported CAREC 2020. The three-day conference wrapped up with a ministerial retreat where participants discussed how CAREC countries could individually and collectively contribute to a prosperous Asia by mid-century.

All Day

Teaching Chinese in Pakistan to enhance people-to-people contacts: Dr. Firdous -- APP

Teaching Chinese in Pakistan to enhance people-to-people contacts: Dr. Firdous

ISLAMABAD, Nov 25 (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan has said Pakistan and China are not only very close friends but strategic partners and with breaking the language barrier by teaching Chinese in Pakistani schools, people to people contacts will get further boost. This she said while speaking as chief guest at launching ceremony of China Radio International-Roots School System Confucius Classroom at Pak-China Friendship Centre, on Friday. The Minister said that on a diplomatic level, the two countries have a lot in common and support each other; however there has been a significant cultural and language barrier that has inhibited the inhabitants of both countries in forming close ties across the border.

She appreciated the joint initiative of CRI and Roots School which will bridge the cultural divide and break the language barrier between the two nations.

This new initiative which has the complete support on political and social level, will bring about great change in the bilateral relationship, she added.

The Minister said in Pakistan education has become a provincial subject and the

Sindh government has taken the initiative to introduce Chinese language in its curriculum.

“To strengthen bilateral relations, it is vital to ensure that our upcoming generations learn Chinese language and consolidate these ties even further”, she added.

Dr. Firdous said that she has observed that China has changed during the past 15 years and empowerment of youth and women were the main reason for change in China.

She said “We should also replicate the same model here for development of the country”. The Minister said that China is great friend and has always supported and patronized Pakistan.

The Minister stressed for enhanced cooperation between the Pakistani and Chinese media. She said that “international media was depicting negative image of Pakistan and it would be beneficial for us to boost cooperation with Chinese media”.

She thanked the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan for making announcement to donate the building of Chinese embassy in Islamabad for Media University.

Chinese Ambassador Liu Jian said Pakistan-China friendship is time-tested and both nations have the relationship of trust and sincerity.

He said the friendship between the two countries has a long history. “Over the past 60 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties, thanks to the care and support from successive leaders and men

of insight on both sides and the joint efforts of the governments and peoples of our two countries, we have established a high-quality strategic partnership of cooperation”, he added.

He said Chinese are proud to have such a great and sincere friend as Pakistan and people of China deeply cherish this friendship.

All Day

Balochistan gives land to lay Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline -- NIGC

Balochistan gives land to lay Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline

The government of Pakistan's Balochistan Province has agreed to give land for Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline project.

The Chief Minister of Balochistan Nawab Aslam Raisani has said that his government agreed to allocate land in Gwadar and Lasbella districts for lying of Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline through Balochistan, Iran's SHANA news agency reported.

It's worth mentioning that, the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline will cater need of natural gas of the areas where it would pass besides creating chances to install new gas-run power plants in the province.

During the meeting, the two decided that Gwadar Inter-Estate Gas Company Limited would register the contractors in this regard while Gwadar Industrial area would also be provided natural gas from Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline.

The federal government will negotiate with Iran to extend gas import volume from the existing 750 million cubic feet gas per day to one billion cubic feet gas per day to meet the requirements of Balochistan at Gwadar Port for industrial estates.

Raisani reiterated its demand of 250 million cubic feet gas allocation out of supplies under IP gas pipeline project to meet requirements of industrial estates at Gwadar.

Pakistan will construct a 700km-long pipeline from its border while Iran would build a 300km long stretch of the pipeline from Iranshahr to the Pakistani border.

It's worth mentioning that by endorsement of the contract between two countries (Iran and Pakistan) Iran is responsible for natural gas export to Pakistan from 2014 in amount of 21/5 million cubic meters daily, and 7/8 billion cubic meters annually.

All Day

Gwadar-Mastung rail project: German firm wants to invest, says Raisani -- Business Recorder

Chief Minister Balochistan Nawab Aslam Raisani said that a German company had expressed its interest to invest in project of laying a railway line from coastal town of Gwadar to Mastung in order to connect the provincial capital Quetta with Gwadar seaport through railway line.

In a handout issued here on Friday, he said that feasibility report for Gwadar-Mastung railway line project had been prepared.

He said the provincial government had been making efforts to turn Gwadar in energy corridor so that maximum investment to the area could be attracted.

He said that through another plan, solar energy tube-wells would be installed in Balochistan for agricultural purpose.

All Day

Arab Spring may impact bilateral trade with Pak -- Daily Times

Arab Spring may impact bilateral trade with Pak

* Egyptians invested around \$2.5bn in Pak telecom, construction and hoteling businesses

* Negotiations with Iran included supply of 1000MW electricity

By Zeeshan Javaid

ISLAMABAD: Recent hike in civil agitation against Egyptian government could affect bilateral trade between Pakistan and Egypt around \$249 million, well placed sources informed on Saturday.

Senior official of trade management on condition of anonymity informed that ongoing democratic move against the rulers of Arab and African continent could draw a dreadful impact over Pak-Gulf-African bilateral trade.

According to details provided by foreign department, Pakistan's bilateral trade with Egypt is around \$249 million, while Egyptians invested around \$2.5 billion in telecom, construction and hoteling businesses.

Pak-Egypt trade review conducted by foreign office maintained that Pakistani tycoons invested over \$50 million in Egypt mainly in the textile business, while both countries agreed during the Joint Ministerial Commission's (JMC) Session held in Cairo last year, to enhance cooperation in twenty one sectors including trade, food and beverages, investment, tourism, software technology parks, cement manufacturing, oil and gas exploration, power generation, agriculture, health and automotives.

Similarly another affected region by civil agitation, Yemen that are based on common faith, culture and values, interact in trade business with Pakistan, the bilateral trade between both countries is around \$100 million, which was increased in the past few years, while Yemen is among the top 10 rice importing countries from Pakistan.

In order to further boost the economic and commercial relations between Pakistan and Libya, both countries also signed seven Agreements, MoUs and both sides agreed to initiate a joint study for PTA leading to FTA. A Joint Investment Company with subsidiaries in oil, gas, agriculture, banking, finance and infrastructure development projects has also been established.

Under the Friends of Democratic Pakistan (FoDP) process Iran had committed \$ 320 million, while it would also be facilitated by an important source of energy following the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline project.

Some other important projects under implementation, negotiations with Iran included supply of 1000 MW electricity (on Taftan-Quetta Transmission Line) was signed in April 2007 and both sides are working to negotiate its various aspects.

Import of 100 MW of Electricity (on Gwadar-Makran region Transmission Line), Road and Rail Network up-gradation projects including the Pak-Iran-Turkey, "Gul Train" are under ECO framework.

The leaders of the both countries in their September 2011 summit in Iran had raised the target for annual trade to \$ 10 billion. Quantum of current annual bilateral trade with Iran is \$ 1.5 billion.

Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar had informed lower house of the parliament during last session ended on November 25 (Friday) that despite good political relations with Libya, our trade relations are much below the desired potential. She said that efforts are however, underway to enhance trade and economic relations to the mutual benefits of our two nations.

She claimed that country has been enjoying close friendly relations with all the North African and Middle Eastern countries including Egypt and Yemen and relations with these countries based on common faith, culture and similarity of views on a host of issues related to regional and international importance.

To describe the achievements gained by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) regime during its ongoing three year tenure, federal minister ascertained that government structured mechanisms such as the Joint Ministerial Commission providing a useful platform for continued interaction and exchange of visits along with holding bilateral consultations with these countries from time to time and review our existing beneficial cooperation with them in various fields.

“The two countries attach importance to their relations and are working to strengthen their cooperation in various fields. We have signed over 30 agreements and MoUs with Egypt covering cooperation in commerce, trade, culture and education etc. With Yemen around 24 agreements and MoUs on cooperation in various sectors have been signed,” she added.

All Day

Pakistan, Turkey may sign PTA next year -- Business Recorder

Preferential Trade agreement (PTA) is likely to be signed between Pakistan and Turkey next year, Consul General of Turkey, Murat M Onart, informed business community on Monday evening.

Speaking at a meeting of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), he expressed concern over meager trade between the two brotherly Muslim countries and expressed hope that after signing PTA two-way trade will be increased substantially.

Replying a question of Turkish expertise in mineral sectors, the Consul General said present prevailing conditions in Balochistan did not permit Turkey to send its experts to assist Pakistan in mineral sector.

He emphasised the need of developing transport infrastructure to boost two-way trade which need heavy investment.

The Consul General also expressed that without developing infrastructure two-way trade cannot be increased even if liberalised trade and visa, tax concession and other facilities.

Replying another question, he said last economic crisis shows that regional trade is essential.

Former President KCCI, Majid Aziz sought the Consul General's help to approach Turkish government and ask them to provide technical expertise to develop Pakistan's mineral sector.

President KCCI, Mian Abrar Ahmed, said that Turkey can take advantage while establishing production base in Pakistan and utilise the Gwadar Port and Pakistan railway and tap the huge regional market.

He said that the trade volume of two countries has an increasing trend with a regular surplus in favour of Pakistan since 2000.

It has been recorded 998 million dollars in 2010 of which 750 million dollars was Pakistan's exports.

All Day

Arrival of ships starts at Gwadar Port -- One Pakistan

QUETTA : After declaring Gwadar as Winter Capital of Balochistan arrival of ships has started. With this not only trade activities were increasing in the area but local people were also getting employment also.

Transporters, hotel owners and workers business has also increased. Eighteen ships would dock by Dec 25 carrying 0.7 million tonnes of urea. Till now 3 ships have arrived with urea. Transportation of this urea into interior of the country was speedily being made.

Meanwhile people's circle are of the view that with functional of Gwadar Port and declaring Gwadar as winter capital phased completion of roads and provision of modern facilities a pleasant change is being felt in the area. People said they see their future as bright and fruit of development are seen spreading in different parts of the province including Gwadar.

All Day

Zardari offers Korea to set up economic zone in Pakistan -- APP

Zardari offers Korea to set up economic zone in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday offered Korea to establish its economic zone in Pakistan to boost trade ties between the two countries.

The President was chairing a meeting to discuss his forthcoming visit to Korea and to highlight investment opportunities for the Korean businessmen and investors in Pakistan.

Representatives of Korean companies were also present.

Briefing about the meeting Spokesperson to the President Farhatullah Babar said President Zardari invited Korean companies to take advantage of most attractive investment opportunities available in Pakistan in different sectors including oil and gas, mining, trading, energy, information technology and telecom, food and agriculture, Small and Medium Enterprises, infrastructure and tourism.

Zardari said he looked forward to his visit to Korea which would help boost economic and trade ties between the two countries.

He said with emerging market of 180 million people, Pakistan was a potential hub of the economic activities in the region as it was located at the crossroads of West Asia, South Asia, Central Asia and China and provided shortest access to North and South Asia through Gwadar Port.

He said Pakistan was a force multiplier for the economies of the countries in the region and held the key to economic development in the area.

The Spokesperson said the President appreciated managers and heads of Korean companies operating in Pakistan for their investment and their interest to further explore business opportunities here.

He assured the participants that Pakistan government would continue to extend maximum facilitation and provide them with every possible support in realizing their investment objectives.

He said the government was keen to transform the existing relationship with the Republic of Korea into economy-oriented equation for the benefit of the two countries.

"We need to translate our existing relations in economic terms," the spokesperson quoted the President, "so as to take advantage of each others' resources and opportunities."

Highlighting Pak-Korea relations, the President mentioned landmark infrastructure projects completed with the help of South Korean companies and said it testified

lasting relationships between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea.

The Korean companies represented Star Hydro Power, Lotte Pak PTA Co Ltd. Karachi, SAMBU Pak (Pvt) Ltd, Hyundai Engineering Co, Lotte Engineering and Construction Co, Deokjae Connecting Roads (Pvt) Ltd, Daewoo Pakistan Express Bus Service Ltd, Daewoo Pakistan Motorway Service Ltd. Karachi, LS Cable, Hyundai Corporation Karachi and Poonsan Corporation.

The meeting of the President with the heads and executives of leading Korean companies was also attended by Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar, Communications Minister Dr. Arbab Alamgir Khan, Finance Minister Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, Makhdoom Shahabuddin, Federal Minister for Textile Industry, Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Water and Power, Secretary General to the President M. Salman Faruqi and Chairman BOI Saleem H Manndviwala

All Day

سرمائی دارالحکومت کے قیام کے بعد گوادری پورٹ پر جہازوں کی آمدورفت شروع ہو گئی -- جنگ

کوئٹہ : سرمائی دارالحکومت کے قیام کے بعد گوادری پورٹ پر جہازوں کی آمدورفت شروع ہو گئی ہے، جس سے نہ صرف گوادری میں تجارتی سرگرمیوں میں اضافہ رہا بلکہ مقامی لوگوں کو روزگار کے مواقع بھی میسر کر رہے ہیں، اس کے علاوہ ٹرانسپورٹرز، ہوٹل مالکان اور مزدوروں سمیت تمام شعبوں میں کام کرنے والے لوگوں کے روزگار میں بھی اضافہ ہوا۔ جبکہ 25 دسمبر تک 18 بحری جہاز مختلف ممالک سے 7 لاکھ میٹرک ٹن یوریا کھاد لیکر گوادری پورٹ پر لنگر انداز ہونگے۔ گوادری پورٹ پر اب تک 3 جہاز یوریا لے کر پورٹ پہنچ چکے ہیں، گوادری بندرگاہ پر جہازوں کے لنگر انداز ہونے کے بعد یوریا کی آمد اور ملک کے اندرونی علاقوں میں ترسیل کا کام نہایت تیزی سے جاری ہے، دریں اثناء گوادری بندرگاہ کے فعال ہونے اور سرمائی دارالحکومت کے قیام سے عوامی حلقوں کا کہنا ہے کہ وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان نواب محمد اسلم خان رئیسانی کی قیادت میں صوبائی حکومت کی کوششوں سے سرمائی دارالحکومت کے قیام اور گوادری پورٹ کی فعالیت سے علاقے میں سڑکوں کی تعمیر اور جدید سہولیات کی فراہمی کے منصوبوں پر کام کی مرحلہ وار تکمیل کے بعد علاقے میں ایک خوشگوار تبدیلی محسوس کی جا رہی ہے، عوامی حلقوں کا کہنا ہے کہ انہیں اپنا تابناک مستقبل قریب نظر آ رہا ہے اور ترقی کے جاری ثمرات گوادری سمیت صوبے کے دوردراز علاقوں تک پھیلے ہوئے نظر آ رہے ہیں۔

December 2, 2011

Fri

All Day

New Gwadar International Airport to be completed by 2014 -- APP

ISLAMABAD, Dec 2 (APP): The under construction New Gwadar International Airport, which was due to be completed by end of 2013, would now be completed by December 2014. According to official sources here, the PC-1 of New Gwadar International Airport Project was approved in September 2008 with implementation schedule of 48 months. The initial Site Protection Work was started in January 2009 with a planned completion time of 10 months.

However, due to law and order situation of the area and frequent interruption extensions have been granted to the contractor. Consequently, the progress remained slow and the project schedule was affected adversely.

Presently, only 27.73 percent progress was achieved with regards to Site Protection Work by Frontier Works Organization (FWO).

The remaining works on the airside infrastructure, terminal building, cargo and allied services are at planning stage with consultant M/s NESPAK.

The sources informed that considering the uncertainty associated with the project, no definite date for completion of this project can be ascertained.

The planning of the project depends on successful launching of remaining works, provided peace and harmony prevailed in the area and subject to completion of Site Protection Work, amicable resolution of land disputes with the locals, remaining works can be planned to be completed by December.

All Day

Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani said on Sunday the Gwadar port had the potential to turn into a trade hub for the region and gateway to Central Asia and the Middle East. -- APP

Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani said on Sunday the Gwadar port had the potential to turn into a trade hub for the region and gateway to Central Asia and the Middle East.

Addressing a ceremony held to inaugurate the civil secretariat in the coastal town, he said: "Gwadar has strategic and geographical importance and the 21st Century belongs to such places."

Nawab Raisani said his government was endeavouring to make the port fully functional and Gwadar had been declared the winter provincial capital to expedite development.

He said some elements were waging propaganda against the decision that had been taken in the interest of the people of the region.

People claiming that the move will put financial burden on the poor province must visit Gwadar and witness the expenditure made by the provincial government, he said. The chief minister said he would concentrate on his development agenda for the province and its people.

"Pakistan's future is linked with the functioning of Gwadar port."

He said offices of all important departments had been set up in the town.

He said the port had become partially functional and ships carrying fertiliser from various countries were being offloaded there.

The chief minister said the rich mineral resources of the province had not been exploited so far and the government was making all out efforts to explore them for the benefit of the people.

He said his government had been striving from its first day to make the people of Balochistan the owners of those resources and bring a change in their lives as they had not been given their rights by all pervious rulers.

Provincial Finance Secretary Mir Dostain Jamaldani informed the chief minister that Rs20.8 million had been allocated setting up offices in Gwadar and Rs2.5 million would be spent on purchasing computers.

All Day

Govt released Rs 11.90bn under PSDP during last month -- Daily Times

Govt released Rs 11.90bn under PSDP during last month

* Amount is 230% more compared to last month releases

* If trend continues then by year-end, the developmental budget would be cut by 50%

By Ijaz Kakakhel

ISLAMABAD: The government has released Rs 11.90 billion under Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP-2011-12) from November 4 to December 2 during the current fiscal year against a criteria set by ministry of finance to release Rs 25 billion per month, sources told Daily Times here on Saturday.

With addition of this amount, total PSDP 2011-12 releases reached to Rs 74.7 billion by December 2. However, the releases in last month, from October 8 to Nov 4, the government (Planning Commission) released Rs 3.6 billion and by comparison, the per month releases increased by Rs 8.30 billion (showing 230

percent higher increase against last month).

But the Rs 11.90 billion release under PSDP from November 4 to December 2 is still lagging behind a criteria set by ministry of finance to release Rs 25 billion per month. The releases from current year PSDP shows a downward trend and if the same trend continues then by end of this year, the developmental budget would be cut by more than fifty percent as the case was in PSDP 2010-11, the sources claimed.

The total releases under developmental budget Rs 74.7 billion further classified as Rs 37.6 billion for infrastructure sector, Rs 36.3 billion for social sector and Rs 0.695 billion for others sectors. The whole allocation was made for 1263 developmental projects of national importance.

Total size of the PSDP 2011-12 is Rs 290 billion including Rs 36.5 billion as foreign exchange component (FEC) and Rs 33 billion as Special Programme. The releases against Special Programmes are being made by Cabinet Division, Finance Division. The Foreign Aid disbursement amount is received in the Economic Affairs Division. The Rs 74.7 billion releases are exclusive of Foreign Aid disbursement. Therefore above releases are against Rs 220.5 billion (290-36.5-33), the Planning and Development Division will release funds against this amount (Rs 220.5 billion).

Officials figure released issued here on Saturday revealed that the releases to communications division, NHA and Higher Education Commission are made one line within Rs 220.5 billion. Project wise expenditure is made by these organisations as per their priority.

Rupee component of Power Sector Projects is arranged by WAPDA from its own resources. Therefore, rupee component of Power Sector Projects is not part of budget and not released by Planning and Development Division.

Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission received Rs 4.576 billion for Chashma Nuclear Power Project (C3 & C4) being constructed in collaboration with China. Total cost of these two new nuclear power projects amounts to Rs 189.918 billion. PAEC also received Rs 633.500 million for Chashma Nuclear Power Project CII, Mianwali with a total cost of Rs 51.046 billion.

In the Water and Power Sector, Federal government has released Rs 3.600 billion for land acquisition for construction of Diamer Basha Dam the project land acquisition requires Rs 60.052 billion, the Dam will generate 4500MW power on completion. Federal government has released Rs 3 billion for Raising of Mangla Dam including resettlement project while and total cost of this project is Rs 62.553 billion.

Gomal Zam Dam project Rs 250 million, Kachhi Canal (Phase-I) Rs 750 million, Raineer Canal (Phase-I) Rs 750 million, Lower Indus Right Bank Irrigation and Drainage, Sindh Rs 500 million, Balochistan Effluent Disposal into RBOD, (RBOD-III) Rs 500 million, Revamping, Rehabilitation of Irrigation and Drainage System of Sindh Rs 180 million, Extension of Right Bank Outfall Drain from Sehwan to Sea, (RBODII), Dadu and Thatta District of Sindh Rs 1.3 billion, Lining of Distributaries and Minors in Sindh Rs 240 million, Construction of 100 Delay Action Dams, Balochistan Rs 120 million, Construction of 20 small Dams in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rs 100 million, re-construction of Shadi Kour Dam, District Gwadar Rs 100 million, Federal government had allocated Rs 5 billion for People's Works Programme-I and Rs 28 billion were allocated for People's Works Programme-II, that are flagship development programmes of the PPP government in the centre, have not received a single penny till November 4, 2011-12.

Out of the block allocation of Rs 8.2 billion Azad Jammu and Kashmir government was released only Rs 2.788 billion by end November 4. The government also released Rs 200 million for construction of Rathua Haryam Bridge across Reservoir Channel on Mirpur-Islamgarh Road.

Federal government had announced in the federal budget a total development

budget of Rs 730 billion for 2011-12, compared to Rs 663 billion last year, showing a 10 percent increase.

Among the total development budget PSDP, an amount of Rs 290 billion has been allocated for the projects of federal government, whereas Rs 430 billion have been earmarked for the provinces, to be spent through their Annual Development Programmes (ADPs), while Rs 10 billion have been allocated for the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA).

All Day

Gwadar civil secretariat inaugurated -- DAWN

QUETTA, Dec 4: Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani said on Sunday the Gwadar port had the potential to turn into a trade hub for the region and gateway to Central Asia and the Middle East.

Addressing a ceremony held to inaugurate the civil secretariat in the coastal town, he said: "Gwadar has strategic and geographical importance and the 21st Century belongs to such places."

Nawab Raisani said his government was endeavouring to make the port fully functional and Gwadar had been declared the winter provincial capital to expedite development.

He said some elements were waging propaganda against the decision that had been taken in the interest of the people of the region.

People claiming that the move will put financial burden on the poor province must visit Gwadar and witness the expenditure made by the provincial government, he said. The chief minister said he would concentrate on his development agenda for the province and its people.

"Pakistan's future is linked with the functioning of Gwadar port."

He said offices of all important departments had been set up in the town.

He said the port had become partially functional and ships carrying fertiliser from various countries were being offloaded there.

The chief minister said the rich mineral resources of the province had not been exploited so far and the government was making all out efforts to explore them for the benefit of the people.

He said his government had been striving from its first day to make the people of Balochistan the owners of those resources and bring a change in their lives as they had not been given their rights by all previous rulers.

Provincial Finance Secretary Mir Dostain Jamaldani informed the chief minister that Rs20.8 million had been allocated setting up offices in Gwadar and Rs2.5 million would be spent on purchasing computers.

All Day

Three ships unloading urea at Gwadar Port -- APP

KARACHI: Three vessels, carrying a total of 120,000 tons of urea, are anchored at Gwadar Port and have started offloading, according to a statement.

The vessels include MV Great Mary carrying 27,500 tons, MV Medi Lisbon carrying 47,334 tons and MV Dubai Ambassador carrying 45,000 tons are under discharge at Gwadar Port, said a statement of Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP).

It said that six more vessels carrying around 200,000 tons urea are under voyage and scheduled to arrive next week. These are MV Lancelot carrying 49,500 tons, MV Magic Orient carrying 19,995 tons, MV Poavaosa Wisdom carrying 24,403 tons,

December 4, 2011 Continued

Sun

MV Master carrying 22,624 tons, MV Ocean Galaxy carrying 32,000 tons and MV Lycavitos carrying 51,996 tons, it added. With the arrival of next six shipments, the total arrival of urea for Rabi season would stand at 400,000 tons.

All Day

Gwadar will be a centre for trade, says Raisani -- APP

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Raisani, while highlighting the importance of the Gwadar seaport, said that it would become a centre for trade and would be a gateway to access resource rich countries of Central Asia.

He said this while inaugurating the Campus of Civil Secretariat in Gwadar. Provincial Ministers Sayed Eshan Shah, Mir Hamal Kalmati, Hasim Kurd Gilu and provincial secretaries of different departments were also present on the occasion.

"Gwadar will be an importance trade centre for the world in the near future as it has geographical importance and would become a door to get access to Central Asia and the Middle East," the chief minister said, adding that the 21st century would be fruitful for a country having strategic importance like Gwadar.

He said that he was taking keen interest in making the Gwadar port completely functional because the future of the nation was attached to Gwadar. "All the necessary offices are being set up in Gwadar to smoothly run the affairs. It is a first step to bring prosperity and economic improvement, not only in the region, but also in Pakistan. It will boost the economy of the country if it is made completely functional," he added.

Raisani said that his government had been making efforts from the very beginning to give the right of ownership to the people of this region over their resources, adding that this would change the life of the people and would bring prosperity through socio-economic change.

Commenting on Gwadar's current status, the chief minister said that it was partially functional and that ships carrying cargo were being anchored and off-loaded. "Declaring Gwadar as the winter provincial capital would pave the way to expediting the process of development." Referring to criticism over making Gwadar the winter capital, the chief minister said that some elements were engaged in a propaganda campaign and that it had to be made clear to everyone that decision was taken in the interest of the people of the region. "Those people saying that it would ill be a financial burden for the economy of Balochistan should visit Gwadar and witness the expenditure made by the provincial government," he added.

Finance Secretary Dosteen Jamaldini said that the provincial government had spent Rs 28.6 million to make Gwadar the provincial capital, while Rs 2.5 million were being spent on equipment and computers for offices. "Secretaries of different departments have resumed their duties in Gwadar," he said.

The Makran deputy inspector general said that law enforcement agencies were taking the necessary steps to ensure the protection of the life and property of the people in Gwadar. Later, the chief minister visited the newly set up Civil Secretariat.

All Day

Red China: PLA engineers operating multiple projects in Pakistan -- Russian News!

The PLA engineer corps is helping to build Pakistan's Gwadar Port, the Saindak Project in Baluchistan, the Chashma-I and II nuclear power plants, as well as the Karakoram Highway (KKH) and power projects in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Linking the Gwadar Port with the KKH will reduce the cost of Chinese products in Central Asian markets and expand China's access to oil, gas, and minerals from Africa and the Middle East, Pakistan's Jang newspaper reports. Chinese-supported infrastructure projects under way in Gilgit-Baltistan and the Northern Areas include the Sadpara Dam, Bunji Dam (7000 MW), Kayalbo Dam (3000 MW), Diamer Bhasha Dam (4000 MW), the Naltar Power Project, the Gilgit-Skardu Highway, and the Praib Bridge. China is building several tunnels in Hunza, the Sost Dry Port, a fiber optic network, and several oil and gas projects. Beijing and Islamabad are also considering an oil pipeline from Gwadar to western China and a Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline to transport oil to China from Saudi Arabia and Iran.

All Day

Urea being discharged at Gwadar -- APP

Urea being discharged at Gwadar

Karachi—Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) has informed that currently three vessels, carrying a total of around 120,000 tonnes of urea, MV Grate Mary carrying 27,500 tonnes, MV Medi Lisbon carrying 47,334 tonnes and MV Dubai Ambassador carrying 45,000 tonnes are under discharge at Gwadar Port. According to a press release issued here, six more vessels carrying around 200,000 tonnes of urea, (i) MV Lancelot carrying 49,500 tonnes, (ii) MV Magic Orient carrying 19,995 tonnes, (iii) MV Poavaosa Wisdom carrying 24,403 tonnes, (iv) MV Master carrying 22,624 tonnes, (v) MV Ocean Galaxy carrying 320,000 tonnes and (vi) MV Lycavitos carrying 51,996 tonnes are under voyage and scheduled to arrive during the next week on different dates.

With the arrival of above shipments the arrived quantity would work out to around 400,000 tonnes against the total contracted quantity of 700,000 tonnes being imported by TCP under the directives of Government. The process of cargo discharge as well as lifting and transportation of urea by National Fertiliser Marketing Limited (NFML) is underway, round the clock.

As per shipment schedules received, the balance around 326,000 tonnes would also arrive by the end of December 2011. However, TCP is vigorously pursuing the suppliers to further expedite the supplies.

All Day

Pak-China Institute signs MoU to enhance bilateral trade -- APP

Pak-China Institute signs MoU to enhance bilateral trade

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-China Business Council of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and Pakistan-China Institute have entered into an agreement to jointly work for the promotion of trade relations between Pakistan and China.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed at Federation House, Karachi by Tariq Sayeed, Patron-in-Chief of Pakistan-China Business Council and Mushahid Hussain Syed, Chairman, Pakistan-China Institute, according to a statement received here Friday.

While speaking on the signing ceremony both the signatories informed that the purpose of signing of Memorandum of Understanding was to make joint efforts in bringing the business community of the both countries closer and intensifying the economic and bilateral trade relations between the two countries.

Both the non Government institutions will jointly hold Seminars, Briefings, Conferences, Research projects and bilateral meetings on a regular basis in Pakistan as well as organizing joint delegations and joint ventures in various fields.

In accordance to the agreement they will organize participation in Trade Fairs in China to enhance the commerce and economy and trade.

The two institutions will hold bilateral as well as trilateral consultations periodically in cooperation with reputable counterparts in China for exchange of business leaders, delegations of private sector enterprises as well as scholars and students interested in these issues.

The two institutions will serve as the principal private sector platform between Pakistan and China to promote research, study and activities on various other areas well as that may be of interest to counterparts in China including geopolitics, energy, education, environment, culture, sports, climate change, poverty alleviation, good governance or any other challenges facing the two countries.

The websites of both institutions will be available to each other for dissemination of information by mutual consent.

The two institutions will endeavor to organize an annual Pakistan-China Business Summit alternatively in Pakistan and China, with the support of a counterpart from China, as well as including each others organizations in delegations visiting China or a third country with a focus on China.

Given the emerging regional cooperation, both the institutions will seek to promote closer collaboration between Pakistan and China in the broader context of economic interaction between two countries with reference to South Asia, East Asia, Central Asia and West Asia to pursue and promote the vision that is common namely, that the 21st century should be an "Asian Century" of peace, progress and prosperity for the entire Asia.

All Day

China wants to intensify amicable, cooperation relations with Pakistan:

Dai Bingguo -- APP

China wants to intensify amicable, cooperation relations with Pakistan: Dai Bingguo

ISLAMABAD, Dec 23 (APP) - State Councilor of China Dai Bingguo while reiterating China's commitment to further bolster the historic and deep-rooted ties with Pakistan said Friday, China wanted to intensify amicable and cooperative relations with Pakistan. "China is firmly committed to deepening friendship and partnership with neighboring countries. We want to intensify amicable and cooperative relations with Pakistan and other neighboring countries," Dai Bingguo said while addressing a reception hosted in his honour by Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani here at the PM House.

The reception, which marked the 60th Anniversary of China-Pakistan Diplomats Relations and the Closing of the Year of China-Pakistan Friendship, was attended, besides the Chinese delegation, by federal ministers and members of the parliament.

"Together, let's share peace, promote development, pursue cooperation and achieve win-win results for all", the Chinese State Councilor said.

Dai Bingguo spoke high of Pakistan-China relations and said "China and Pakistan are friendly neighbours connected by the same mountains and rivers."

"Sixty years ago, our two countries established diplomatic relations, an event that opened a new chapter in our relationship. Since then, the China-Pakistan political ties have become stronger after being tested by trying times," he added.

The Chinese State Councilor said, "Our all-round cooperation has drawn our interests closer. And the friendship between the brotherly Chinese and Pakistani people have grown stronger still as we have gone through thick and thin together."

He also quoted late Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai as pointing out that, "The friendly relations between China and Pakistan is not dictated by expediency; it is rooted in our mutual need and the interests of Asia-Africa solidarity and world peace. Our friendship manifests itself not just in ordinary times, but also in critical moments."

Dai Bingguo said during the past 60 years, China and Pakistan have forged a strategic partnership of cooperation that has produced fruitful results.

"Our two countries have treated each other with mutual respect and as equals, and we could always count on each other for sincere and selfless support and assistance."

"Our leaders, who have visited each other frequently as relatives do, have been in close communication and coordination on major issues. There have also been close exchanges between our parliaments, political parties and local governments," he added.

The Chinese State Councilor said, "Our bilateral trade has grown from a modest 10 million dollars in the early days of diplomatic relations to almost 10 billion dollars today."

"The signing of the bilateral free trade agreement further unleashed the potential in our economic and trade cooperation. The Karakorum Highway, Gwadar Port, Taxila Heavy Mechanical Complex, Chashma Nuclear Power Plant, Jinnah Sports Stadium and Pakistan-China Friendship Centre: these mega-projects bear testimony to the lasting China-Pakistan friendship," he added.

Dai Bingguo, however, mentioned the profound and complex changes taking place in today's world and added, "Confronted with the complicated and volatile international situation, it is all the more important for all-weather strategic partners like China and Pakistan to handle our own affairs well and maintain stability and growth, and to deepen and broaden our cooperation."

"Thus we can secure more favourable conditions for the stability and development of our own countries and make greater contribution to peace, stability, development and prosperity of the region and the world at large," he added.

The Chinese State Councilor stressed the need for further strengthen strategic coordination and "carry on the tradition of frequent high-level exchanges, and support and help each other on issues concerning each other's major interests."

"China always maintains that Pakistan's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity should be duly respected; its contribution and sacrifice in the international counter-terrorism campaign should be fully recognized; and its effort to achieve

national stability and development should receive strong support and sincere assistance from the international community", he added.

He also stressed the need for further expanding Pak-China practical cooperation in various fields through various ways and means including enhanced people to people exchanges.

All Day

Pak-China partnership conducive to stability of Asia: Gilani -- Daily Dawn

Pak-China partnership conducive to stability of Asia: Gilani

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani shakes hand with Dai Bingguo State Councilor of China, during a meeting at PM House in Islamabad on Friday. – Photo by PPI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani on Friday said Pakistan-China comprehensive cooperation and robust partnership was in the fundamental interest of their peoples and conducive to peace, progress and stability of Asia.

"There is a complete convergence of views of our two countries on the global and regional issues and a commonality of approach to advance the international agenda for peace and prosperity," Gilani said while speaking at a banquet he hosted in honour of the visiting State Councilor of China Dai Bingguo here at the PM House.

The prime minister termed the friendship with China as the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and said, "the relations between Pakistan and China go beyond governments and are deeply rooted in the hearts and minds of our peoples."

"We rejoice with our Chinese friends on their remarkable national accomplishments. China's economic transformation, technological excellence and spirit of innovation elicit our respect and admiration," he added.

The prime minister said China also continues to make an admirable contribution to global peace and development, adding, "It provides an excellent example of wise conduct in international affairs."

He said Pakistan and China are close neighbours linked by common rivers and mountains.

Gilani said Pakistan supports China on all its core issues, adding, "We support One China policy and are totally committed to upholding of China's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

"We also appreciate China's invaluable support for Pakistan's socio-economic development," he added.

The prime minister said Pakistan also seeks to improve its relations with India and find a peaceful solution to all outstanding issues, adding, "in this context, we attach importance to the ongoing dialogue process with India and hope that it would be productive and result-oriented."

He said, Pakistan has been in the forefront of the campaign against terror. "We have registered significant success and offered enormous sacrifices. We remain committed to eliminating the specter of terrorism from our region."

Gilani said Premier Wen Jiabao's visit last December was another outstanding landmark in the all-dimensional friendship and cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China.

"I am certain that State Councillor Dai Bingguo's visit will also contribute to the further deepening and broadening of the horizons of our cooperation in all spheres," he added.

The prime minister on this occasion also conveyed to the Chinese leadership and

people warm greetings and good wishes of the people of Pakistan.

“Pakistan will remain a true and steadfast friend of the great Chinese nation. Long live Pakistan-China friendship,” he added.

All Day

Expanding oil refining infrastructure -- Daily Times

Expanding oil refining infrastructure

Demand for the POL (petroleum, oil, lubricants) products in Pakistan is growing stronger on a year-on-year basis.

It is projected that the annual demand of POL products would increase to 19 million tons by the year 2017-18 and over 34 million tons by 2025-26 against the present consumption of 20 million tons.

Current domestic refining capacity is insufficient to meet present demand of the POL products.

Today, the country has a total refining capacity to process around 287,000 barrels per day (bpd) or, equivalent 13 million tons, of crude oil annually.

There are seven oil refineries operating.

Major players in the sector are Pak-Arab Refinery Co Ltd (PARCO) of 100,000 bpd, National Refinery Ltd of 65,000 bpd, Pakistan Refinery Ltd of 50,000 bpd, Attock Refinery Ltd of 40,000 bpd and Byco (formerly Bosicar) Pakistan Ltd of 30,000 bpd output capacity.

The balance annual demand of 7 million tons oil is being met through imports.

Attock Refinery is totally dependent on local crude and gas condensate, whereas PARCO, which is a joint venture between the governments of Pakistan and the UAE, processes heavy crude from the UAE only.

Pakistan Refinery and National Refinery also process indigenous crude, blending with crude oil imported from the Gulf and Saudi Arabian sources.

It was planned for many years to undertake up-gradation and capacity expansion of the existing refineries and to set up new refinery projects in the private sector.

It was projected to achieve total capacity to 400,000 bpd by 2009, and, subsequently, 520,000 bpd in 2014.

The plans however could not be implemented as envisaged.

There has been a nominal increase in capacity expansion in the past years but no new refinery project could come on stream.

On the other hand, capacity utilisation of the existing oil refineries has been declining in recent years due to a variety of reasons.

At present, the refineries are not even operating at optimal available capacity, as a result of the circular debt issue.

This situation would result in further widening the gap between demand and oil supply in coming years, rather there are already signs of the country facing a severe oil crisis in the short-term.

In a latest development, the industry has revived its plans for modernisation and capacity expansion aiming to develop capability to produce large quantities of ultra-clean fuels in line with global trend of stricter quality specifications.

Now, Attock Refinery plans to expand its installed capacity to 53,000 bpd within four years or so, with an investment of \$100 million.

Likewise, Pakistan Refinery plans to install isomerization unit (for improving the octane value), diesel hydro desulfurization (DHDS) complex and thermal gas oil unit at a total cost of \$250 million.

Another investment of \$300 million will be made by National Refinery for further expansion of its facilities including installation of isomerization and DHDS units.

Bosicar Refinery claims that its throughput has recently increased to 35, 000 bpd, as a result of revamping and de-bottlenecking of existing refinery, and may further enhance shortly to 40,000 bpd.

A new refinery by Byco Oil Pakistan Ltd at Mouza Kund in Balochistan is the only project being undertaken at present.

This new unit of 115,000 bpd capacity to refine crude oil, relocated and currently under construction at a cost of \$430 million is scheduled to commence its operations by 2012.

The company is also establishing a petrochemical complex, with an initial capacity of 17,100 bpd to produce aromatics like benzene, toluene and xylenes, for which plant machinery has already been imported.

The proposed Khalifa Coastal Refinery, of capacity to process 250,000 bpd or 13 million tons of crude oil annually, would be the largest refinery in Pakistan on completion.

To be installed near Hub in Balochistan, the refinery was approved by the ECC of the Cabinet in 2007 at a cost of \$5 billion, now revised to \$6 billion.

The project, a joint venture of PARCO and International Petroleum Investment Co (IPC) of the UAE, was scheduled for commissioning in 2011.

Sadly, there has been no physical progress on the construction of Khalifa Refinery as yet, for which the government has provided 1,000 acres of land to the investors as free-hold lease without charging any rent.

The reported, the project is being revived.

The Trans-Asia Refinery project of 100,000 bpd capacity was planned at Port Qasim, Karachi with the help of Kuwait and South Korea.

Also, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia had shown interest to set up refineries of 200,000 bpd at Port Qasim and 300,000 bpd capacity at Hub, respectively.

China wanted to construct a refinery and petrochemical complex at Gwadar.

Nonetheless, there has been no progress on any of these projects.

Availability and affordability of energy is essential for sustainable economic growth.

To effectively meet the future oil demands, the existing oil-refining infrastructure is to be augmented.

For the purpose, the government needs to intervene and expedite implementation of the planned refinery projects within agreed, time schedules, ensuring a conducive environment for investment.

(The writer is retired Chairman of the State Engineering Corporation, Government of Pakistan)

All Day

Pak-China CSA to boost trade and investment -- Daily Times

Pak-China CSA to boost trade and investment

Staff Report

KARACHI: Pakistan and China have signed Currency Swap Agreement (CSA) for promoting bilateral trade and enhancing financing of direct investment between the two countries in their respective local currencies.

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Yaseen Anwar Thursday stated this while explaining CSA with Peoples Bank of China (PBC).

The CSA has been executed for a tenor of three years in respect of local currencies, Rs 140 billion and 10 billion yuan.

This is the second CSA that SBP has signed, the first one being with the Central Bank of Turkey on November 1, 2011.

SBP governor said that the principal objective of these swaps is to promote the use of regional currencies for trade settlement purposes and specifically in the case of China because the agreement will enhance the role of the yuan in international trade and investment.

Since the CSA is a bilateral financial transaction, all terms and conditions apply equally to both countries and the pricing is based on standard market benchmarks, which are widely acceptable in the respective domestic markets of the two countries, he added.

Both central banks will have the ability to draw on the swap line any time during the tenor of the swap.

SBP can purchase yuan from PBC against its local currency, and repurchase its local currency with the same Chinese currency on a predetermined maturity date and exchange rate.

Similarly PBC can also purchase rupee against Chinese currency but standard market pricing will apply on the date of utilisation. Like any swap, the pricing is linked to interest rates differentials between the two currencies.

Anwar said that the announcement of the CSA between the two central banks will give a positive signal to the market on the availability of liquidity of the other country's currency in the onshore market.

This means, SBP will have the ability to draw on the swap line and provide yuan to banks in Pakistan. Banks will on-lend this liquidity to importers/exporters involved in trade denominated in yuan.

At maturity, the importer/exporter will repay the foreign currency to the lending bank; and the bank will repay to the respective central bank. The trade financing regulations in foreign currencies are already available in Pakistan for providing liquidity and facilitating trade. The same concept will also apply in the case of PBC borrowing rupees for trade or investment in Pakistan, the SBP governor said.

On the maturity date of the letter of credit (LC), the importer will pay off the overseas supplier by borrowing in yuan. Assuming borrowing is for six months, the importer will save on the rupee cost and after six months the importer will buy yuan against rupee and pay off the yuan loan. Availability of onshore yuan financing will encourage importers to open yuan denominated LCs.

Once the contract is established, the exporter will borrow in yuan, sell yuan against rupee and utilise rupee for its local operations. On the maturity date of the contract, the exporter will receive yuan from the overseas buyer and payoff the yuan loan locally.

Utilisation of rupee in China: Same concept will apply to PBC drawing rupee against the swap line and lending the same to banks in China. China has significant investments in various projects in Pakistan and rupee proceeds of the swap can be channelised to such long-term projects in Pakistan via Chinese banks.

Concurrently with the arrival in Pakistan of the Industrial Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), the largest bank in China (and the world in terms of capital), the CSA provides a strong boost towards building offshore investor confidence that will encourage other investors to capitalise on the economic opportunities in Pakistan, Anwar concluded.

The title "Gwadar's largest commercial scheme" Al-Noor cargo city holds this distinct. Al-Noor cargo city is also known as Gwadar's first strategic commercial scheme. Al-Noor cargo city is situated in the mid of Gwadar airport and Gwadar sea port. It has one-kilometer wide front on the 205ft wide main Baluchistan Broadway and 150ft wide Existing coastal highway.

Al-Noor Cargo City gives an eye-catching stance to both local and international investors due to its strategic location. In addition, just 1500 yards distance to Deep Sea East Bay gives another edge to Al-Noor Cargo City.



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All Day

BISP acting as bridge for Sino-Pak social sector coop' -- Observer

BISP acting as bridge for Sino-Pak social sector coop'

Staff Reporter

Islamabad—Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Farzana Raja has said that Pakistan and China are all weather friends and the government and people of Pakistan fully acknowledge and appreciate the support of China, especially in the social sector of Pakistan. She said this while talking to Mr. Liu Jian, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan here at BISP Secretariat Thursday who visited to deliver relief goods from All China Women Federation (ACNF) to the flood affected beneficiaries of BISP in Sindh.

Farzana Raja while appreciating the support of ACNF to recent flood affectees of Sindh said that China is always first to stand by Pakistan in the hour of need. It should be remembered that ACNF had also sent relief goods for the flood affectees in 2010. Chairperson BISP said that BISP has emerged as an on organization which is proving to be a bridge for enhanced Pak-China cooperation in the social sector. She added further that BISP is willing to explore new facets of mutual cooperation with China in the year 2012 as a part of its resolve to benefit the under privileged segments of society.

Chairperson BISP appraised visiting Chinese ambassador about the ongoing initiative to promote vocational and technical skills in Pakistan with the collaboration of China Federation for Peace and Development. Under the programme, she said, hundreds of individuals from beneficiary families are being trained as part of graduation scheme of BISP to enable financially vulnerable families to break the vicious circle of poverty on long term basis.

Farzana Raja said that BISP would happily share the data collected through national poverty survey with Chinese organizations that are willing to work in the social welfare projects in Pakistan under their corporate social responsibility.

Mr. Liu Jian admired the vision and working of BISP for poverty alleviation and underpinned the need of enhanced cooperation between the two countries, especially in the social sector. He said that due to transparency and objectivity of BISP operations, China would not only continue its support for the programme in the forthcoming year but will also like to explore the avenues for further collaboration and cooperation with BISP.

All Day

China to be the largest importer of Pak products' -- Daily Times

China to be the largest importer of Pak products'

Staff Report

KARACHI: People's Republic of China is going to be the largest importer of Pakistani products in the coming future, as Karakoram Highway (KKH) would be re-linked with Western China in 2012.

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Chief Executive Tariq Iqbal Puri said in a meeting with Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) members that regional countries should be focused on enhancing Pakistani exports.

"Regional countries like Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Russia, Association of South East Asian Nation (ASEAN) countries and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are showing interest in Pakistani products," he highlighted.

He said there is a huge potential and opportunity in China for Pakistani business.

He highlighted the participation of Pakistan in more than 12 exhibitions and four

business forums in China that would be increased to 20 exhibitions in 2012.

Exploring different foreign markets for Pakistani products, he highlighted Russia for potatoes and cement, Japan for mango, etc.

He said TDAP is making intellectual contribution in promoting Pakistani products to foreign markets and KCCI should organise workshops and seminars to create awareness for the unexplored potential in these markets among the business community.

“Currently the European Union (EU) crisis are hitting Pakistani exports, that is why the exports are going down and the country is facing uncertainty. Now the markets should be diversified.”

He said textile sector contributes a huge portion in Pakistani exports but is showing decline at present due to low cotton prices, so the export of non-textile sector like Halal food manufacturing, cosmetics and many other products to these countries might help achieve export target for this year.

He suggested various measures to promote Pakistani products and brands in overseas markets and emphasised on web portals and video conferencing. “Contents in the web portal play a significant role in exploring the potential,” he added.

He also agreed to allocate Pakistan Pavilions to KCCI for several international exhibitions including TDAP’s WEXNET for woman entrepreneurs scheduled to be organised in Dubai soon.

KCCI President Mian Abrar Ahmad said the existing exports of Pakistan do not lie with the country’s export potential due to deteriorating law and order situation and negative perception of the country in foreign markets.

“Even Saudi Arabia has imposed restrictions on remittance to Pakistan,” he added.

He highlighted Halal food has a big market, even non-Muslim countries take interest in this sector. Also agriculture, engineering and value-added sector have much potential.

He said Pakistan has become an aid-dependant country chronically.

Former KCCI president Majyd Aziz highlighted the Turkish consul general witnessed mineral efficiency in Pakistan but feared in visiting such areas like Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to negative perception of the country.

All Day

Zardari orders prompt off-loading of urea at Gwadar -- APP

Zardari orders prompt off-loading of urea at Gwadar

KARACHI, Jan 3 (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday directed to expedite off-loading and transportation of the imported urea to other parts of the country, currently clogged up at the Gwadar Port. The President directed the National Fertilizer Marketing Ltd (NFML) to speed up the process of transportation and distribution of urea while ensuring transparency in the distribution mechanism. In a meeting held at the Bilawal House here, the President stressed for resolving the issue of availability of fertilizer in far-flung areas of the country and controlling the rising price besides saving the imported stock from the impact of extreme weather. The meeting was held to discuss the current situation with respect to urea and price of rice, where it was informed that so far 700,000 tons of imported urea had arrived at the Gwadar port and 480,000 tons had been off-loaded.

The President observed that all efforts should be undertaken to resolve operational limitations as any adverse change in weather was likely to cause damage to the imported fertilizer lying at the port.

It was also informed that the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) had offered their support to NFML for the transportation of 0.2 MT urea to up-country destination at the rates and other formalities fixed by NFML.

The President was also briefed about province-wise share, distribution and the quantity of urea fertilizer that had been distributed so far among various parts of the country.

In the later part of the briefing, it was informed that according to Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP), at present roughly 5,00,000 metric tons of Irri-6 rice was available in the market with a price of about Rs. 29000 PMT.

It was informed that the TCP at present was not involved in local procurement, price mechanism or export of rice and would only intervene if required by the Government.

Spokesperson Farhatullah Babar said that in another meeting that followed this briefing, President Asif Ali Zardari reviewed situation with regards to communication network that was destroyed or partially damaged as a result of July 2010 floods.

Babar said that it was informed that as a result of huge floods, extensive damage was caused to NHA network throughout Pakistan that included damages to roads, bridges, culverts, retaining walls and causeways etc.

It was informed that approximately 800 km of national highway network was either completely or partially damaged which is 6.6 percent of the total 12131 Km of NHA network. It was informed that 46 bridges were also damaged as a result of 2010 floods.

The NHA Chairman while briefing the President informed that the NHA has completed Damage Need Assessment (DNA) and has provided details to the donors i.e Asian Development Bank which is the lead agency for communication/transport sector.

It was informed that the cost of damages was assessed to be Rs. 18.38 billion while the cost for restoration was Rs. 22.41 billion without cost of social and environment impact safeguards, land cost, design and escalation etc.

It was informed that Chinese consultants have started design surveys and the design of South Section would be completed by January 2012. The construction work would commence in March 2012, it was told. The design of North Section would be completed by February and by first week of March this year construction work would commence.

The President directed the NHA to facilitate Chinese consultants and contractors working on these projects and also to ensure their security and provide them with historical data.

Representatives of Chinese consultants and contractors were also present during the meeting.

Those who were present during the meetings, included among others Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah, provincial ministers, federal secretaries, NHA Chairman and TCP Chairman besides other senior officials.

January 5, 2012

Thu

All Day

Kayani leaves for China to discuss security, defence -- Pakistan Today

In recent years, China has provided Pakistan frigates, combat jets and other military equipment at subsidised prices or against soft loans and according to the official, the visit of army chief would further enhance the relations between the two friendly states in the field of security and defence.

General Kayani is visiting China after last month's trip to Islamabad by top Chinese diplomat Dai Bingguo.

All Day

China's biggest web portal lauds Pak-China friendship -- Beijing

China's biggest web portal lauds Pak-China friendship

Date : 09-01-2012

Beijing; Jan 9:China's biggest web portal, People's Daily Online has published three pictorial articles in its today's edition praising Pakistan-China friendship and cooperation in various fields including diplomacy, defense and strategic cooperation over the last six decades.

The articles have brief write-ups in which Pakistan China friendship has been hailed along with a total of 72 pictures. These include pictures of the leadership of the two countries, jointly made defense equipment including JF-17 frigates, Naval Ships and Heavy Mechanical Complex in Taxila as well as the 300-kw Chashma nuclear power plant and Jinnah Sports Stadium Islamabad.

The paper said these are significant milestones in Pakistan-China friendship and regarded them as "fruits of Pakistan-China cooperation."

The pictures of diplomatic friendship include photos of the older leadership such as Chairman Mao Zedong, Zhu Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, Ayub Khan, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed as well as the current leadership including Presidents Asif Ali Zardari, Hu Jintao and Prime Ministers Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani and Wen Jiabao.

The online paper makes reference to a historic quote of Chairman Mao Zedong dated May 21, 1951, the day when Pakistan and China established diplomatic relations. He said: "China and Pakistan have long-term friendship, and both the countries have common aspirations of facilitating bilateral economy, developing cultural relations and striving for permanent peace in Asia and the world."

People's Daily Online is the web version of People's Daily China's most influential newspaper which belongs to the ruling Communist Party of China and has an average of 200 million hits every day.

Currently a five-member delegation of People's Daily Online is on a week-long tour of Pakistan to interview the top leadership of the country.

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Pakistan China Friendship

Chairman Pakistan China Institute Congratulates Chinese People on their 62 National Day

Pakistani Ambassador to China wishes Happy 62nd National Day to China

Happy National Day to China

Message by Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan His Excellency Liu Jian on 62nd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China

Chinese leaders gather for 62nd

All Day

Pakistan, Oman agree to strengthen cooperation in diverse areas -- APP
Pakistan, Oman agree to strengthen cooperation in diverse areas

ISLAMABAD, Jan 9 (APP): Pakistan and Oman have agreed to further strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in a number of areas including trade and commerce, finance and banking, law enforcement, education and health care. This was agreed during the fourth round of Pak-Oman Annual Bilateral Political Consultations held in Muscat on Monday, a press release issued by the ministry of foreign affairs here said.

Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir and Omani Under Secretary for Diplomatic Affairs, Ahmed bin Yousuf bin Obaid Al Harthy discussed whole range of bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Oman.

Both sides also exchanged views on regional and international situation.

Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir also called on His Highness Sayyid As'ad bin Tariq Al-Said, Advisor to His Majesty the Sultan of Oman and the Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah.

Pakistan's Ambassador in Oman, Nawabzada Aminullah Khan Raisani and Director General Middle East at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr Manzoor ul Haq also participated in the consultations.

All Day

American Pakistanis keen to facilitate investment -- Express News
American Pakistanis keen to facilitate investment

Faryal Najeeb
Tuesday, January 10, 2012

KARACHI: American-Pakistanis are keen to aid Pakistan but challenges are equally great which puts off both investors and philanthropists, said Awais Khan, President and CEO of American Pakistan Foundation (APF).

"Even if you are dealing with the private sector, you have to go through government channels to get all the legal paperwork done, and that's where you face suggestions of underhand dealings," he said.

Khan said that his foundation also had to face a lot of corruption offers and getting past it to work within the legal parameters had been a huge challenge that they still continue to face.

APF is currently focusing on dealing with two issues - the energy crisis of Pakistan and the high unemployment rate, he said while speaking to The News on Monday at the US Counsel General's residence.

"High unemployment rate is directly linked to poverty and we are looking to facilitate vocational training to unemployed people along with facilitating job opportunities both in Pakistan and abroad," he said.

Khan was of the opinion that entrepreneurship in Pakistan has high potential and can really flourish. However, he stated that this can only be possible if the government is strong of the country, which it is not.

"Four things are pivotal for an entrepreneur," he said, terming them to be the availability of cheap capital, sufficient energy supply, a strong government and legal system and the access to relevant networks and stakeholders.

He said that entrepreneurship is successful in the US due to the above four reasons, which sorely lack in Pakistan. "Security and image issues of Pakistan are other challenges that we have to face as facilitators of investment into the country," he added. On the matter of energy crisis he said, "We have set a goal to provide energy to one million individuals by 2015," adding that lack of sufficient energy was leading the nation's industries towards a rapid decline.

Pakistan has an abundance of resources, Khan said. The entire Balochistan can run on solar energy, while the northern areas can utilise hydroelectricity. The wind corridor from Karachi to Gwadar alone can generate 50,000 megawatts, he said, further adding that huge amount of energy can also be generated from biogas.

Green energy may seem costly in the short term, he said, but over the long run it's actually much cheaper. The former venture capitalist, who is a strong advocate for green energy and its innovation and commercialisation, said that banks in Pakistan need to be convinced to provide leasing or financial deal for energy equipments.

When asked how local individuals/businessmen can also play their part towards bringing investment into the country similar to the performance of APF, Khan said that while there are no hard and fast guidelines, institutions here need to work on capacity building and management teams.

The love for Pakistan is what has motivated Khan to move forward. "I left a very sound career as a venture capitalist to do this and people question me on my decision all the time," he candidly shared.

"It may seem like a drop in the ocean and it can be very challenging too but it's worthwhile as it's for our country," he said passionately. Speaking about his foundation, Khan shared that all their funding is from the American private sector

such as banks and corporate firms.

APF has especially played a very active role in providing flood relief and had received a \$700,000 grant from Pepsi this year for its flood relief programme.

In all, they have managed to raise \$800,000 so far and directly helped more than 42,000 individuals, which is commendable for an institution which is just two years old. However, Khan admitted that transparency of funds is always a concern and often NGOs in Pakistan have a tainted name due to their unaccountability of funds received.

"We deal only with people who have a strong creditability and due diligence is always required," he stated, adding that his foundation does a lot of leg work personally also. Khan repeatedly stressed on the need for a good government and honest leadership. "The media should play an important role and urge the people to choose their leadership wisely as it can make or break a country," he said.

All Day

Korean investors to enter JV in energy, agri sectors -- Daily Times

Korean investors to enter JV in energy, agri sectors

KARACHI: Korean investors can enter into joint ventures with Pakistan businessmen in the alternate energy, agriculture and engineering sectors. Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) President Mian Abrar Ahmad while meeting with the Ambassador of Pakistan to South Korea Shaukat Ali Mukadam said there was a need of building trading blocks of Pakistan with Asian countries, Central Asian Republics and SAARC countries.

He lamented Pakistan was never allowed economic independence and liberty by the developed countries which they allowed to Bangladesh, India, Malaysia and Vietnam in the region. He focused that the regional trade would uplift the economy of Pakistan to new horizons. Pakistan should not rely on aid and remittances.

He voiced to enhance exports and trade and was of the view the aids received from USA and Western world were never spent properly to boost the economy and for the benefit of masses. After establishment of the Gwadar port, Pakistan has been facing severe unrest by design because the leading economies never liked this progressive development.

The aim of KCCI is to develop regional trade and he suggested envoys to convince the Seoul chamber to form Karachi-Seoul Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the pattern of Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Chamber, which KCCI formed last year. He articulated that Pakistan possess great potential to multiply its exports and \$25 billion export alone can be made to USA if allowed.

He expressed discontentment on meagre 7 percent trade among SAARC countries and asserted to execute Indo-Pak trade via Karachi and Mumbai ports to bring prosperity and alleviate poverty in the region.

He requested the ambassador to invite business delegation and exhibitors to participate in the KCCI's My-Karachi Oasis of Harmony Exhibition being organised in July 2012.

Ali said, "South Korea sees Pakistan as the most promising country for investment." He said owing to a great trade potential the recent trade of \$1.36 billion could reach \$2-3 billion if trade potential is effectively utilised.

He admired despite of negative travel advisory, the Koreans do not hesitate to visit Pakistan. He said Korean premier had also signed multi-billion dollars memorandum of understanding with Central Asian Republics. He said efforts were underway to negotiate and sign Pak-Korea Free Trade Agreement. staff report

All Day

0.08pc Balochistan solar energy can serve national needs -- Pakistan Today

0.08pc Balochistan solar energy can serve national needs

- APF chief wants risk-averse banks to extend energy finances
- Says corruption, lack of good governance, security keeping investors at bay

KARACHI - Being a patriotic Pakistani one tends to do some good for his homeland only to find a deep-rooted corruption, lack of good governance, transparency and well-thought-out policies hindering his way in one way or another. Awais Khan, the president and chief executive of American Pakistan Foundation (APF), is one such overseas Pakistani who is striving hard to bring economic development and social change in, what he believes to be, a resource-rich Pakistan. Policymakers in Pakistan are desperately wandering here and there to find a sustainable solution to the fast ingraining energy crises in the country. Khan, who lives outside Pakistan, has a clearer vision to find a 'scalable' remedy to this economy-crippling menace.

Pakistan, he says, through employing right governance and a well-thought-out energy policy, could generate thousands of megawatts electricity using its vast but still untapped sources of solar, hydro, hydroelectric, wind and waste energy scattered across the country. Khan, a leading American businessman of Pakistani origin, refers to a study revealing that if tapped only 0.08 per cent of the solar energy reserves in Balochistan province could cater to energy needs of the entire country. "The banks could step up to lease and finance the energy equipment," APF chief said during a roundtable discussion with a group of journalists here at the residence of the US Consul General.

Singling out the fast disappearing energy-crises-hit cottage industry, the investment banker said the country has a potential of generating 43,000MW electricity using hydro and hydroelectric energy sources available in the country's northern areas. Some 50,000MW of wind power could be generated from the coastal corridor stretching from Karachi to Gwadar, Balochistan. Khan said agri-waste like cow dung, etc could also be used for energy generation in the country. Lack of funding, energy policy, security and corruption are major stumbling blocks, APF chief underlined, for achieving these goals. "There are lots of (financing) vehicles but not a lot of people know how to access these vehicles," Khan lamented.

He said multilateral finders like World Bank and International Finance Corporation (IFC) were present in the country to fund these mega energy projects but, unfortunately, 99.9 per cent of the local institutions were falling short of meeting the "broader criterion" set for getting funding from these multinational organisations.

Institutional capacity building, bringing domestic work standards at par with that of international ones and experienced and skilled managers are the three prerequisites, Khan said, constituting this broader funding criterion. The risk-averse banks, he said, could bridge this financial gap through extending more advances to the private individual and institutional borrowers willing to install the sophisticated energy generating equipment.

Khan complained about the deeply-ingrained corruption in Pakistan which deters his organisation, APF, from working on big projects. "To a personal perspective, I found it (corruption) a frequent occurrence and biggest challenge besides security," Khan told the journalists. "To get permission from the government (to undertake a certain project) a lot of under-the-table things happen," he elaborated. Attributing this menace to lack of right system and right people, the American businessman urged the need for creating political awareness among voters in the forthcoming general elections. "Tell them that your vote matters so use it in right way," Khan urged the journalists.

For making entrepreneurship a success story in Pakistan, the APF CEO suggested an easy access to cheap capital, good governance, a right legal system and a business-friendly security climate which he said was lacking in case of Pakistan. "Pakistan has been suffering from the image issue. And number one concern of every entrepreneur is whether my people and finances are safe," he said.

About APF, Khan said the privately-funded organisation had a goal to provide one million individuals with energy by 2015 under its "rural electrification" plan in areas the most neglected or where the need was more pressing. He said, having benefited over 42,000 flood affectees in Pakistan, APF was set up in Dec 2009 to

leverage the Pak-American diaspora for economic development and social change in Pakistan.

All Day

Construction of roads in 6 months: Govt spends 41% of developmental budget -- DAILY TIMES

Construction of roads in 6 months: Govt spends 41% of developmental budget

* Releases Rs 23.331bn to 4 provinces and Gilgit-Baltistan thru Ministry of Communication against total allocation of Rs 39.900bn

By Ijaz Kakakhel

ISLAMABAD: The government has released and utilised Rs 23.331 billion to all four provinces and Gilgit Baltistan through Ministry of Communication against the total allocation of Rs 39.900 billion, showing 41 releases of the total by end of first six months of the current fiscal year 2011-12, sources told Daily Times here on Tuesday.

The government has allocated Rs 12.949 billion for Punjab national importance construction of roads with Foreign Exchange Component (FEC) of Rs 2.418 billion, which made total allocation of Rs 15.368 billion for the province. Against these allocations, the government has released and utilised Rs 8.421 billion, showing 55 percent total releases to Punjab province only through the Ministry of Communication.

In the annual budget 2011-12, the government has allocated Rs 5.09 billion for Sindh province (only through Ministry of Communication) with FEC of Rs 1.200 billion, which made total allocation of is Rs 6.809 billion for the province. Against these allocations, the government has released and utilised Rs 6.521 billion, showing 96 percent total releases to Sindh province.

For the whole fiscal year, the government has allocated Rs 5.440 billion for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through the Ministry of Communication for the construction of national importance different road schemes with FEC of Rs 1 billion, which made total allocation of Rs 6.440 billion for the province. Against these allocations, the government has released Rs 3.458 billion, showing 54 percent total releases to KP province (under Ministry of Communication).

For Balochistan province, the federal government has allocated Rs 8.132 billion under Public Sector Development Programme 2011-12 through Federal Ministry for Communication with FEC of Rs 650 million, which made total allocation of Rs 8.782 billion. Against these allocations, the federal government has released Rs 4.626 billion for Balochistan, showing 53 percent total releases during first six months of the current fiscal year (July to Dec 2011).

The federal government has allocated Rs 1.5 billion for construction of roads in Balochistan with FEC of Rs 1 billion, which made total allocation of Rs 2.5 billion. However, during July to Dec 2011, the government released Rs 302 million, showing 13 percent of the total releases in the first six months of the current fiscal year.

Utilisation of funds through Ministry of Communication in Punjab in some projects are; Rs 838 million on Faisalabad-Khanewal [M-4, 184 kilometres (km)] land, Rs 1.002 billion for Highway Rehabilitation Project (N-5, 857km), Rs 1.649 billion utilised on Khanewal-Multan road, Rs 610.938 million utilised over the construction of Inner Ring Road Incl 6 I/changes Multan, Rs 256.647 million utilised for construction of Head Muhammadwala Bridge (Chenab), Rs 168.77 million utilised on construction of Mosa Pak Shaheed Bridge (Sutlej), Rs 1.656 billion over construction of Shujaabd Road (Special Fund) and many more.

Some important road construction in Sindh province are; Rs 93 million for Karachi Northern Bypass, Rs 12 million for Lyari Expressway (16.5km), Rs 1.048 billion for Bridge Across River Indus at Larkana, Rs 253 million for HDB-Badin-Mirwab-

Sanjar Chang (53km), Rs 374 million for Sakran-Benazirabad (35km), Rs 440.598 million for construction of Gharo-Keti Bunder (190km), Rs 374 million for construction of Qazi Ahmad Bridge (Indus) Including Sakrand Bypass and many more.

In KP, the Ministry of Communication utilised developmental budget on construction on; Rs 673.261 million on Islamabad-Peshawar (M-1), Rs 399.305 million over Peshawar –Northern Bypass (34km), Rs 365 million over construction of Hasanabdal-Mansehra (E-35) land, Rs 1.702 billion over KP RD and SC Project Malana Jan- Sarac Camblla (117km): Badaber-Darra Adam Khel (28km) ADB and many more.

Utilisation of funds for Balochistan province are; Rs 133.316 million on Khanezal – Muslim Bagh (N-50, 50km), Rs 605 million on Lyari – Gwadar (531km) + Gwadar-Babd (122km) N-10, Rs 1.778 billion for NHDSP: Hub-Uthal (N-25, 85km): Muslim Bagh-Qila Saifullah (N-50, 50km): Multan-Muzaffargarh (N-70, 36.2km) and many more.

In GB, the Ministry of Communication's funds utilised on various projects are; Rs 164 million on Jhaikad-Chila (N-15, 66km), Rs 126 million spent on KKH (Raikot-Khujerab, 335km) government of Pakistan 15 percent and many more.

All Day

Minister for quick transportation of imported urea: Pervaiz Elahi -- APP

Minister for quick transportation of imported urea: Pervaiz Elahi

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Industries and Defence Production Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Thursday directed the concerned officials to speed up the transportation and supply of urea from the Gwadar port to all parts of the country so the imported urea is readily made available to the farmers.

Chairing a meeting to assess the supply of imported urea from Gwadar port to upcountry he directed NFML to open two more points to offload urea quickly and asked the higher officials to oversee the transportation of urea themselves.

He said country the government decided to import 1.2 million tonnes of urea for the Rabi crop 2011-12, which started arriving in the country with the start of the sowing season. He said the government has maintained the prices of imported urea at the lowest levels.

The minister was informed the distribution of the imported urea started on the November 20. This was the first time that such enormous quantity of urea was imported in a very short span of time. staff report

All Day

Pak offers immense opportunities to Chinese entrepreneurs: Masood Khan -- South Asian News Agency (SANA)

Pak offers immense opportunities to Chinese entrepreneurs: Masood Khan

South Asian News Agency (SANA) · January 11, 2012 · Share/Save

BEIJING, (SANA): Pakistani Ambassador in Beijing Masood Khan said here Wednesday that due to close proximity and strong bilateral relations between Pakistan and China, his country offers immense opportunities to Chinese enterprises and entrepreneurs, attracting them to increase investment in and trade with Pakistan.

He said Chinese companies have also found their business operations in Pakistan productive. We are working for "Win-win partnership."

The Ambassador was addressing two back to back seminars on Pakistan and China cultural and commercial cooperation held here at the Pakistan Embassy today.

The Ambassador said strong arteries of commerce and culture will feed our unique friendship and strategic partnership.

He asked the Chinese business community that while formulating their future investment strategy, they should give priority to setting up projects in Pakistan.

In 2011, which marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties, both the countries celebrated the Year of Friendship, and held a series of activities in all spheres including exchange of delegations at all levels, signing of agreements in finance, banking and energy, in addition to holding seminars and forums.

Ambassador Masood Khan said we held the first Pakistan-China ministerial level Energy Group meeting in Beijing aimed at offsetting the energy crisis in Pakistan, entered into Currency Swap Arrangement with China, and held many activities in finance and banking sectors including the setting up of two branches of ICBC, the world largest bank, in two cities of Pakistan.

He said we have to strengthen and deepen our bonds of friendship. In this connection negotiations are going on with various other prominent Chinese banks and financial institutions to open their branches and offices in Pakistan.

The seminar was largely attended by members of the Chinese business and trade community including Mr. Dai Jie, Director of Asset Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council; Mr. Ma Qing, Bureau Officer, China National Development and Reform Commission; Mr. Sun Xudong, Director of the International Office of China University of Petroleum; Mr. Luan Yu Tao, Director of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and Ms. Yang Xiao Hui, Representative of Tong Ren Hospital, which had sent a team of Chinese doctors to treat 500 cataract patients in Pakistan last year.

China-based Pakistani businessmen, representatives of National Bank of Pakistan, Habib Bank Limited and MCB along with prominent Chinese companies belonging to pharmaceutical, coal, mobile telephony, hydropower, alternate energy, petroleum, Mining, Automobile and Banking sectors were present on this occasion.

Ambassador Masood Khan said Pakistan is rich in natural resources including coal, gas and alternative energy and "our human resource is one of the best in the world."

He mentioned that Pakistan offers a very conducive environment for the Chinese entrepreneurs. Many prominent Chinese entities including China Mobile, Three Gorges and Haier already have their presence there.

He asked the Chinese traders to visit Pakistan and see the conducive investment climate in the country for themselves.

This is a win-win situation for traders of both the countries, as we have natural connectivity, he said, adding that Gwadar port offers the shortest route to China as compared with other sea routes. An existing road link connects Kashgar with Gwadar, he said.

The Ambassador said that Pakistan has been passing through one of the toughest periods of its history in the past ten years. Recently we have faced and survived a series of crises including fight against terrorism, international financial crisis, spike in oil prices and food security. He said Pakistan also faced massive floods and unprecedented displacement in 2010.

The good news for the Pakistani traders is that our exports to China increased by 33 per cent in the first ten months of 2011. The Ambassador expressed the confidence that 2012 will witness further expansion of bilateral trade as China is a huge market for the Pakistani traders.

The Seminar was jointly organized by the Embassy of Pakistan, Beijing China Arab Cultural Center and Yuan Zhi International Exhibition Company.

Earlier, addressing the participants of the Cultural exhibition at Pakistan Embassy College premises, Ambassador Khan said that increased cultural exchange between Pakistan and China led to closer people-to-people contact between the two peoples and promoted better understanding about each other's culture.

Students of Pakistan Embassy College and various Chinese cultural troupes entertained the audience on this occasion.

The Ambassador said such cultural activities help to introduce Pakistani culture to the Chinese people as well as acquainting students of the Pakistan Embassy College with the rich Chinese culture. He mentioned that in 2011, the Embassy of Pakistan, had organized or took part in 15 cultural events in major Chinese cities including Beijing, Xian, Yinchuan, Wuhan and Guangzhou.

He especially recognized the Tong Ren Hospital for carrying out cataract surgeries and providing vision to 500 patients in Pakistan, last year.

He said that another Chinese medical team will visit Pakistan this year for carrying out additional 500 cataract surgeries.

Premier Wen Jiabao, during his visit to Pakistan in December 2010, announced one thousand free cataract surgeries for Pakistani people suffering from this eye disease. Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani witnessed these cataract surgeries in PIMS Islamabad last month.

Ends-SANA-ZS

All Day

Pak-China Rail accord next year; Chattha -- APP

Pak-China Rail accord next year; Chattha

Asim Iqbal Gilgit - China has in principle agreed to construct a railway track from Xinjiang to Pakistan through Gilgit-Baltistan. Feasibility study for the and feasibility study of the project will be conducted soon. This was disclosed by GB Chief Secretary Saif Ullah Catha while talking to reporters yesterday.

All Day

Pakistani fruits have huge potential in Central Asian markets --

BUSINESS RECORDER

Pakistani fruits have huge potential in Central Asian markets

The five Central Asian Republics (CAR)--Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan - with a combined gross domestic product of \$207 billion and a population of 66 million, offer a sizeable market for Pakistan's goods, services and investment.

However, much of the potential for the economic co-operation with the region has remained untapped, with Afghanistan's war acting as a major barrier, according to the CEO of Harvest Trading, Ahmad Jawad.

Talking to Business Recorder he said that things, it seemed, appeared to be changing as per the recent amendments in the Pakistan-Afghan transit trade agreement.

Traditionally, Pakistan has been routing its exports to CAR through Afghanistan, occasionally using air transport.

"This is really a big market for Pakistani fruits.

But we need a clear strategy, a roadmap, and immediate concrete steps to build and expand trade ties with these countries in order to get good push for survival of our horticulture products in future," he said.

Pakistan can get into Central Asian markets from three sides, Jawad said, and identified that "we can take Afghanistan, Iran and China routes to reach out to these markets".

He said that Pakistan's bilateral trade with CAR would rise immediately if Chinese would start using Gwadar port for trading with Central Asian States "and we use our road links with China to reach out to these countries".

Pakistan could also use the Iranian free trade zone of Chabahar to reach Central Asia while facilitating Iran-Central Asian business through Gwadar he added.

Ever since CAR emerged as independent states after breaking away from the USSR in early 1990s, Pakistan has done little to promote trade with them, except for signing some agreements.

"We can export a large number of items to Central Asian countries," he claimed.

Pakistan has already been exporting cereals, frozen fish, fruits and vegetables, medicines, medical/dental/surgical instruments, leather and leather products, carpets, textile fabrics, knitted garments, ceramics/kitchen wear and bathroom fittings, furniture and confectionery, to Central Asian States and it has been importing cotton and agricultural machinery from there.

In 2010, the CAR combined imports stood above \$50 million.

"Even if we manage to get one percent of this business, our export earnings will increase by half a billion dollars," Jawad said.

He regretted that "we are already late in tapping trade potential of Central Asian countries.

China is fast becoming the largest trading partner of these states, and India and Iran are increasing their shares gradually".

He emphasised that moves to expand trade volumes with Central Asian states must be supplemented by more frequent people-to-people contacts, trade shows and

using established banking channels.

All Day

Pakistan-Azerbaijan Business Forum soon -- DAWN

Pakistan-Azerbaijan Business Forum soon

KARACHI - Pakistan-Azerbaijan Business Forum (PABF) will be established to promote bilateral trade and investment during the forthcoming visit of President Asif Ali Zardari to Azerbaijan which is expected shortly.

This was stated by the Ambassador of Republic of Azerbaijan Dashgin Shikarov while talking to President Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) Mian Abrar Ahmad.

"Azerbaijan has strict visa regime for countries worldwide however for the citizens of Pakistan and Turkey, our visa policy is open", he added.

According to KCCI here Thursday, Shikarov said that Chamber's recommendations will be treated as adequate requirement for issuance of business visas and invited Mian Abrar to take a business delegation to Azerbaijan for promoting bilateral trade and investment.

He informed about the possibility of investment in the oil and gas exploration sector and electricity export to Pakistan. He also pointed out the potential of joint ventures in pharmaceutical and manufacturing of surgical goods and sought KCCI's proposals on bilateral trade prospects.

Pakistan, he said, can export its value-added agricultural products like mangoes, dates, fruits, sports and surgical goods to Azerbaijan. "Pakistan's basmati rice has a huge demand in Azerbaijan, he added.

He said that Azerbaijan has a liberal investment policy and Pakistani can invest there. He pointed out that Azerbaijan has a strong industrial base and textile industry.

KCCI president invited Azerbaijani businessmen to invest in the oil and gas exploration sector in Pakistan and explore trade possibilities in agricultural value-added products.

Azerbaijan, by taking advantage of geo-strategic locations of Pakistan, can export their consignments through Gwadar and other ports of Karachi to SAARC, ASEAN and GCC countries, said KCCI president while exchanging his views.

Mian Abrar noted that economic relations between Central Asian Republics and SAARC countries will be a win-win situation and bring economic revolution in the region. He said KCCI was committed to bridge together the business communities of regional countries with a vision to establish joint chambers.

He also requested the Ambassador to invite exhibitors to participate in My-Karachi Oasis of Harmony exhibition of KCCI scheduled to be organized in July 2012.

All Day

Gwadar infrastructure development project: PC-1 submitted to Planning Commission -- APP

Gwadar infrastructure development project: PC-1 submitted to Planning Commission

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Industries has submitted to Planning Commission for approval the PC-1 for Infrastructure Development Phase-1 of Gwadar Industrial Estate project, costing Rs 1.53 billion.

According to PC-1 of the project available with Business Recorder, under new economic growth framework 2012-13, the development of Gwadar Industrial Estate fits very well with objective to build the new industrial estate in mega port city which provide profitable business opportunities to local as well as international entrepreneurs, to develop manufacturing and service industries with strong emphasis on technology, innovation and capability, to facilitate business collaboration with foreign parties and to develop appropriate job opportunities in the region.

The impact of this industrial estate is extremely high in manufacturing sector, contributing to 7 percent of GDP and generating 25 percent of exports. Total area for the project is 3000 acres, to be developed in three phases, of 1000 acres each. The first phase of 1000 acres has been comprehensively planned and infrastructure development is underway. Gwadar Industrial Estate is linked with all important transport routes and highways, providing significant access to its location.

The major areas of business would be import and export construction, transportation, shipping, clearing and forwarding, warehousing, building material, value added-processing, re-packing, and transshipping, local at the entrance of the Persian Gulf and about 400 km from a major medium of oil supplies. Plots ranging from 1 acre to 5 acres have been planned for various industrial and commercial purposes. Besides, a small workers colony is also included. A comprehensive network of infrastructure services has been planned.

The development of infrastructure is the top priority for successful development and operation of OIE, the most basic requirements being water supply, electrification and sewerage system. The final requirements will, however, be in the range of 100-120 megawatts. In this regard, a grid station had been finalised in consultation with Qesco. Total cost of the grid station, which has since been completed, has been funded by the federal government.

Water being the scarce commodity in Balochistan as a whole and in Gwadar in particular needs the highest priority. The demands for the potable water for the industrial estate is difficult to assess as the demand largely depends on the type of industries to be installed, whereas, chemical and textile industries may have a large water demand. It is proposed to install a sea-water desalination plant for GIE with a capacity of 2million gallons per day (mgd). The cost of the project is to be equally shared between Federal Government and the provincial Government.

As the establishment of the 2 million gallons per day desalination plant will take some time while 0.2 MGD desalination plant is under construction through the project's own sources. The design of remaining internal roads, water supply and sewerage has been prepared and the work will be awarded in phases as per the availability of the funds.

All Day

Masood terms youth as flag bearer of Pak-China friendship -- SANA

Masood terms youth as flag bearer of Pak-China friendship

South Asian News Agency (SANA) · January 14, 2012 · Share/Save

BEIJING (SANA): Pakistani Ambassador to China Masood Khan said that that the leadership of Pakistan and China has "decided to invest in youth," as the younger generation of both the countries can play an important role in pushing forward our all-weather friendship to new heights.

He was addressing a 30-member delegation comprising the faculty members and students of two prestigious universities of China, here at the Pakistan Embassy on Friday. These included Tsinghua University and South West University of Political Science and Law. The delegation later left for Pakistan on a week-long study tour.

Ambassador Khan said that as you are going to Pakistan to meet your peers there, "you will find warmth for the people of China."

The Ambassador highly appreciated the speeches made by two students and said these illustrated the true sentiments the people of two the countries have in their hearts for each other.

He said that you will visit three cities, but I assure you that the entire Pakistani nation is very hospitable towards the Chinese people adding "they are all embodied" with love for China.

Referring to the help Pakistan provided to the Sichuan earthquake affected people, as mentioned by one of the girl students in her speech, Ambassador said that people of Pakistan and China are like family members and share happy and sad moments with each other.

Ambassador Khan said that Pakistan is proud of "China's unprecedented growth and wish for its further development."

"We feel proud of being friends with such a great country," and want to learn more about China's experience to replicate the same sort of performance in Pakistan.

Our relations with China are all-dimensional and not confined to one area," he noted.

He told the students that they will meet the leadership of Pakistan, in addition to visiting many prestigious higher learning institutions of the country including NUST, COMSATS, LUMS and Aitcheson College, where country's best brains are being groomed over the last so many years.

He said the students of Tsinghua University have visited Pakistan in the past, but it is for the first time that the students of South West University of Political Science and Law are going to Pakistan.

Appreciating Prof. Li Xiguang, Director Pakistan Study Centre at Tsinghua University, for his contribution for deepening Pakistan-China friendship, he regarded Prof Li as the great friend and facilitator of Pakistan.

Earlier Zhang Guo Lin, Chancellor, South West University of Political Science and Law said that China borders 20 countries, among these, Pakistan is the only good brother to China adding that "Pakistan means much more to China today than in the Cold war."

He said being one of the most important Islamic countries in the world, Pakistan is the main channel for China to build strategic relations with the Islamic world and an important partner to fight against terrorism.

He said China-Pakistan economic and trade cooperation has extensive and solid foundation, and the bilateral cooperation has a broad prospect. With cooperation in energy and traffic as a bridge, China and Pakistan should further deepen cooperation in information industry, infrastructural construction and heavy industries, he added.

Prof Lin in his speech said that he is going to Pakistan for the first time.

He said it was his great desire to visit Taxila and the relics of Gandhara Civilization, to see for himself the historical places from where Chinese Buddha culture had originated.

The delegation was seen off at Beijing Capital Airport by senior diplomats of the

Pakistan Embassy.
Ends-SANA-AA-ZS

All Day

youth are flag-bearers of Pak-China friendship: Madood Khan -- RADIO PAKISTAN

youth are flag-bearers of Pak-China friendship: Madood Khan

Pakistan's Ambassador to China Masood Khan has said the youth are flag-bearers of Pak-China friendship.

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All Day

Govt releases Rs 15.90bn under PSDP in just 21 days -- APP

Govt releases Rs 15.90bn under PSDP in just 21 days

By Ijaz Kakakhel

ISLAMABAD: The government has released Rs 15.90 billion under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2011-12 from Dec 16, 2011 to Jan 6, 2012 (21 days), sources told Daily Times here on Saturday.

With this addition, total amount of PSDP 2011-12 releases have reached Rs 94.3 billion by January 6, 2012 from the earlier Rs 78.4 billion by December 16, 2011. Sources in the Ministry of Finance told Daily Times that the government had decided to spend about 40 percent of the local component of PSDP by Dec 31, 2011 and the remaining 60 percent in the last six months of the current fiscal year. However, by January 6, 2012, the government's releases reached Rs 94.3 billion, which makes 43 percent releases, showing more releases than the proposed criteria of releases. Such higher releases are a good sign for the ongoing developmental schemes, the cost of which always rises due to delay in fund releases. Sources said that in the democratic government, the public representatives demanded more funds for developmental projects, which also became a cause of more release of funds by the government.

Out of the total releases under developmental budget of Rs 94.3 billion, Rs 52 billion are for infrastructure sector, Rs 41.5 billion for social sector and Rs 0.790 billion for others sectors. The whole allocation was made for 1,271 developmental national importance projects.

Total size of the PSDP 2011-12 is Rs 290 billion, including Rs 36.5 billion as foreign exchange component (FEC) and Rs 33 billion as Special Programme. The releases against Special Programmes are being made by the Cabinet Division/Finance Division. The foreign aid disbursement amount is received in the Economic Affairs Division. The Rs 94.3 billion releases are exclusive of foreign aid disbursement. Therefore, above releases are against Rs 220.5 billion (Rs 290 billion, Rs 36.5 billion and Rs 33 billion). The Planning and Development Division will release funds against this amount (Rs 220.5 billion).

All Day

Pak envisions \$11b Chinese investment in energy sector -- Observer

Pak envisions \$11b Chinese investment in energy sector

Beijing—Ambassador to China Masood Khan has said that Pakistan envisions a Chinese investment of more than US \$ 11 billion in the energy sector during the next five years. The Ambassador expressed these views in his introductory remarks at a Road Shows held here for the management, operation, maintenance and rehabilitations of the nine public sector thermal power complexes through private sector Operation and Maintenance contractors by Pakistan's Private Infrastructure Board (PIIB).

He said that a major part of Pak-China economic cooperation is focused on energy development. He pointed out that PIIB is a prestigious organization. Since 1994, under its aegis, the energy generation capacity of the private sector has increased to more than 8000 megawatts. PIIB have even more ambitious plans for the future and expects to add an additional 8000 megawatts in the next 5-6 years.

The Government of Pakistan has now asked PIIB to outsource management, operation, maintenance (O&M) and up gradation of nine public sector thermal power plants, with an installed capacity of around 4500 megawatts, to the private sector. These plants are currently producing only 1400 to 2000 megawatts of electricity.

Chinese enterprises have undertaken numerous projects in Pakistan in hydropower, thermal, nuclear and alternate energy sectors, he said adding The 5-year development programme in particular encompasses the whole spectrum of economic cooperation but lays special emphasis on energy cooperation.

The Mangla dam raising, Kohala dam, Neelum Jhelum dam, the Nandipur and the Chichokimalian Thermal power projects are some of the important projects being undertaken by Chinese enterprises in Pakistan. A number of big hydro, coal and alternate energy worth billions of dollars are in the pipeline, he noted. Last year, our top leadership decided to set up a Pakistan China Joint Energy Working Group (JEWG). The Group's first session held in August this year has indentified a vast array of coal, hydro, thermal, and alternate energy projects. This Ministerial level working group will ensure that all projects undertaken between Pakistan and China have the full support of our governments.

He said that most economic analysts now believe that a major portion of future global growth is going to take place in developing countries, particularly in Asia. In Pakistan, despite the adverse international economic situation due to weak demand in Europe and the recent financial crisis, the economy remains essentially robust with high demand for consumer goods and energy. During recent years, Khan said that in tandem with our strong political and strategic ties, economic cooperation with China has grown substantially. Last year our overall bilateral trade with China grew by 28 % and

All Day

Establishing Joint Chamber: KCCI President seeks Azerbaijan ambassador's help -- DAWN

Establishing Joint Chamber: KCCI President seeks Azerbaijan ambassador's help

KARACHI: President, Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Mian Abrar Ahmad, has urged Ambassador of Republic of Azerbaijan, Dashgin Shikarov, to help establish Pakistan-Azerbaijan Joint Chamber.

In a communication, he said that KCCI was committed to bring together the business communities of the regional countries with a vision to establish joint chambers.

"With the efforts of KCCI, Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Chamber has been formed and efforts are underway to establish Bombay-Karachi Joint Chamber," he added.

He was of the view that economic relation between CentralAsianRepublics and SAARC countries would bring economic revolution to the region.

"Azerbaijan by taking advantage of geostrategic location of Pakistan can export its consignments through Gwadar and other ports of Karachi to SAARC, ASEAN and GCC countries," he added.

He opined that the future lies in Asia as the economies of Asian countries were developing at a rapid pace.

He called for allowing economic independence to Pakistan by the developed economies, which they had allowed to other regional countries.

He invited Azerbaijan to invest in the oil and gas exploration sector in Pakistan and highlighted the potentials of trade in agricultural value-added products.

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» US envoy visit: Pakistan says 'not possible'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has told US special envoy Marc Grossman that it is "not possible at the moment" for him to visit the country, a senior government official told Reuters on Wednesday, a move that could heighten tensions between the uneasy...

All Day

China exports communications satellites to Pak -- Observer

China exports communications satellites to Pak

Beijing—China Thursday said it has exported communications satellites to Pakistan, Nigeria, and Venezuela. At a press conference held in Beijing marking the publication of the country's latest white paper on space activities, Zhang Wei, spokesperson for the China National Space Administration, said: "The country has engaged in 12 bilateral cooperation mechanisms within inter-governmental frameworks."

China exported communications satellites to Nigeria, Venezuela and Pakistan, said Zhang. The white paper, titled China's Space Activities in 2011 and detailing the development of the Chinese space industry since 2006 and the major tasks for the next five years, is the third such paper on the country's space activities issued by the State Council Information Office. Major tasks listed in the white paper include space transportation system, Earth satellites, human space-flights and deep-space exploration.

In the next five years, the country's international space exchanges and cooperation will focus on various areas, including applications of Earth observation satellites in environment and disaster monitoring, global climate change monitoring and forecasting, and marine monitoring. It will also focus on personnel exchanges and training in the field of space, according to the white paper.

All Day

GCU establishing Centre for China Studies -- APP

GCU establishing Centre for China Studies

Lahore, The Government College University Lahore will establish a Centre for China Studies in collaboration with the Chinese universities and Punjab government and a project plan in this regard has also been forwarded to the Pak-China Bureau, said GCU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Khaleeq-ur-Rahman while talking to a 30-member delegation of students and teachers from Chinese universities during their visit to the Government College University Lahore. Punjab Secretary Higher Education Dr. Ijaz Munir, GCU Dean Prof. Dr. Khalid Pervaiz and Political Science Department Chairperson Dr. Khalid Mazoor Butt were also present. The Chinese delegation led by Southwest University of Political Science and Law Chairman Zhang Guolin and Tsinghua University Vice Chancellor Li Xiguang discussed in detail the policies of government on education and academic environment of Pakistan universities with the education secretary and GCU vice chancellor.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Higher Education Dr. Ijaz said that the Punjab government is establishing four world-class women universities in Punjab to impart quality education to the female students, besides focusing on information technology and vocational training programmes to produce quality human capital for the country. He said that there are 492 colleges and 12 public sector universities in Punjab. However, he said that private sector is also its play its role for promotion of education in the province.

GCU Vice Chancellor Prof. Khaleeq told the students that the subjects of Chinese constitution and Chinese economy are being taught at the GC University Lahore and it wished to strengthen the Pak-china friendship academically. He said that Pak-China friendship is guarantee to the peaceful future of this region.

Zhang Guolin said that the purpose of visit of youth delegation to Pakistan is to transfer the decades-long Pak-china friendship to next generations. He laid a stress on initiating student-exchange programmes between the universities of both countries.

Li Xiguang called on the Pakistani media to highlight the research work and achievements of Pakistani scientists and academicians, saying that "unfortunately, it's not being done in Pakistan."

Talking to media, a female Chinese student said that "we have been listening about the friendship with Pakistan but we never tasted it. However, we know it's warm and sweet." She lauded the hospitality of Pakistanis, saying that they would go back and tell the other students about the culture and universities of Pakistan. She said that education system of Pakistan seems to be comprehensive as there all the universities have all the departments like History, Physics, Law, and Chemistry and of languages.

Another Chinese students studying political science said that Pakistan has everything to progress, however it just needed a good leadership to put it on a path leading to progress and prosperity.

All Day

Preserving Gwadar beaches -- Dawn

Preserving Gwadar beaches

ANYONE desiring warm sun, sparkling sand, balmy breeze and clear blue waters may not find anything better than Gwadar's golden beaches.

Visitors to this largely unadulterated landscape are awestruck with its pristine beauty and the natural grandeur that surrounds the spectacle of Balochistan's desert merging with the Arabian Sea's greenish-blue water.

Even as it is fast emerging as the future hub of communication, linking Central Asia with warm waters, Gwadar bears tremendous potential for tourism, offering opportunities for water sports, swimming, fishing or even plain sea gazing.

As one looks at the potential oftourism for Gwadar's beaches, there emerges a pressing need for maintaining a clean waterfront which can attract tourists.

Beaches are unspoiled as of now, there are some trash bins installed at some most scenic of the spots but the clutter left by the limited tourists needs to be looked after. Visitors are not aware of how to conduct themselves with restraint and discipline. Commercial ventures pay little attention to the impact of careless disposal of garbage on the ecology of Gwadar.

Unless we involve the public, the contamination and littering of beaches is but a fait accompli. During a recent visit it was heartening to find young students and teachers from the local Bahria Model School, duly armed with rakes and other implements, combing the water front and picking up, with great enthusiasm, the stray garbage strewn on the beautiful beaches.

Nothing could have been more educative and inspiring than seeing these youngsters setting an example for their elders by wholeheartedly involving themselves in preserving the great natural treasure that nature has bestowed upon our beautiful country.

All Day

Daily Awam -- گوادر، پاک بحریہ نے مقامی آبادی کیلئے ایک مفت طبی کیمپ قائم کر دیا

پاک بحریہ نے مقامی آبادی کیلئے ایک مفت طبی کیمپ قائم کر دیا، گوادر

کراچی (آن لائن) بلوچستان کے عوام کی بہبود اور انہیں بنیادی سہولیات کی فراہمی کی حکومتی پالیسی کے عین مطابق اپنی کوششوں کو جاری رکھتے ہوئے پاک بحریہ نے گوادر کی مقامی آبادی کے لئے ایک مفت طبی کیمپ قائم کیا ہے یہ میڈیکل کیمپ مختلف امراض میں مبتلا چھ ہزار سے زائد کم آمدنی والے افراد کو طبی سہولیات فراہم کرے گا یہاں جاری پریس ریلیز کے مطابق میڈیکل کیمپ میں ماہرین امراض زچہ و بچہ امراض چشم اور سرجیکل اسپیشلسٹ تعینات کئے گئے ہیں جو مریضوں کے علاج اور مفت ادویات کی فراہمی کے ساتھ ساتھ معمولی نوعیت کے آپریشن بھی کریں گے علاوہ ازیں ایک لیبارٹری بھی قائم کی گئی ہے جہاں ایکسرے نڈ اور خون کے ٹیسٹ کی سہولت موجود ہے مفت علاج کے علاوہ کیمپ کے قیام کا ایک اور اہم والٹرا سا ' بچوں کی صحت کی نگہداشت اور رہائشی مقامات کی ستھرائی کا 'مقصد مقامی افراد میں بیماریوں سے بچا شعور بھی اجاگر کرنا ہے کیمپ کے دوران خواتین کی صحت بہتر بنانے پر خصوصی توجہ دی جائے گی۔ پاکستان نیوی ساحلی علاقوں میں ہر چھ ماہ بعد مفت طبی کیمپ قائم کرتی ہے اس سے قبل تربت میں کیمپ لگایا امراض چشم اور دیگر بیماریوں میں مبتلا پانچ ہزار سے زائد 'گیا تھا جس سے شدید نوعیت کے جلدی امراض افراد مستفید ہوئے

All Day

Balochistan govt committed to ensure potable water to citizens -- APP

Balochistan govt committed to ensure potable water to citizens

QUETTA: Balochistan government is committed to ensure clean drinking water to citizens across the province and an amount of Rs. four billion have been allocated for 53 new and 46 ongoing water schemes parts of the province in the provincial budget.

Provincial Public Health Engineering department sources told APP here Sunday that the provincial government in collaboration with the federal government is also installing water filtration plant in every union council of the province. Four hundred and seven water purification plants have already been installed while 409 plants are being installed under the scheme.

Referring to potable water supply to Gwadar, the sources said Akra Core dam caters for water needs of Gwadar town. However, the dam's capacity is reducing due to accumulation of silting.

The provincial government has allocated additional funds for de-silting of the dam in annual budget.

Besides, water supply schemes are planned for Kachi, Hub, Pishin, Kech, Dera Murad Jamali and Loralai districts. (APP)

All Day

Exports register 23pc growth as Pak-China trade reaches \$10.6 billion -- APP

Exports register 23pc growth as Pak-China trade reaches \$10.6 billion

BEIJING - In 2011, Pakistan-China bilateral trade registered an overall growth of 22 per cent by reaching the mark of \$10.6 billion. Pakistan-China trade in 2010 was \$8.7 billion.

In 2011, Pakistani exports of US \$ 2.12 billion to Chinese market increased by 23%; whereas imports from China saw growth at 22%. Masood Khan, Pakistan's Ambassador to China, welcomed the steady increase in the volume of bilateral trade, and especially in Pakistani exports, in the past four years.

"If we have more exportable surplus, the vast Chinese market will be able to absorb our commodities and services. I have no doubt about that", Ambassador Masood Khan said, adding that the appetite for Pakistani products was increasing.

Pakistan and China have resolved to increase their trade to \$15 billion in the next two to three years.

"We are on track and we may achieve our target sooner than we had planned but there is no room for complacency. We have to work harder and go beyond the mark of \$15 billion and then double it", the Pakistani Ambassador said.

Pakistan's exports to China in 2008 were 1.0 billion. By the end of 2011, the exports had more than doubled to \$2.12 billion. Since 2008, Pakistan's export to China has seen an increase of 100%. Pakistan and China have signed Free Trade Agreements on goods, services and investment. In the past three years, FTC met twice to boost Pakistan-China trade.

Ambassador Masood Khan said that all departments and entities of the Government of Pakistan, including Ministry of Commerce, Trade Development Authority and Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries, are making concerted efforts to enhance the volume of Pakistani exports to China and improve their quality. "For us too in the Embassy and in four Consulates, trade has top priority"; he said. In 2011, the Embassy held more than 10 trade seminars, including three major roadshows for the Government of Punjab, Government of Sindh and Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB).

"The real challenge is to manage value addition of Pakistani goods and invest in skill development. Such measures would result in exponential growth of Pakistani exports in Chinese markets", he said.

The Pakistani Envoy said that China was fully conscious of the trade deficit between Pakistan and China and was working with Pakistani authorities to take measures to increase Pakistani exports to China to bring down the deficit. It is inviting leading Pakistani traders and trading houses to participate in China's international and regional expos and exhibitions.

Last year, Pakistani traders participated in trade fairs in Urumqi, Kashgar, Kunming, Chengdu, Canton, and Xiamen. Pakistani traders have been especially focusing on textiles, leather products, precious stones, and handicrafts. "Pakistani trader is now looking eastward towards China with greater interest. This trend is growing", the Ambassador said. For a more rapid development in our trade and exports, we need a broader, bolder and long-term perspective, better quality of goods and services, diversification of export products, and aggressive marketing in China, Ambassador Masood Khan said. The Ambassador added that strong strategic ties between Pakistan and China, good economic instruments, an elaborate architecture for economic cooperation provide the most salutary environment for growth of Pakistan-China trade in the coming years.

The two sides are now working on visa facilitation. Pakistan has also requested assistance from China in vocational and technical education in the areas of value

added textiles, gems and jewellery, ceramics, surgical instruments, leather and light engineering. China has agreed to the proposal and asked Pakistan to identify training needs in these areas.

In the years to come, entry points of agricultural produce from Pakistan would also be increased.

China and Pakistan have been holding seminars and workshops to highlight trade and investment opportunities, especially in Pakistan.

Last year, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) opened branches in Islamabad and Karachi.

In December 2011, the central banks of China and Pakistan agreed to a currency swap arrangement that would enable traders on both sides to use Pakistani Rupee and Chinese Renminbi for transactions and settlements. These two measures are expected to stimulate further growth in Pakistan-China trade.

In 2011, the biggest increase in Pakistani exports to China has been in cotton yarn, home textiles, garments, ores and mineral products, copper and copper scrap, plastic scrap, leather goods, fish products, medical and surgical instruments, chemical products, and food stuffs.

Pakistan traditionally exports to China cotton yarn and fabrics, synthetic yarn and fabrics, garments, home textiles, chromium and other ores, fish and fish products, vegetable and animal products, marble, granite and stone products, medical instruments, sports goods, carpets etc.

From China, Pakistan imports polyester and silk fabrics, polyester staple fabrics, fertilizers, tyres, mobile communication equipment, gas turbines, motorcycle parts, combustion piston engines, electrical appliances, iron and steel products, and various other forms of machinery.

All Day

Govt asked to divert ATT to Gwadar port -- Dawn

Govt asked to divert ATT to Gwadar port

Many locals got involved in various trades and services because on an average 19,100 tons urea were daily unloaded from ships and around 15,000 to 16,000 tons were transported from the port area to Karachi through the Coastal Highway. - File photo

KARACHI: The Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) has urged the federal government to divert the Afghan Transit Trade (ATT) cargo handling to Gwadar port on permanent basis and initiate ferry service for intending pilgrims to Iran. GCCCI President Mir Naveed Kalmati at a news briefing here on Tuesday said that the only way to counter insurgency in Balochistan was to provide jobs to the youth and create economic activity of permanent nature.

He further demanded that trade with Iran should also be allowed, which will not only encourage two-way trade through official channels but also discourage smuggling which is causing huge revenue losses.

He said the federal government should have diverted all cargo meant for allied forces in Afghanistan to Gwadar port from the day one as this would have not only helped to make the port operational but western nations' assistance for developing road network should have also been sought.

"If a ferry service is initiated from Gwadar port for intending pilgrims to holy places in Iran it will not only reduce travelling cost but also the distance because within two hours pilgrims will reach Chabahar port in Iran," Kalmati explained.

He said annually around 0.4 to 0.5 million pilgrims go to Iran from Pakistan and this

would help generate permanent nature of commercial activity in Gwadar in particular and district Makran as a whole.

He referred to recent imports of around 722,000 tons of urea by the government and was handled at the Gwadar port. In total, he said 18 ships loaded with urea were handled in a record period of 40 days without paying a single penny towards demurrage. Never in the past huge quantum of any bulk commodity had been handled without paying millions in demurrage because ships had to wait for weeks at outer anchorage for berthing turn.

Mr Kalmati said urea handling activity at Gwadar port created diverse economic activities starting from providing clearing and shipping services to unloading, trucking, transportation and other allied services to the workforce engaged in entire operation and movement of urea.

In short, he said many locals got involved in various trades and services because on an average 19,100 tons urea were daily unloaded from ships and around 15,000 to 16,000 tons were transported from the port area to Karachi through the Coastal Highway.

He said that it was highly encouraging that around 35 per cent of transport involved in urea haulage was owned by locals and remaining 65 per cent by people from other provinces.

Since the port had been creating job opportunities the law and order situation in the district Makran was far better than other districts of the province.

All Day

Zardari for joint Pak-China strategy to deal world economy -- APP

Zardari for joint Pak-China strategy to deal world economy

Islamabad: President Asif Ali Zardari underlined the need for a joint strategy by Pakistan and China to deal with the world economy together and act in accordance with the new global demands.

With the new redevelopments in the world, Pakistan and China need to find new comfort zone for further collaboration in all dimensions, Zardari said in an interview with China's People's Daily Online.

He termed growth of China as emergence of a new Japan, the largest economy in the world and added that all friends of China would be part of that rise.

He said Pakistan and China have strong bonds of friendship and mentioned that both the countries are the home to the old civilization of Buddhism.

Zardari said Pakistan established diplomatic relations with China at a time when the latter was not open in relations with the outside world.

He said the theory of looking towards the East owed to the founder of Pakistan People's Party and the former Prime Minister of Pakistan Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. The President said he felt that there was room for more interaction with China. He said he had been visiting China since 1988, even before assuming the office of President of Pakistan. He mentioned that Chinese language had been introduced as an optional subject in schools in Sindh province.

Referring to the Karakorum Highway damaged by the floods, President Zardari said Pakistan and China were working on enhancing the road and railway connectivity.

All Day

Pak-China trade

Pak-China trade

The news that last year Pak-China trade grew by 22 percent crossing the \$10 billion landmark bears proof to the ever growing friendly ties between the two countries. Pakistani exports during the previous year were close to \$2.12 billion, registering a rate of growth of 23 percent which also shows the realisation on China's part to reduce the mutual trade deficit. This also indicates the success of the bilateral free trade agreement.

The main concern of our industrialists and businessmen was that while Chinese imports were increasing, our own products were not finding their way into the Chinese market with the same speed. The way how Chinese electronics flooded the local market to the detriment of domestic producers is a case in point. However, it is also necessary that our exports first come up to the standard required by an average Chinese consumer. This would be our litmus test, if we are able to make heavy investment within our own industrial sector and set certain rules to check the quality of products from deteriorating. The industries including leather, marble and textile should be upgraded. Pakistan's Ambassador to China Masood Khan rightly said that if we had more products to sell, the huge Chinese market would be the right destination for them. It is also heartening to note that the Ambassador stated that several ministries of the government were busy in increasing Pakistani exports and special attention was being paid to improve the product quality. This is quite important because unless the products are of good quality, they would not be able to effectively find a niche in the Chinese market and generate the much needed capital for our economy. Himself a businessman, President Zardari seems fully conversant with the benefits of trade with the time-tested friend. One can only second his statement that in future China is going to become the largest economy in the world and that Pakistan will be a 'force-multiplier' in its emergence.

At the same time, keeping in view the pace of the growth in bilateral trade and reduction in trade deficit, there is little doubt that the target of \$15 billion set for 2015 will be easily achieved. The increase in trade would broaden the base of our industry as well as economy. Concurrently, it would create more jobs in the industrial sector, which is suffering from power cuts and deteriorating law and order.

All Day

Pakistan, Indonesia sign Preferential Trade Agreement -- IANS
Pakistan, Indonesia sign Preferential Trade Agreement

Jakarta, Feb 3 (IANS) Indonesia's Trade Minister and Pakistan's Ambassador Sanaullah Friday signed a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between the two countries, a press statement from the Pakistani embassy said here.

Minister G. Wirjawan said that going beyond bilateral gains, stronger relations between Indonesia and Pakistan will allow both countries to benefit from overall market optimism of the Asian region.

Sanaullah stated that both sides "have agreed to provide market access by granting tariff concessions and removing non-tariff barriers and also help both countries to match the economic and trade relations to their true potential", reported Xinhua.

Under the PTA, Indonesia has agreed to offer market access to Pakistan on 216 tariff lines at preferential rate.

Pakistan's offer list to Indonesia under the agreement includes a total of 287 tariff lines for market access at preferential tariff.

According to Indonesian statistics, trade between Indonesia and Pakistan in 2010 amounted to \$787.4 million, with a declining trend of 2.33 percent for the past five years.

However, the trade performance showed a strong recovery in the period of January- November of 2011, booked the amount of \$1.018 billion and representing a 50.18 percent year-on-year growth.

All Day

Qatar agrees to supply 3.5 million tons of LNG: two accords, four MoUs inked -- APP

Qatar agrees to supply 3.5 million tons of LNG: two accords, four MoUs inked

Qatar has agreed to supply 3.5 million tons of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and the first shipment is expected to arrive in the country within a year.

This was stated by Dr Asim Hussain, Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, while talking to Business Recorder from Doha.

He is accompanying Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, who is on a three-day official visit to Qatar.

"We have signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Qatar for import of 3.5 million tons of LNG, which would materialise in a year's time," Dr Asim said.

APP adds: Pakistan and Qatar signed agreements to collaborate in multiple areas mainly import of LNG from the Gulf state and co-operation between the two governments on security.

Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor Al Thani witnessed the signing ceremony of two agreements and four memoranda of understanding (MoUs) as the representatives of Pakistan and Qatar's respective ministries inked the documents, at the Amiri Diwan here.

Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Asim Hussain and Qatar's minister for energy Dr Muhammad bin Saleh Al Saada signed the MoU on import of LNG.

Pakistan is interested in importing 500 million cubic feet per day of LNG from Qatar that produces 77 million tonnes per annum of LNG.

The imported LNG will be initially provided to the powerhouses in the country to generate 2,500 mega watt of electricity.

The Qatar's minister for energy is visiting Pakistan this month to hold talks with the respective ministers to evolve the mechanism of undertaking investment in various sectors which according to the Qatari Prime Minister could go up to \$5 billion.

The MoU on security co-operation between the interior ministries of Pakistan and Qatar was signed by Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar and Qatar's minister of state for Interior.

Both also inked an agreement on co-operation in legal field between the two governments.

The agreement in the field of Auqaf and Islamic Affairs was signed by Minister for Professional and Technical Training Riaz Pirzada.

The two countries signed an MoU between Pakistan's Ministry of Water and Power and Qatar's Ministry of Energy for co-operation in hydropower development.

Chairman Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) Shakil Durrani and Qatar's energy minister Muhammad Al Saleh Al Saada signed the document.

A bilateral agreement was signed on Mutual Administrative Assistance for the Proper Application of Customs Law and Repression, Investigation and Enforcement of Customs Offences between the governments of Pakistan and Qatar.

Pakistan's ambassador to Qatar Muhammad Sarfraz Ahmed Khanzada signed the document.

February 7, 2012 Continued

Tue

Both also signed an MoU to cooperate in the field of organising exhibitions between the two countries.

All Day

Chinese leadership perceives any threat to Pakistan as threat to China: Masood Khan -- BEIJING,

Chinese leadership perceives any threat to Pakistan as threat to China: Masood Khan

BEIJING, Feb 8 (APP): Ambassador Masood Khan has said that the Chinese leadership perceives any threat to Pakistan as a threat to China and fully supports us as a true friend.

He, however, reminded that the primary responsibility of defending Pakistan sovereignty is our own.

There is absolute trust between Pakistan and China which is a precious commodity. Pakistan's independence and sovereignty is sacred to the people of Pakistan and we have to defend it ourselves, said Ambassador Khan in a recent interview.

Pak-China friendship is of fundamental significance for ensuring peace and stability in the region, he said, adding that there is consensus between the two countries to make collective efforts for regional peace.

He believe the collective efforts of Pakistan and China act as a balancing factor for regional stability, he added.

China, Ambassador Khan said, has emphasized time and again upon the international community to recognize the contribution and sacrifices of Pakistan in the war against terror. China has also asked the world to assist Pakistan and refrain from creating troubles for the country.

He maintained that China has always assisted in improving Pakistan's economy. It has always helped in capacity building of our personnel and strengthening the defence of Pakistan.

Both the countries are strategic partners and know how to endure their partnership over a long period of time, he added.

Pakistan has always stood shoulder to shoulder with China on all issues including Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang. Similar has been the position of China, Khan noted.

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All Day

ECC directives to TCP -- The News

ECC directives to TCP

KARACHI: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet has issued directives to the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) to divert fertiliser vessels to other ports of Pakistan from Gwadar in order to minimise the transportation cost, The News has learnt.

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[Blog](#) [Forum](#)

SBP injects Rs37bn

Textiles forced to get export orders via buying houses

All Day

‘Pak ready to allow Tajikistan access to Gwadar Port’ -- APP

‘Pak ready to allow Tajikistan access to Gwadar Port’

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday said Pakistan was ready to provide Tajikistan access to Gwadar Port for its international trade.

The president said this during a meeting with Ambassador of Tajikistan Zubaydullo N Zubaydov at the Presidency. Bilateral relations and progress on various projects was also discussed in the meeting. Zardari thanked Tajik President Emomali Rahmon for extending invitation to attend the Navroz festival in Dushanbe. Pakistan attached great importance to further strengthening of its fraternal relations and partnership with Tajikistan, he added.

The president said the two countries being important regional players needed to enhance consultation and coordination to promote peace and stability in the region. He also emphasised the need to enhance bilateral trade-volume which was showing an upward trend, but was yet far below its potential. Pakistani ports provided the shortest access to Tajik goods and Pakistan was ready to extend cooperation in this regard, he said, adding that Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement had added opportunities for trade linkages between the two countries.

The president also underscored the need to explore possibilities of preferential trade arrangements and to operationalise ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA). The Tajik ambassador said Tajikistan was also eager to enhance multifaceted partnership with Pakistan. Provincial governors, Dr Ishratul Ebad Khan, Barrister Masood Kausar, Nawab Zulfikar Ali Magsi and Sardar Latif Khosa, called on the president on Wednesday at the Presidency. Sindh Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Amir Haider Hoti were also present during the meeting, a press release from the Presidency said. app

All Day

Zardari offers Gwadar port facilities to Tajikistan -- INP

Zardari offers Gwadar port facilities to Tajikistan

ISLAMABAD - President Asif Ali Zardari has said that Pakistan and Tajikistan need to work closely on infrastructure, energy connectivity and trans-regional economic cooperation projects such as CASA-1000.

This he said during his meeting with the Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Pakistan Zubaydullo N. Zubaydov here at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Thursday. Bilateral relations between the two countries and the progress on various mutually agreed projects were discussed during the meeting.

The President thanked President Emomali Rahmon for extending invitation to attend the Navroz festival in Dushanbe.

He said that Pakistan attaches high importance to further strengthen its close fraternal relations and partnership with Tajikistan. He said that the two countries being important regional players need to enhance consultation and coordination to promote peace and stability in the region.

The President also emphasised upon the need to focus on enhancing bilateral trade volume which was showing upward positive trend yet was far below its potential.

He said that Pakistani ports provide the shortest access to the Tajik goods and Pakistan was ready to provide access to Tajikistan to Gwadar Port for its international trade. He said that Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement has added opportunities for trade linkages between the two countries.

Pakistan, the President said, was willing to discuss conclusion of a Trilateral Transit Trade Agreement to facilitate transit of goods to and from Tajikistan.

The President also underscored the need for the two countries to explore

possibilities of Preferential Trade Arrangements and to operationalise ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA). Tajik Ambassador thanked the President for meeting and said that Tajikistan was also eager to enhance multi-faceted partnership with Pakistan for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

All Day

Jang -- تاجکستان کو عالمی تجارت کیلئے گواہر بندرگاہ تک رسائی دینے کی پیشکش

تاجکستان کو عالمی تجارت کیلئے گواہر بندرگاہ تک رسائی دینے کی پیشکش

صدر زرداری نے پیشکش کی ہے کہ پاکستان عالمی تجارت کیلئے تاجکستان کو گواہر بندرگاہ تک ... اسلام آباد رسائی دینے کو تیار ہے۔ تاجکستان کے سفیر زبیدیلو زبیدوف نے صدر آصف علی زرداری سے ایوان صدر اسلام آباد میں ملاقات کی۔ اس موقع پر صدر زرداری نے زور دیا کہ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان دو طرفہ تجارت کا حجم گنجائش سے کم ہے جسے فروغ دینا چاہئے۔ صدر زرداری نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور تاجکستان کو کاسا ایک ہزار منصوبے سمیت انفراسٹرکچر، مواصلات اور توانائی کے شعبوں میں تعاون کو بڑھانا چاہئے۔ صدر نے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان ترجیحی تجارت اور دیگر تجارتی معاہدوں کی ضرورت پر بھی زور دیا۔ اس دوران تاجک سفیر نے مختلف شعبوں میں دو طرفہ تجارت بڑھانے کیلئے ہر ممکن تعاون کی یقین دہانی کرائی۔

All Day

**Pakistan considering leasing Gilgit-Baltistan to China for 50 years --
Washington**

Pakistan considering leasing Gilgit-Baltistan to China for 50 years

Washington: Seeking to fortify its strategic ties with China amid strains in relations with US, Pakistan is considering a proposal to lease the disputed Gilgit-Baltistan region to Beijing for 50 years, an eminent US-based think tank has claimed, citing local media.

The Pakistani move is aimed at cementing its all-weather relations with China amid the irreparable rupture in US-Pak ties over the past year, said Middle East Media Research Institute in a report released yesterday, which was based on news reports in this regard in local Urdu newspapers. The decision to launch the Pakistan-China Strategic Programme for Gilgit-Baltistan was probably taken during army chief Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani's visit to China in January 2012, it said.

A report, titled "Pakistan's Deteriorating Situation, Strained Relations with America: Deliberation on Leasing Gilgit Baltistan to China for 50 years," which was published in the Urdu daily 'Roznama Bang-e-Sahar', had said: "In the backdrop of the deteriorating situation in Pakistan and strained relations with America, deliberations have begun (on a proposal) to hand over Gilgit-Baltistan to China on a 50-year lease."

"A Chinese think tank has also given the green light for this move," said the Urdu daily, which was distributed in Gilgit Baltistan on December 13, 2011, less than three weeks after the November 26, 2011 NATO raid on a Pakistani border post that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers, according to the US think tank, which is headed by a former FBI official.

The Urdu daily said the think tanks of China and Pakistan have begun discussions to hand over Gilgit-Baltistan region to the control of China on lease. "In the first stage of this plan, China will formulate a strategy for development projects and in the name of working on them will gradually take over the control of this region. In the next stage, China will take over Gilgit-Baltistan under its total control for 50 years and deploy its troops there," it said.

The Roznama Bang-e-Sahar report acquires importance in view of the five-day visit of China by Pakistan army chief General Ashfaq Kayani on January 4-8, 2012, the US think tank said. During a meeting with Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao in Beijing, General Kayani had said that development of ChinaPakistan strategic partnership is the "cornerstone of the two countries' policies".

In his remarks, the Chinese Premier had said that "the Chinese government and the PLA (People's Liberation Army) would continue to strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries and more frequent military-to-military exchanges".

Based on news reports published in the local Urdu press, the Washington-based think tank said that Pakistani and Chinese militaries are moving in the direction of a joint military management of Gilgit Baltistan. The two militaries will cooperate under a specific plan designated by Pakistan as the Pak-China Strategic Programme for Gilgit Baltistan, it said.

As part of this plan, officials from Pakistan's Northern Light Infantry (NLI) and People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China would "undergo joint trainings and exchange of expertise". According to a Pakistani newspaper, the Pak-China Strategic Programme for Gilgit-Baltistan will come into force in June 2012, the think tank said.

All Day

Pak-China Trade to reach \$10b:Zardari -- Pakistan Observer

Pak-China Trade to reach \$10b:Zardari

Beijing—President Asif Ali Zardari has said Pakistani and Chinese governments of both countries are determined to increase their bilateral trade by more than 10 billion US dollars.

He stressed the need for Pakistan and China to deal with the world economy together and act in accordance with the new global demands.

In an interview with China's Peoples Daily Online, the President said as the world is settling in new situation, Pakistan and China need to find new comfort zone for further collaboration in all dimensions.

President Zardari termed growth of China as emergence of a new Japan, the largest economy in the world and added that all friends of China would be part of that rise. He said Pakistan and China have strong bonds of friendship and mentioned that both the countries are the home to the old civilization of Buddhism.

Zardari said Pakistan established diplomatic relations with China at a time when the latter was not open in relations with the outside world. He said the theory of looking towards the East owed to the founder of Pakistan Peoples Party and the former Prime Minister of Pakistan Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

The President said he felt that there was room for more interaction with China. He said he had been visiting China since 1988, even before assuming the office of President of Pakistan. He mentioned that Chinese language had been introduced as an optional subject in schools in Sindh province. Referring to the Karakorum Highway damaged by the floods, President Zardari said Pakistan and China were working on enhancing the road and railway connectivity. President Zardari also extended new year greetings to China on start of its lunar year of Dragon.

China's flagship newspaper Peoples Daily and its website Peoples Daily Online conducted separate exclusive interviews with President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani.

Once the schedule of the interview was announced on Peoples Daily Online, it caught widespread attention from Chinese citizens, who put forward thousands of topics and questions during quite a short time and sent their best wishes to Pakistani people on the website.

Source:- Pakistan Observer

February 16, 2012

Thu

All Day

Residential colonies for fishermen -- Observer

Residential colonies for fishermen

Quetta—Balochistan minister for Fisheries Meer Hamal Kalmati said that the government was planning to build residential colonies, hospitals and other facilities for fishermen at the coastal belt. Talking to various delegations the minister said that the present government was serious to develop Gwadar and other coastal areas in order to enhance the earning capabilities and opportunities for the fishermen.

He added that the present government had launched development projects worth billions of rupees in Gwadar and other coastal areas which would bring about a real change in the life of the local people. He said that the government was planning to build hospitals, schools, and homes for the local fishermen in the town.

All Day

Building regional ties -- BY Muhammad Munir & Muhammad Nawaz

Building regional ties

Muhammad Munir & Muhammad Nawaz

In a conspicuous international development, Pakistan, China and Afghanistan held a formal trilateral dialogue which has taken place for the first time in the history of regional ties, a mechanism possibly born in anticipation of the withdrawal of the occupation forces from Afghanistan in the coming months. India's increasing interference and presence in Afghanistan is also a worry matter to both; of Pakistan and China. From February 28 to 29, 2012, the first trilateral dialogue was held in Beijing. Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi has lauded the successful holding of the trilateral dialogue. The aim of the trilateral dialogue was to exchange opinions on the regional situation between the three countries on a regular basis. Trilateral cooperation through dialogue under current circumstances is of great significance for the three countries to enhance friendly cooperation among the troika and also for maintaining peace and stability in the region. The establishment of the platform has opened up a new scenario of unity, solidarity and cooperation among the three states.

In this perspective, the three sides reaffirmed their commitment to the spirit of the 2002 Kabul Declaration on Good-Neighbourly Relations which aimed at developing constructive and supportive bilateral relations on the basis of territorial integrity, mutual respect, friendly relations, cooperation and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. Rather, they support countries in the region to enhance political mutual trust and accommodate each other's concerns and interests. They agreed to explore the feasibility of trilateral cooperation in areas of connectivity, resource development and combating the three forces of terrorism, separatism and extremism. The three sides support the United Nation's leading role in the context of international cooperation and also adhere to the role of other international organizations and cooperation mechanisms including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The key to overcoming existing challenges in the region is to push forward the reconciliation process in Afghanistan and promoting regional economic and social development. China and Pakistan both indicated support for the 'Afghan-led' and 'Afghan-owned' reconciliation process. Rangin Dadfar Spanta a National Security Adviser to the Afghan President Hamid Karzai, said, "We highly welcome the trilateral dialogue that actually was the desire of President Karzai." On many occasions, he asked China to play a mediator's role and bring Pakistan and Afghanistan closer in order to scale down the misunderstandings and differences between the two sides. He further said, "we encourage Chinese investors to come to Afghanistan to use the interests of two countries." Logic is quite obvious. China is a long-standing ally of Pakistan with growing investments there and in Afghanistan; it has resources for the economic development and trade needed by both countries. Juxtaposed to it, China's concern about its Uighur minority is also growing. With the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan, security situation of FATA-Balochistan in Pakistan and security environment in Xinjiang, China looks like a prime ally for closer cooperation among Pakistan, Afghanistan and China. There are various broadly shared interests in combating terrorism, containing rising extremism, and supporting the stability of the three states.

Afghanistan should rely on China — a power in ascendance, rather than eyeing the United States for better future. Focus on China makes sense and it would be acceptable to Afghanistan as an ally in a way that Russia never could be because of its tainted history as a hated occupier of Afghanistan during the 1980s. Military solution is no solution for Afghanistan. There is a need to build economic and trade ties with neighbourly states to seek stability through economic development. This means optimally utilizing natural economic complementarities of Afghanistan and Pakistan and that of the region as a whole, for socio-economic development. Several important mega projects, including trans-regional projects, such as Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India Gas Pipeline; building of electricity transmission lines; enhancing physical connectivity by building or upgrading

requisite infrastructure, including road and rail transportation and communication links as well as expediting the implementation mechanisms for the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement etc., need to be fast-tracked. Any talk of building up trade, oil pipelines and roads involves China because of its large and growing market. China has several thousand labourers in Pakistan working on infrastructure and building, repairing or expanding roads, which would open up trade routes and also link up with Pakistan's Arabian Sea port of Gwadar, giving it access to Gulf oil supplies. Logically speaking, it would make sense for Pakistan to forge economic partnerships with Afghanistan and China. Better economic conditions would make it easier to stabilize Afghanistan while also providing jobs to Afghan and Pakistani youths — who might otherwise be drawn into extremism. Even though in an article published in the journal, *Foreign Policy*, Steve Levine argues, "there would be nothing wrong with China playing a much bigger role in Afghanistan."

A stable security environment for Xinjiang, the restive northwestern province that is home to China's largest Muslim minority group, the Uighurs, is of great importance to Beijing. Aside from the direct risk of cross-border flows of arms, militants, and narcotics, the ideological influence of jihadi groups has played an important role for some Uighur pro-independence groups. Like Pakistan, China has been a victim of militants trained in the eastern and southern provinces in Afghanistan. While many of these fighters are affiliated with other transnational groups, such as Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, small numbers are still thought to be active in groups that target China specifically, such as Turkestan Islamic Party (TIP) or East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), which seek to establish an Islamic state of East Turkestan in Xinjiang. China's economic interests in both countries are also substantial. China Metallurgical Construction Group has initiated \$3.2 billion Aynak copper mine investment in Logar; an eastern province of Afghanistan, to utilize the largest copper reserves which are equivalent to one third of the China's total copper reserves. Chinese companies have interests in mineral deposits elsewhere in the country and are also active in the irrigation, infrastructure, telecommunications, and power sectors. China has a wide-range set of investments in Pakistan. In addition to large-scale projects in telecommunications and hydropower, the Chinese-built port at Gwadar in Baluchistan potentially provides an energy transshipment route once connected to the expanded Karakoram Highway (KKH).

The three regional actors are willing to further enhance their trilateral relations and address regional challenges together by expressing their readiness to play constructive roles. Analysts spoke high of the significance of the dialogue, which marked the beginning of new process for countries in the region to tackle problems by themselves. "Afghanistan and Pakistan have suffered from turbulence and wars in the region for a long time, which have been created by third parties outside the region," said Su Hao, Director Centre for Strategic and Conflict Management at China Foreign Affairs University. As a neighbour of Afghanistan and Pakistan, China cannot be overlooked. Peace and stability in the two countries greatly influence the situation in China. It is essential for China to deal with the issues of the region. "The stability of neighbouring countries is good not only for China but all the relevant countries," said Shen Dingli, Director Centre for American Studies at the Shanghai-based Fudan University. In nutshell, security problems in the region remain complicated; there is still a long way to go for peace and stability in the region. Indian a

All Day

MoF informs ECC: Country has 2.851mn metric tons of sugar stocks -- APP

MoF informs ECC: Country has 2.851mn metric tons of sugar stocks

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Finance has informed the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet that total sugar stocks in the country are 2.851 million metric tons in the first week of March 2012, higher by 12.68 percent from the 2.530 million metric tons for the same period of last year.

Sources told Business Recorder that the Finance Ministry informed the ECC in a briefing on current commodity stock situation that sugar stocks with the provinces stood at 2.825 million metric tons in March 12, compared to 2.084 million metric tons for the same period of last year.

The committee was told that the sugar stocks available with the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) are 26,000 tons in the first week of March while these stocks were 0.44 million tons in the same period of 2010-11.

ECC was told by the Finance Ministry that as per approval of the Committee, imports of 1.2 million tons of urea (total stocks of urea are expected to be 1.03 million tons by June, 2012) and one million tons of wheat (0.9 million tons at Gwadar port and 63,000 at Port Qasim) have arrived.

The Ministry of Finance informed the ECC that the wheat stocks available in the country in the first week of March are 4.909 million tons while these stocks were around 4.920 million tons in the same period last year.

The wheat stocks available in Punjab are 2.6 million tons that are 21 percent less than the stocks available in the province during the corresponding period of last year.

The total wheat stocks available with Sindh are 0.29 million tons while these were 0.21 million tons in March, 2011. Similarly wheat stocks available with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are 0.15 million tons against 0.14 million tons in the same period last year. ECC was told by the Finance Ministry that wheat stocks, available with Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation (Passco) in the first week of March, are 1.7 million tons while these were 1.0 million tons in March, 2011 showing an increase of 41 percent.

All Day

CAA to provide jobs under AHB package -- APP

CAA to provide jobs under AHB package

The Director General Civil Aviation Authority issued directives for providing jobs to less educated local youth in CAA, said Ismail Khoso

KARACHI: The Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) conducted interviews of 762 candidates for providing employment in the Authority under Aghaz-i- Huqooq-i- Balochistan (AHB) package at Quetta International Airport.

A statement here on Sunday said that interviews were conducted on Saturday.

It said that the less educated unemployed youth came from far flung areas of the Balochistan province.

The CAA is engaged in improving air travel and providing modern facilities at the airports in Balochistan.

This was stated by CAA Media Coordinator Ismail Khoso. He further pointed out that on the special directives of Defence Minister Chaudhry Ahmed Mukhtar, the Director General Civil Aviation Authority issued directives for providing jobs to less educated local youth in CAA.

Khoso said that advertisements were placed in different newspapers in the country for youth having technical skill.

Interview of 762 candidates were conducted at Quetta International Airport in phases.

Shortly the appointment letters of the successful candidates would be issued, Khoso added.

Advertisements have also been placed in the national and regional newspapers for the post of General Manager to Deputy Manager and staff for new Gwadar International Airport project so that local highly educated youth can serve institution like CAA.

Khoso further said that providing modern traveling facilities at all international and domestic airports in Balochistan is an objective of Civil Aviation Authority and keeping it in view modern ILS system has been installed at Quetta International Airport meeting long standing demand of people of Balochistan, particularly the business community.

Under this system landing and takeoff of aircraft has been made possible during 24 hours while in the past take off and landing of aircraft was possible during day light.

He said promotion of employees working at Quetta, Gwadar, Turbat, Pasni and Panjgur airports have also been made during recent days on merit while basic facilities have also been taken care of at these airports in far flung areas.

He said officers and staff working at all airports in Balochistan have also been vaccinated against Hepatitis.

All Day

China defends N-cooperation with Pak as 'mutually beneficial' -- Reuters

China defends N-cooperation with Pak as 'mutually beneficial'

Beijing: Ahead of a key global summit on atomic security, China today defended its nuclear cooperation with Pakistan as "mutually beneficial" and in accordance with international safeguards.

Luo Zhaohui, the Director-General of Department of Asian Affairs, told reporters that China-Pak nuclear cooperation was being conducted under the supervision of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the global nuclear watchdog body.

"China-Pakistan had several years of nuclear cooperation in building Chashma nuclear power station. This station is subjected to IAEA safeguards. So far it is mutually beneficial and in accordance with international law," he said at a press meet when asked about China-Pakistan nuclear cooperation as well as global anxieties over Pakistan nuclear weapons falling into the hands of militant groups.

China's Assistant Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu said the Nuclear Security Summit, to be attended by Chinese President Hu Jintao and heads of states of 53 countries and international organisations from 26-27 March in Seoul, would focus on strengthening the security of nuclear materials and nuclear facilities.

The summit will conduct full review of the progress made by the international community on the nuclear security since the first summit held in Washington in 2010, he told a media briefing here.

China has built about two nuclear reactors at Chashma and constructing two more. China also has announced plans to build one 1,000 mw nuclear unit at the same place. Luo said the China-Pak nuclear cooperation is ongoing.

"After the Fukushima disaster, we have given greater attention to nuclear safety. We have had some consultations (with Pakistan) and had some technical work (done). We have full confidence in nuclear technologies," he said.

March 22, 2012

Thu

All Day

China assured Pak to continue work on 2 nuclear power plants -- APP

China assured Pak to continue work on 2 nuclear power plants. Leaving aside the international pressure, China must continue the work of the Chashma 3 and 4 Chashma nuclear power plant in Pakistan. In addition, talks between the two countries during the delivery of the latest J-10 fighters and six submarines to Pakistan. Pakistani authorities believe that in the current white relations Cino best to promote their bilateral cooperation strategy. China announced its intention to develop two new nuclear power plant in Pakistan in April 2010, two years. Over the years, the armed forces of Pakistan-China joint military exercises are held regularly. Extensive cooperation in defense production trend also witnessed for the international and regional situation. Officials said that China's cooperation with hunters in Pakistan JF-17 Thunder aircraft Karakoram, K-8, air warning systems and control and missile.

March 23, 2012

Fri

All Day

China to Deliver Fighter Jets, Marines to Pakistan -- PAK DEFENSE UNIT

Islamabad - Putting aside international pressure, China has assured Pakistan to continue work on two nuclear power plants of Chashma 3 and Chashma 4.

In addition, talks are underway between the two states over delivery of latest J-10 fighter plane and six submarines to Pakistan.

Pakistan officials viewed that at present Cino-Pak ties were at their best promoting strategic cooperation between the two.

China had announced the plan to set up two new nuclear power plants in Pakistan two years back in April 2010.

For last many years, joint military exercises of Pakistan and Chinese armies are being held regularly. A trend of extensive cooperation in defence production has also been witnessed given international and regional scenario.

Officials stated presently China is collaborating with Pakistan on JF-17 Thunder fighter plane, K-8 Karakoram planes, Airborne Warning and Control System and missile.

All Day

Calendar year 2012 quota for export of animals approved -- BUSINESS RECORDER

Calendar year 2012 quota for export of animals approved

The Ministry of National Food Security and Research has approved quota for quarter-wise distribution of exportable animals to different countries particularly Iran and Afghanistan.

Sources told Business Recorder that the Ministry of National Food Security and Research has approved the quarter-wise quota for export of animals during the calendar year 2012.

Customs officials would allow export of animals as per admissible quota to Iran and Afghanistan.

The quota has been fixed to ensure that smuggling of animals should not take place and only a specific quantity should be exported from customs stations near border areas.

As per quota approved by Ministry of National Food Security and Research, during first quarter (January-March 2012), the number of export quantity of cattle/buffalo has been fixed at 5000 through Karachi/Gwadar, 2000 Quetta and 5000 Peshawar.

The export quantity of sheep/goats would be 8000 through Karachi/Gwadar, 1000 Quetta and 1000 Peshawar.

During the second quarter (April-June 2012), 13000 cattle/buffalo through Karachi/Gwadar, 8000 Quetta and 15000.

While, 28000 sheep/goats via Karachi/Gwadar, 1000 Quetta and 1000 Peshawar along with 575, 125 camels respectively through Karachi/Gwadar and Quetta have been approved to be exported during this time.

The ministry has approved for the third quarter (July-September 2012), 13000 cattle/buffalo to be exported through Karachi/Gwadar, 8000 Quetta whereas 15000 through Peshawar.

Sheep/goats to be exported are 28000 via Karachi/Gwadar, 1000 Quetta, and 1000 Peshawar.

Camels allowed to be exported are 575 via Karachi/Gwadar and 125 through Quetta.

Sources added that for the fourth quarter (October-December 2012), 13000 cattle/buffalo have been allowed to be exported through Karachi/Gwadar, 8000 Quetta and 15000 via Peshawar.

Sheep/goats that have been allowed to be exported are 28000 from Karachi/Gwadar, 1000 via Quetta and 1000 through Peshawar.

Similarly, the ministry has allowed export of 575 camels through Karachi/Gwadar and 125 via Quetta.

Sources added that the leftover animals of the previous quarter from the point of exit will automatically add to the respective station in the following quarters of the year, but the remaining animals at the end of the calendar year will lapse automatically and will not be added to the next calendar year's allocation.

Animal Quarantine Department, Karachi may be authorised to shift animals from one station to the other, if found suitable for keeping export flow smooth.

All Day**Govt released Rs 3.50bn under PSDP in last 7 days -- THE NEWS**

Govt released Rs 3.50bn under PSDP in last 7 days

By Ijaz Kakakhel

ISLAMABAD: The government has released Rs 3.50 billion under Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2011-12 from March 10 to 16, 2012, official data available with Daily Times revealed here on Friday.

With addition of this amount, total PSDP 2011-12 releases reached Rs 135.2 billion by March 16, 2012 from earlier Rs 131.7 billion of February 9.

The total PSDP releases under developmental budget are further classified as Rs 76.5 billion for infrastructure sector, Rs 54.4 billion for social sector, Rs 1.1 billion for others sectors and Rs 3.2 billion for Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA).

This allocation was made for 1,284 developmental national importance projects.

Total size of the PSDP 2011-12 is Rs 300 billion, including Rs 38.6 billion as foreign exchange component (FEC) and Rs 33 billion as special programme. The releases against special programmes are being made by the Cabinet Division and Finance Division. The foreign aid disbursement amount is received in the Economic Affairs Division. The Rs 131.7 billion releases are exclusive of foreign aid disbursement. Therefore, above releases are against Rs 228.4 billion (Rs 300 billion, Rs 38.6 billion and Rs 33 billion), the Planning and Development Division will release funds against this amount (Rs 228.4 billion).

The officials figure released by the Planning Commission revealed that the releases to Communications Division, National Highway Authority (NHA) and Higher Education Commission are made one line within Rs 228.4 billion. Project-wise expenditure is made by these organisations as per their priority.

Rupee component of the power sector projects is arranged by Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) from its own resources. Therefore, rupee component of power sector projects is not part of budget and not released by Planning and Development Division.

Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) received Rs 7.507 billion for Chashma Nuclear Power Project (C3 and C4) being constructed in collaboration with China. Total cost of these two new nuclear power projects amounts to Rs 189.918 billion. The PAEC also received Rs 972.875 million for Chashma Nuclear Power Project CII, Mianwali with a total cost of Rs 51.046 billion.

In the water and power sector, the federal government has released Rs 11.700 billion for land acquisition for construction of Diamer Bhasha Dam, which will generate 4,500 megawatts (MW) power on completion. The federal government has released Rs 5 billion for raising of Mangla Dam including resettlement project while total cost of this project is Rs 101 billion, Gomal Zam Dam project Rs 450 million, Kachhi Canal (Phase-I) Rs 1.250 billion, Kachhi Canal (Phase-II) Rs 1.250 billion, Lower Indus Right Bank Irrigation and Drainage, Sindh Rs 700 million, Balochistan Effluent Disposal into RBOD (RBOD-III) Rs 700 million, Revamping and Rehabilitation of Irrigation and Drainage System of Sindh Rs 380 million, Extension of Right Bank Outfall Drain from Sehwan to Sea, (RBOD-II), Dadu and Thatta Districts of Sindh Rs 1.650 billion, Lining of Distributaries and Minors in Sindh Rs 460 million, Construction of 100 Delay Action Dams, Balochistan Rs 320 million, Construction of 20 Small Dams in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rs 200 million, Reconstruction of Shadi Kour Dam, District Gwadar Rs 200 million.

The government released Rs 1.495 billion for Pakistan Communication Satellite System (Paksat-IR) China, Rs 1.495 billion for Greater Water Supply for Quetta. Out of the block allocation of Rs 8.2 billion Azad Jammu and Kashmir government was released only Rs 4.280 billion by March 16. The government also released Rs

698 million for construction of Rathua Haryam Bridge across Reservoir Channel on Mirpur-Islamgarh Road.

The sources in the Ministry of Finance claimed that there would be no cut in PSDP for the ongoing fiscal year, however, if due to unforeseen reason the need arises, then there would be no cut for developmental projects related to Balochistan and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).

The federal government had announced in the federal budget a total development budget of Rs 730 billion for 2011-12 as compared to Rs 663 billion last year, showing a 10 percent increase. Among the total development budget PSDP, an amount of Rs 290 billion has been allocated for the projects of federal government, whereas Rs 430 billion have been earmarked for the provinces, to be spent through their Annual Development Programmes (ADPs), while Rs 10 billion has been allocated for the ERR.

All Day

TITEX IT & telecom exhibition launched -- APP

TITEX IT & telecom exhibition launched

STAFF REPORT LHR: Milestone Events International Pvt Ltd, a multiplatform media group, has launched the TITEX 2012, which is the first of its kind that has focused on addressing real industry challenges and the utilization of technological means available in the best possible manner.

"The dwindling exhibition industry needs complete revamp. We've got to provide returns with real objectives set in mind to flourish the overall industry growth. TITEX is, therefore, crafted with four unique pillars – Trade Fair, Consumer Digital Playground, Thematic Workshops and Smart conferences," said Amad Aslam, Director Projects at Milestone Events, while talking to the media.

The first TITEX will be held in Islamabad at the Pak-China Friendship Center from 10-12 May. High level conferences, workshops as well as various activities will also be held concurrently with the exhibition. These conferences and workshops are designed with a continuing approach towards building up national competence in the variety of fields.

"We believe that TITEX will be a new top quality exhibition and conference allowing Pakistani and international IT & telecom professionals to network, discuss the latest innovations and do business together," says Amir Khan, CEO Milestone Events.

All Day

Zardari wants closer ties with Tajikistan -- APP

Zardari wants closer ties with Tajikistan

DUSHANBE: President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday said that in the post-2014 geo-strategic scenario after drawdown of foreign forces from Afghanistan, it was important that Pakistan and Tajikistan developed closer cooperation in all fields, particularly in the areas of defence, security and intelligence.

The president floated a proposal that the interior ministers of both countries should meet regularly and more often for this purpose.

The proposal was mooted and instantly accepted by Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon during a meeting between the two leaders soon after President Zardari arrived from Islamabad on a two-day visit to this Central Asian state which is separated from Pakistan only by a narrow strip of Wakhan in Afghanistan.

It was decided that modalities for the meetings between the interior ministers would be worked out during the current visit.

The president's spokesman Farhatullah Babar said that soon after arrival, the president drove straight to inaugurate a National Bank branch in Dushanbe, describing it as a step to further cement business and trade relations Tajikistan.

The delegation-level meeting was attended by Interior Minister Rehman Malik, Pakistan's Ambassador to Tajikistan Amjad Hussain B Sial, Farhatullah Babar, Foreign Secretary Jalil Abbas Jilani, Senator Abbas Khan and other senior officials of the Foreign Office.

During the delegation-level talks, the Tajik president was assisted by Tajik ministers and senior officials.

Babar said that the president also proposed regular consultations by the foreign offices of both the countries and relevant agencies to prepare plans for the evolving scenario as a result of the drawdown of foreign forces from Afghanistan.

President Zardari said that a stable Afghanistan was in the interest of Pakistan, Tajikistan and other countries of the region, adding that Pakistan supported Afghan-led reconciliation process for bringing stability in that country.

The president also called for removing impediments in developing closer economic cooperation by improving air, road and rail connectivity and stepped up people-to-people contacts and tourism.

Zardari also proposed that the two countries might consider a policy of issuance of visa on arrival for a period of one month to bona fide businessmen and tourists.

Liberalisation of visa regime has contributed to the enhancement of trade but it is still below the actual potential, he said, adding, "We need to further liberalise the visa regime for genuine businessmen."

The president said that Gwadar Port provided new vistas of trade for Tajikistan and Central Asia and Tajikistan, being a transit country for Europe, will benefit immensely from it.

The president also called for early finalisation of a transit agreement between Pakistan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan to take full advantage of Gwadar Port facility, saying that it would be a win-win for all the three countries involved.

All Day

Bilateral relations, global situation discussed: Gilani meets Turkish Prime Minister -- RECORDER REPORT

Bilateral relations, global situation discussed: Gilani meets Turkish Prime Minister

Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan met here on Monday on the sidelines of second Nuclear Security Summit and discussed bilateral relations, regional and international situation and agreed to further promote trade and economic relations between the two countries.

The Turkish Prime Minister said Turkey is interested to invest in various projects in the field of energy and communication.

He informed Prime Minister Gilani that there is wide scope for Turkish investors on different projects in hydel, thermal and renewable energy and other development projects especially in Balochistan.

Referring to bilateral trade, the Turkish side informed that during 2011 trade balance remained in favour of Pakistan.

The Turkish Prime Minister said a Turkish firm Zorlu is investing for 50MW power project in Jhimper in windmill.

He said there would be more investment in energy sector from Turkey.

Prime Minister Gilani while appreciating the Turkish investment in various projects in Pakistan also emphasised the need for early completion of motorway projects especially from Gwadar to Nishtar Ghat and Karachi to Hyderabad to improve connectivity as it is important to improve development activities.

Gilani also emphasised the need for promoting the activities of Joint Economic Commission so that the trade activities could be improved to utilise the potential available in different sectors.

He also highlighted the issue of continuation of preferential treatment on textile to Turkey and his Turkish counterpart agreed to look into it.

The Prime Minister also explained some of the details of recently concluded Senate elections in Pakistan adding that PPP emerged a single largest party in these elections and with the help of coalition partners the PPP has now two third majority in the Upper House.

He said although the government faced many challenges but resolving them through the policy of reconciliation and taking along all the political parties.

Gilani also expressed sympathies and condolences with Turkish Prime Minister on the loss of 12 Turkish soldiers during a helicopter crash in Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan is strongly committed to deepen, broader and strengthen its unique and strategic partnership with Turkey in every field.

He said Pakistan is looking forward to welcoming Prime Minister Erdogan to Pakistan later this year to chair the second session of this High Level Co-operation Council.

Referring to Pak-Turkish trade, Prime Minister Gilani said the level of bilateral trade and investment remains far below the real potential and emphasised the need to increase the bilateral trade to US dollars two billion by the year 2012 from the current level of one billion dollars.

Prime Minister Gilani said the signing of an agreement on currency swap arrangements is an important step in trade facilitation and added that there is need to work on fast track on Pak-Turkey Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA).

Gilani said: "We would welcome Turkish investment in hydro-power generation, alternate energy projects." Highlighting importance of co-operation in education sector between the two countries, the Prime Minister said Pakistani universities are ready to establish "Techno-Parks" in Pakistan in collaboration with the Turkish universities.

Turkish Prime Minister while referring to his meeting with US President Obama said that they discussed the regional situation of Asia especially in the context of Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Gilani appreciated the efforts of Turkey for hosting trilateral summit in Istanbul on Afghanistan issue while the Turkish Prime Minister acknowledge the efforts and contribution of Pakistan for hosting a trilateral on the same subject with Afghanistan and Iran.

Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar and other officials were also present in this meeting

All Day

Turkey, Pakistan agree to cooperate in trade -- THE NEWS

Turkey, Pakistan agree to cooperate in trade

SEOUL: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan met here on the sidelines of the second 'Nuclear Security Summit' and discussed bilateral relations, regional and international situation and agreed to further promote trade and economic relations between the two countries.

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March 31, 2012

Sat

All Day

Speaker NA-(Role of PFG vital for further cementing Pak-China ties: Fehmida -- APP

Speaker NA-(Role of PFG vital for further cementing Pak-China ties: Fehmida

ISLAMABAD : Role of Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG) is vital for further cementing cordial relations between Pakistan and China.

Presiding over the second meeting of Pak-China Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG), Speaker of National Assembly, Dr. Fehmida Mirza said both the countries have all weather and time-tested ties which are based on complete mutual trust and respect.

Ambassador of China, Liu Jian, reciprocating to the remarks of the Speaker said that it was indeed a pleasure to visit the National Assembly and meet the members of Pak-China PFG.

He said Pakistan and China are good friends and the role of PFG is indeed of vital importance.

All Day

Let's take Sino-Pak trade to \$15b: PM -- PAKISTAN TODAY

BOAO - Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani said on Sunday that Pakistan and China had the potential to further enhance their trade ties and called for joint efforts to increase bilateral trade to \$15 billion in the next three to four years.

He was talking to China's Executive Vice Premier Li Keqiang, as the two leaders met here on the sidelines of Boao Forum for Asia at the State Guest House, said a statement issued by the PM's office in Islamabad.

Gilani said Pakistan-China friendship was based on mutual trust and respect, and remained a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. He said Pakistan was committed to fighting terrorism in all its forms, adding that strategic and defence cooperation was an important component of Sino-Pak partnership.

The prime minister said that Pakistan greatly values China's economic support and assistance, and wishes to promote closer collaboration in agriculture, irrigation, energy, infrastructure development, railways and security sectors. He expressed satisfaction over the establishment of Pak-China Joint Energy Working Group, which was an encouraging landmark in the economic relations of the two countries. He said that Pakistan looked forward to Chinese cooperation in the full gamut of energy, including hydro, coal, thermal, alternative and civil nuclear energy. He mentioned the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the Government of Pakistan and China's EXIM Bank in 2009 for \$700 million credit line for the construction of small and medium dams in Pakistan. He stressed for the early materialisation of this arrangement to alleviate poverty and help Pakistani farmers. Gilani called for establishing an umbrella corporation under the energy cooperation mechanism known as "Pak-China Power Cooperation", which would include specialists and entities from all fields - conventional and alternative.

He said that with joint efforts, Pak-China bilateral trade increased by 22 percent last year to \$ 10.6 billion. He said his government derived satisfaction as the Pakistani exports to China had doubled from \$1 billion in 2008 to \$2.1 billion in 2011.

The prime minister welcomed the support of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China for infrastructure projects as well as Chinese investment in banking sector.

He also appreciated Chinese assistance in the wake of massive floods in Pakistan in recent years.

The Chinese vice premier said his country wanted to further enhance the existing friendly relations with Pakistan in diverse fields. He hoped that the ties, spanning over six decades, would be further strengthened at the levels of both governments and the two nations. Separately in an interview to China Radio International, the prime minister said the Asian countries should use platforms like Boao Forum for in-depth cooperation. He said despite difficult economic conditions, the performance of the Asian countries was impressive. Gilani added that US drone attacks were violating the sovereignty of Pakistan and had created a negative impact. During Boao conference, Italy also assured Pakistan of its support to get the status of Generalized System of Preferences (GSP Plus) in the European Union.

ITALY: Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti in a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart hoped that the GSP Plus would have substantial positive effect on Pakistan's economy.

The two leaders met here on the sidelines of Boao Forum for Asia and discussed wide range of issues of mutual interest, including the GSP Plus - the European Union's generalized system of preferences that provides developing countries preferential access to the EU markets through reduced tariffs.

Gilani mentioned the significant efforts of Pak-Italy Joint Business Commission in enhancing bilateral trade and stressed holding of its regular meetings.

IRAN: The prime minister also expressed Pakistan's strong desire for boosting bilateral relations with Iran, especially in energy and trade. "Realisation of Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project will open new vistas of cooperation," Gilani said while talking to Iranian Vice President, Mohammad Javad Mohammadzadeh, as the two leaders met on the sidelines of Boao Forum for Asia. He said the 1,000 MW electricity being supplied from Iran to Balochistan would prove helpful in overcoming the energy shortage.

KAZAKHSTAN: Gilani also offered Kazakhstan – the world's largest landlocked country – to benefit from Pakistan's shortest route to seaports.

In a meeting with his Kazakh counterpart Karim Massimov on the sidelines of Boao Forum for Asia here, the prime minister said Pakistan provides an easy access for

the Central Asian states to access the sea for the transportation of goods. Gilani said Pakistan wants to maintain strong trade and communication links with the energy-rich Kazakhstan. He mentioned the Quadrilateral Agreement for Traffic in Transit (between Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan) that facilitates direct land route between the two countries.

All Day

Pakistan PM Gilani highly praises JF-17 Thunder fighter project -- (China Military News cited from APP)

(China Military News cited from APP) -- Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani Monday said the two countries need to fully translate their deep political ties into stronger economic relations for the mutual good of their people. He was talking to the President of the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) Lin Zuoming here on the sidelines of the BOAO Economic Forum. Gilani said the Pakistan-China "all-weather" friendship spanned all facets of their ties from political to economic relations, that continued to grow stronger with each passing day.

Gilani said under the second Pak-China five year program of cooperation, launched in 2012, 36 projects would be undertaken in the areas of energy, transportation, infrastructure, health, agriculture and education sectors.

He deeply appreciated the ongoing cooperation between the aviation industries of Pakistan and China and mentioned the successful joint production of the JF-17 Thunder fighter aircraft that was being used by the airforce of both the countries.

He said the success of the Pakistan Aviation industry was due to the strong support of the Chinese Aviation industry. He also invited Lin Zuoming to visit Pakistan.

The President of AVIC said his company was pleased to extend cooperation to Pakistan's aviation industry and said it would lead to further strengthening of ties between the two countries.

He said his company was also keen to extend these ties to the private sector in Pakistan, besides diversifying it into cooperation in the field of electronics.

All Day

ECC approves gas deal with Turkmenistan Allows import of 300,000 tons of Urea for Kharif season -- APP

ECC approves gas deal with Turkmenistan Allows import of 300,000 tons of Urea for Kharif season

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet on Thursday allowed the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources to formally ink a gas sales purchase agreement for import of gas from Turkmenistan under the \$7.6 billion TAPI gas project at 69 percent of crude oil parity price.

Under the proposed project, 1,640-km-long TAPI gas pipeline will bring 3.2 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day (bcfd) from Turkmenistan's gas fields to Multan in central Pakistan and end in the northwest Indian town of Fazilka. Out of this, Pakistan will get 1.365 billion cubic feet of gas per day, India 1.365 bcfcd and Afghanistan 0.5 bcfcd. Afghanistan has surrendered its share that will now be equally divided between Pakistan and India. Afghanistan says it has no infrastructure to absorb the gas and the share of 0.5bcfd will now be equally shared by Pakistan and India.

Chaired by Federal Minister for Finance & Economic Affairs Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, the ECC meeting was informed that a steering committee headed by Syed Naveed Qamar, minister for water & power, was already working on determining the price of gas. The ECC asked the minister for petroleum to make full presentation to the steering committee as well as member ministers of the ECC for information purposes.

The ECC also approved import of 300,000 tonnes of Urea for the Kharif season and directed the concerned ministries and divisions to ensure balanced use of port facility at Gwadar, so that this port could generate revenue for Balochistan.

The ECC rejected the summary of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources on "Financing of Gas Infrastructure Development Schemes", and reiterated the decision of energy conference held on April 9, 2012 for putting a complete ban on new connections.

In the energy conference, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources had pleaded for a ban on new gas development schemes keeping in view the huge gas deficit that has swelled to over 2 billion cubic feet per day. Secretary Petroleum Mohammad Ejaz Chaudhry when contacted said the ECC is not the forum to impose ban and that it had only observed that a decision in this regard will be taken in the light of the recommendations of the energy conference. The ECC could not take a decision on the summary on fortnightly review of the POL prices.

All Day

**Pakistan has proposed opening of six routes for transit trade with Iran and Turkey in order to enhance commercial activities in the region. --
The News**

ISLAMABAD, April 16: Pakistan has proposed opening of six routes for transit trade with Iran and Turkey in order to enhance commercial activities in the region.

These routes could be opened with Iranian border city Taftan. These include Karachi-Taftan, Gwadar-Gabd-Taftan, Peshawar-Quetta-Taftan, Lahore-Multan-Taftan, Lahore-Quetta-Taftan and Islamabad-Lahore-Ratodero-Taftan.

Secretary Communication Anwar Ahmad Khan identified these new trade routes in the first-day meeting of the member countries of Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) which began here on Monday.

The meeting discussed official border crossings and routes, mutually agreed transit system, permit issues, vehicle weight, dimensions and other specifications, customs clearance/working hours at the border points, ways and means for facilitation of visa for drivers.

The secretary communication said that National Highway Authority (NHA) was executing around 100 projects with an over-stretched portfolio of \$7.0 billion to achieve this ambitious goal.

The purpose is to provide linkages with neighbouring countries to give boost to bilateral relations and enhance trade.

Anwar emphasised that scope of cooperation should not be limited to public/government sector only as in today's world the private sector has become the real engine of growth and needs facilitation.

We should endeavour for joint public-private entrepreneurships, he added.

The official hoped event would provide an opportunity to further cement trade ties.

All Day

Meeting of Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Road Corridor project -- The News

Meeting of Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Road Corridor project

All 3 sides discuss opening of transit trade route

ISLAMABAD: The first meeting of Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Road Corridor project was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Communications here on Monday and discussed opening up of transit trade route between the three countries.

Pakistan offered six various routes with Iranian border city of Taftan including Karachi-Taftan, Gwadar -Gabd- Taftan and Peshawar-Quetta-Taftan for enhancing trade among the member countries. Meeting on Transport and Communications at Ashgabat, Tajikistan, in June 2011 had agreed to establish two road transport corridors in the ECO region, one between Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul and the other between Iran-Tajikistan-Kyrgyz Republic.

The meeting discussed the official borders crossing and routes, mutually agreed transit system, permit issues, vehicle weight, dimensions and other specifications, customs clearance/working hours at the border points and ways and means for facilitation of visa for drivers.

The meeting also discussed the Transport International Rotier (TIR), which allows the free movement of the drivers in the member countries and provides guarantees to the host country. Pakistan has not yet acceded to the TIR and it is under consideration by the government. The meeting discussed the modus operandi to facilitate the Pakistani trade so that the trade activity can continue till Pakistan accedes to the TIR. Earlier, while inaugurating the session, Federal Secretary for Communications Anwar Ahmed Khan said that National Highway Authority, Ministry of Communications is executing around 100 projects with an over-stretched portfolio of \$7,000 million to achieve this ambitious goal. The purpose is to provide linkages with neighbouring countries to give boost to bilateral relations and enhance trade.

Presence of delegates from Turkey and Iran, in the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Road Corridor meeting, shows the commitment of the member states to achieve this project within the shortest possible time, he said. We shall take great inspiration from the successful launch of the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul cargo train and certainly, this gathering raises hope that fulfilling of our common objective is not very far and I assure you on behalf of the government of Pakistan, of our complete cooperation, he added.

Khan emphasised that scope of cooperation should not be limited to public and government sector only as in today's world the private sector has become the real engine of growth and needs facilitation from the government sector. We should endeavour for joint private sector entrepreneurs for development of specific infrastructure and transport-logistics facilities for efficient movement of goods and services through the Islamabad-Tehran-Islamabad corridor, he added.

Khan said that this event will provide us an opportunity to further cement our historical, cultural and trade ties and to interact and share views on various aspects of transport and commerce. Nevertheless, it would undoubtedly help us to promote inter regional integration and identify and overcome the shortcomings.

The federal secretary said that establishment of road corridor will greatly facilitate implementation of Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) - an agreement signed a decade ago to facilitate trade and transport among the 10-member Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO). The successful launch of Truck Caravan from Pakistan in 2010 has further strengthened the belief that now there is a need to start regular operations of goods and passengers movement within the ECO Region.

ECO Deputy Secretary General Altaf Asghar while speaking at the occasion said

that development of trade corridor is an important component of modern world development strategy and ECO countries also recognise its importance. International financial institutions like Asian Development Bank and Islamic Development Bank are also investing in development of the trade corridors. We should also take advantage of their investments, he added. Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Cargo Train has given impetus to the trade corridor, he told.

All Day

NHA implementing 82 highway schemes -- Observer

NHA implementing 82 highway schemes

Islamabad—The participants of 11th Senior National Management Course visited NHA head office here on Wednesday where NHA's Member (Motorways) Raja Nowsherwan gave a detailed briefing about the functioning of the Authority. NHA's Member (Administration) Rana Naseer Ahmed was also present. Briefing the visiting guests, Raja Nowsherwan told that NHA is implementing 82 highway schemes at cost of Rs. 569 billion, while 14 new projects are in pipeline costing Rs. 95 billion. 98 Toll Plazas have been approved on National Highways, out of which 84 are operational.

Continuing he said, NHA is striving hard for availability of National Trade Corridor (NTC), in the country. Practical advancement is being made for achieving North South economic corridor, providing linkages with Gwadar and up gradation of Karakoram Highway in particulars. Under NTC programme highways, Motorways, Expressways are being constructed from ports to borders with the view to provide linkages for the Transit Trade. TC will reduce 50% travelling time, decrease 10% Transportation cost, and reduce 70% road fatalities. Rs. 300 Billion will be spent during the next 5 to 7 years for this gigantic programme. Toll Collection System is being established on modern lines, he told. He further said that pragmatic steps have been taken to save asset of highways from bad effects of overloading. To this effect weigh stations have been set up at specific locations to check the overloaded vehicles. In order to ensure construction of durable roads state of the art and advanced technologies are being employed. NHA is attaching great importance to make journey safe & sound on its network.

All Day

Pakistan issues tender for IP gasline -- The Nation

Pakistan issues tender for IP gasline

ISLAMABAD - Continuing with plans to build a gas pipeline from Iran despite US pressure, the Petroleum and Natural Resources Ministry has issued pre-qualification of engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning tender for the project, sources said.

Inter State Gas Systems, an auxiliary organisation of the Petroleum and Natural Resources Ministry, issued the tender for pre-qualification (PQ) as Iran offered \$500 million to Pakistan to build its part of the pipeline.

The document, available with The Nation, invites pre-qualification for a pipeline to transport high pressure natural gas from an off-take point near the port city of Gwadar to a gas integration point near Nawabshah.

Agencies cited an unnamed technical manager at ISGS as saying: "We expect that it should be about 50-60 days from the final day of submission. It will also depend on the number of applicants."

"We would hope to start construction for the project by end of this year." Another company source said the target was to see the first flow of gas from December 2016. The project, which is estimated to cost between \$1.5 to \$1.8 billion, was proposed in the 1990s but has faced numerous delays. The United States has, repeatedly, urged Pakistan to drop the project because of its sanctions on Iran. Pakistan has been in a state of limbo with regard to funding for its section of the pipeline after the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China in March backed away from the project.

Islamabad last month also approached Russia's Gazprom to invest in the pipeline project. "Iran is willing to raise its offer to speed up start of the project," the petroleum ministry official said.

Pakistan and Iran in 2010 agreed to build the pipeline between Assaluyeh in southern Iran to Pakistan. Of the total, 900 km is to lie in Pakistan's territory and the cost estimate to build this section is around \$1.5 billion.

The country is facing a severe gas shortage and has so far been unwilling to give up the 1 Bcf/d of gas Iran has agreed to supply it through the pipeline.

Tehran and Islamabad are also due to hold negotiations soon on the supply of 70,000-80,000 b/d of Iranian crude to Pakistan, the official said.

The project can be offered either on EPC or turnkey basis as per PQ document.

Similarly, the contractor will be bound to install three compressors between Iranian border and Nawabshah as well as the construction pipeline within two years.

The documents also made it clear that there would be exemption of General Sales Tax (GST), duties, taxes and services over the imported machinery and the companies interested in the construction of the pipeline could submit their technical and financial proposals till June 8 along with a deposit of non-refundable Rs5000 or equivalent as processing fee. Again, foreign contractors not registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) will have to submit an undertaking to get themselves registered with PEC before the award of contract to them.

Similarly, PQ applicants are required to have an implemented Quality Management System that complies with the requirement of the latest edition of ISO-9000, OHSAS 18001 and ISO 14001 certificates.

All Day

Pak-China partnership imperative for economic prosperity: Rabbani -- BR

BEIJING: There is no dearth of natural resources in Pakistan, what we need from our Chinese friends is their expertise and cutting edge technology for economic prosperity so that both the countries can benefit from this win-win situation.

This was stated by Senior Special Assistant to Chief Minister of Sindh and leader of the parliamentary delegation, Rashid Hussain Rabbani during an interaction here with Chinese media at a reception hosted by Ambassador Masood Khan for the delegation on Thursday.

A cross-party delegation from ruling coalition including PPP, ANP, PML (Q) and MQM was on a 12-day visit to China at the invitation of ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) that concluded on Friday.

Rashid Rabbani said that Pakistan is rich in all kinds of resources including minerals. During our meetings with the Chinese leadership, we exchanged views on how to enhance cooperation for exploiting these resources and as well as to enhance our trade relations, he said.

He pointed out that although there has been an upward trend from both side, there is still room for expansion in our mutual trade.

Rabbani said that members of the delegation during their interactions with the Chinese benefited a great deal and got to know the Chinese system of governance, as well as the outstanding achievements of this great country in all spheres of life.

In the same way, he said, the delegation was also informed about the system of governance in Pakistan and the steps the present democratic government has taken to improve the standard of living of the people. My colleagues highlighted all aspects of government whether they were social welfare, economic prosperity or political reconciliation policy of the present government, he said.

He said the present democratic government has completed its four years of terms successfully with the support of coalition partners. During the Q&A session, Rabbani said that in their meetings with the Chinese side, members of the delegation explained to them the policies of the present democratically elected government.

He said President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani had visited several times China as we consider that in future China's importance is attached with Pakistan and vice-versa.

The present parliamentarian delegation's visit, he said, will help bringing the two countries closer and strengthen people to people contacts.

The Chinese media was informed that all the political forces in Pakistan, whether in government or opposition, are unanimous that China is our best friend and want to further strengthen our bond of friendship.

Referring to Pakistan's pivotal role in fighting terrorism, Rabbani said that Pakistan is in the forefront in this war, the only country that has rendered tremendous sacrifices for stemming out terrorism and to contain the menace.

In this endeavor, he pointed out that a large number of people, security forces personals embraced Shahdat.

The war also badly affected our economy, he noted. Shah Jehan Bhatti of PPP said that we cannot claim that terrorism has been completely eliminated, but we have been successful in containing it to a large extent.

He called upon the international community to realize their responsibility and help Pakistan in fighting terrorism.

Rabbani lauded Ambassador Masood Khan's efforts in deepening the Pakistan-China friendship as well as cooperation in all dimensions. Khawaja Izhar Ul Hassan (MQM) and Shah Jehan Bhatti (PPP) also participated in the Q&A session.

Earlier, welcoming the members of the delegation, Ambassador Khan said that the members of the delegation though comprising different political forces, interacted with the Chinese as a single unit which helped further enhance our image.

He said that ruling CPC has introduced a new tradition by establishing contact with all political forces in Pakistan.

The delegation comprised: Syed Tayyab Hussain, Khawaja Izhar-ul-Hassan from MQM, Bashir Ahmed, Tajud Din Khan and Aurangzaib Kasi from ANP, Muhammad Intikhab Khan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail and Leela Alias Kalpna from PML-Q and Akhunzada Chitan Khan, Shah Jehan Bhatti and Rashid Rabbani from PPP. Besides Beijing, earlier the delegation also visited Xinjiang, Ningxia and Jiangsu.

All Day

Rs 8bn demanded for Gwadar Port connectivity -- APP

Rs 8bn demanded for Gwadar Port connectivity

By Ijaz Kakakhel

ISLAMABAD: To remove the deprivation of Balochistan and make the Gwadar Port completely operational, the National Highway Authority (NHA) has demanded Rs 8.001 billion for completion of Gwadar Port connectivity for the year 2012-13.

The NHA forwarded these estimates for Gwadar Port linkages roads, which after completion will make this important port fully operational, sources in the Ministry of Communication told Daily Times here on Thursday. If this port of the deprived province is made operational, it will bring development and prosperity among the local residents.

Gwadar Port is the third port of Pakistan - Karachi and Port Qasim being the other two. Gwadar borders on Arabian Sea. It is about 533 kilometres (kms) from Karachi and 120 kms from the Iranian border. Gwadar Port is located at the mouth of the Persian Gulf and outside the Straits of Hormuz. It is near the key shipping routes used by the mainline vessels in the region with connections to Africa, Asia and Europe and enjoys high commercial and strategic significance. Various professional studies manifest that Gwadar Port location is the most advantageous one as an alternative port, which could handle mother ships and large oil tankers in due course.

The NHA demanded Rs 500 million for construction of Lyari-Gwadar-Gabd (MCH) with total length of 653 kms. For construction of Khuzdar – Ratodero (three packs) on (M-8), the authority demanded Rs 2.5 billion for construction 150 kms long road. For construction of another linkages road, namely, Gwadar – Turbat – Hoshab (three packs) on M-8, the authority demanded Rs 2.5 billion for the construction of 193 kms roads. For N-85, (Hoshab - Basima – Sorab), the NHA demanded Rs 2.5 billion for the year 2012-13 to construct 454 kms long roads. Lastly, the ministry demanded Rs 1 million for Basima – Khuzdar for construction of 110 kms. The NHA has sent these demands for Gwadar connectivity, which will be carried out during next fiscal year.

The Gwadar Port will act as a catalyst for a large number of related projects like trans-shipment of bulk cargo, oil storage, refinery and petrochemicals, export processing and industrial zones, export of minerals, livestock and services (hotels, accommodation, and tourism). Main purpose of developing this port is to stimulate economic growth in the western and northern parts of Pakistan, utilising the available coastline resources of the country and also providing an outlet for the land locked Central Asian Countries and Afghanistan through transit trade and offering transshipment facilities, sources in the Ministry of Communication claimed.

The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Ports and Shipping a few days ago advised the government to approve proper funds for Gwadar Port connectivity, which is the backbone of Pakistan's economy. The parliamentarians also demanded of the government to provide proper security for construction of Gwadar connectivity roads. The government can generate billions of rupees revenue from Gwadar Port once its road connectivity is completed and the port fully functional.

The NHA informed the committee that the authority is confronting severe financial crises and if the government fails to provide proper funds (at least Rs 2 billion) before June 2012, the existing contractors will shut down their work. He said the NHA also confronts law and order problem, which is hindrance in the execution of work. On one side, he said the Finance Ministry could not provide funds to the NHA and secondly, the law and order situation is a big problem. The Ministry of Interior is providing FC at the cost of Rs 10 million per month, and the NHA is unable to bear such a huge spending. The NHA member requested the committee to arrange Rs 2 billion during the ongoing fiscal year so as to keep the contractors working till June 2012. For the year 2012-13, the government has allocated Rs 48 billion under Public Sector Development Programme.

The committee claimed that Gwadar Port is the most important for economic uplift of the province and country but it is bad luck that the government totally failed to make it fully functional. The committee already recommended the government to approve Rs 8 billion funds for only Gwadar Port connectivity. The committee also decided to make proper meeting over law and order situation over Balochistan law and order situation with special

All Day

NHA completed 46 road projects worth Rs 78b in four years -- APP

NHA completed 46 road projects worth Rs 78b in four years

ISLAMABAD - During the past four years, the National Highway Authority has completed 46 national highway projects at a cost of Rs 78 billion and an amount of Rs 245 billion has been allocated to almost four dozen road projects having length of 2,985km.

According to a source in the NHA, the ongoing road projects include improvement and extension of motorways/expressways and highways, Gwadar linkages and upgradation of Karakoram Highway (KKH) and a number of bridges, flyovers and interchanges creating thousands of direct and indirect jobs.

Great Trunk Road (N-5) is the major artery, linking the three provinces, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh, catering for the 65 per cent of goods transportation and passengers traffic and 80 per cent overall economic activities in the country.

He said that the improvement programme of GT road has been undertaken in collaboration with World Bank at a cost of Rs 29.1 billion covering 866.45 kilometres.

He said that NHA carried out restoration work on war footing and repaired the roads damaged in 2010 floods. Floods in 2010 devastated the communication network throughout the country damaging roads, culverts, retraining walls, causeway and 738km roads and 48 bridges were damaged, he added.

Moreover, he said the NHA has been building 12 major river bridges on the directive of the government out of which some projects, including Head Muhammadwala Bridge on the Chenab Tiver, Moosa Pak Shaheed (Tarapp) on the Sutlej River, Larkana-Khairpur Bridge on the Indus, and Thakot Bridge on the Indus have been completed.

PCP seminar on press freedom today: The Press Council of Pakistan (PCP) will organise a seminar on 'Press Freedom and its Responsibilities' on Thursday (today) on the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day.

During the seminar, PCP Chairman Raja Shafqat Abbasi, renowned journalists, Ghazi Salahuddin, Mujahid Brailvi, Prof Dr Muhammad Qaiser, Vice Chancellor Karachi University and Dr Rafia Taj, head of Mass Communication Department, Karachi University, will evaluate the press freedom in the country.

Tributes will be paid to the media persons who have rendered their lives while discharging their professional obligations in providing information to the public. A similar seminar will also be held at the Hyderabad Press Club on May 4.

PAL, PBM to initiate welfare projects for writers: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) and Pakistan Bait-ul-Mall (PBM) would work on joint projects for the welfare of writers in future.

PAL Chairman Abdul Hameed said this in his meeting with PBM Deputy Managing Director Tariq Khurshid,.

The deputy managing director urged the PAL chairman to forward cases of ailing writers for financial assistance and also offered PAL to recommend deserving writers for whom the PBM would donate wheel chairs.

Talking about different programmes of PBM, Deputy Managing Director informed Chairman PAL that they also provide financial assistance to deserving students.

Other than wheelchairs PBM also provide free cane sticks and some other items to retorted and ill persons. Abdul Hameed thanked Tariq Khurshid for meeting him and also assured full cooperation from PAL.

Forum on electoral reforms today: Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT) will hold a forum on 'State of Electoral Reforms in Pakistan' on Thursday (today). The PILDAT is launching a 'Citizens Monitoring Report on State of Electoral Reforms in Pakistan,' the 2nd quarterly report of its kind, to monitor the progress of implementation of little-known but hugely important 5-year strategic plan of action of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

The report covers the period till March 31. The Citizens' Forum will be held to review the report as well as disseminate its findings on the state of electoral reforms in the country.

ECP Acting Secretary Akhter Hussain Sabir will share the ECP's perspective with regard to preparation of computerised electoral rolls and progress on the 5-year strategic plan.

NADRA Chairman Arshad Ali Hakeem will give NADRA's perspective in preparation

of the computerised electoral rolls.

All Day

Russian business team to visit Pakistan soon: diplomat -- RECORDER REPORT

Consul-General Russian Federation Andrey V Demidov is in contact with his foreign office to escort a trade delegation to Pakistan.

This was disclosed by him at the first meeting of Pakistan Russia Business Council (PRBC) for 2012 held at the Federation House here last week.

Congratulating the formation of the new council of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), he appreciated its mandate to revitalise the body for enhancing bilateral trade between the two countries.

Terming the quantum of trade between the two countries very low and unsatisfactory, he said that there was a huge potential in both the countries that needed to be tapped.

Referring to the fruitful visit undertaken by FPCCI delegation led by its President to the Russian Federation in November 2011, he emphasised that follow-up action was required to implement the decisions taken during the visit.

He proposed to develop a website of the Council to keep the business communities of both the countries updated about its activities and assured his full support to work together for the development of trade and growth of economic co-operation between the two countries.

The meeting was also attended by Chairman of the Council Muhammad Farooq Afzal and newly-elected directors Aasif Teli, Shahid Jafferri, Abdul Razzak, Iftikhar Ashraf, Adnan Waheed, Jamil Qasim, Nausheen Shahzad and other council members.

Farooq Afzal said that the promotion of Pakistan-Russia trade relations faced numerous challenges, such as providing trade facilities, business infrastructure, establishment of banks, visa issues, and communication gap between chambers and trade bodies of the two countries.

He indicated that Russia could assist Pakistan's business community in developing infrastructure and human resource, modernising industrial and agricultural sectors and boosting competitiveness of the country's industries.

The Russian side, he said, could also avail opportunities in Pakistan in the fields of oil, gas, power generation, chemical products, fertiliser, timber, paper and metal products.

He presented various proposals for enhancing the trade volume between Pakistan and Russia and highlighted issues and challenges and proposed that ways and means to improve bilateral trade.

Stressing the need for giving traders of both countries greater market access in both countries, he said the governments should sign a preferential trade agreement (PTA) to reduce special interest duties, adding that this would pave the way for the signing of a free trade agreement (FTA).

Urging both countries to prioritise foreign trade policies, he said that it was the only way to achieve positive results.

"We need to formulate our trade policies on war footing basis by making short term and long term strategies to achieve our set common goals," he said.

Farooq Afzal suggested frequent exchange of trade delegations, adding that currently, there were no direct contacts between business communities of both countries.

Governments of both the countries, he said, should send cultural troupes, media people, student groups, besides initiating an exchange of TV programmes and establishment of warehouses, banks display centers in potential business cities of Russia.

He requested the Consul-General to discuss with higher authorities in his country to

remove difficulties and lengthy procedures for acquiring business visas, adding that an FPCCI visa recommendation letter should be given weightage.

He thought that diversification of Pakistani exports in the rich Ural and Siberian regions would raise the question for goods transportation and for that he suggested to connect these regions with Gwadar deep seaport.

Since joint business councils exist in many countries, Farooq Afzal suggested the establishment of a joint business council to include members of both the countries to accelerate trade and business activities and increase trade volume at a rapid pace.

He further suggested that government should allocate a trade zone for Russian investors with attractive terms and conditions where they could set up joint ventures with Pakistani firms.

Pakistan government, he said, should formulate policies to help attract Russian investors to participate in the Thar Coal project, which could become the cheapest source of energy in Pakistan.

Lastly he urged the government and the ministry of commerce to include private sector in the Pakistan-Russian Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) meetings and said that they were real stakeholders doing business in Russia.

All Day

**China emerges as Pakistan's largest development partner, creditor --
The News**

China emerges as Pakistan's largest development partner, creditor

ISLAMABAD: China has emerged as the largest development partner and creditor of Pakistan in the last three years as its loan portfolio has increased to \$3.3 billion, a senior official said.

In the current year, Pakistan got the commitment of \$652 million from China, of which it has received \$400 million for various projects of paramount importance, a senior official at the Economic Affairs Division told The News.

Mentioning about the much-awaited loan for Pakistan's most strategic Neelum-Jhelum project, the official said that Beijing has communicated positive indication to soon disburse the commercial loan of \$448 million needed to complete the project. The indication was given to Dr Waqar Masud, secretary of the EAD, during his meeting held with Chairman of Exim Bank in China on April 19.

"The chairman said that the president of the Exim Bank is hectically engaged and will soon hold internal meeting, wherein, Pakistan's request will be entertained positively." Dr Masud pleaded the case of loan very effectively and told the authorities of the Exim Bank that Pakistan has 29 percent of repayment capacity of net present value of \$61 billion foreign loans, whereas 250 percent capacity of net present value of debt is even permissible as per the international standards, the official said.

"The Chinese authorities were also told that Pakistan's main income stands at \$40 billion in just two heads of exports and remittances, which is why there is no issue at all in terms of repayment of loans."

Further highlighting \$448 million loan for Neelum-Jhelum project, the official said that Pakistan floated the idea of loan for the project in 2009, but the terms of references (ToRs) were finalised in August 2011, as desired by the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda), so saying that there is an abnormal delay in the disbursement, is not justified.

China is the strategic partner in Pakistan's development, the official said, adding that Pakistan has started repaying the loan to China against the Chashma nuclear power plant-2 and Gwadar Port. "China's Exim Bank is, however, sending its delegation to Pakistan on May 7 to finalise the credit lines for five small dams to be constructed in various parts of the country," the official added.

May 5, 2012

Sat

All Day

Ghauri urges early completion of M-8 Motorway -- APP

Ghauri urges early completion of M-8 Motorway

ISLAMABAD - Minister for Ports and Shipping Babar Khan Ghuri on Friday stressed the need for early completion of M-8 Gwadar-Ratodero Motorway to give a much needed boost to country's economy. "Around 66% work on Motorway-8 Ratodero has been completed and if the National Highway Authority (NHA) completes the remaining work it will give a tremendous increase to trade activities at the Gwadar port," he said in reply to a question asked by Senator Talha Mahmood during the question hour session of the Senate. The Minister said in order to enable Gwadar to compete with its regional peers, early completion of Motorway-8 Ratodero was extremely necessary.

All Day

Pak-China joint energy group to meet on Monday -- Business Recorder
Pak-China joint energy group to meet on Monday

ISLAMABAD - The Pak-China joint energy group will begin its two-day meeting here on Monday to devise strategy for cooperation in the energy sector and meet Pakistan's critical energy needs.

Federal Minister for Water and Power Syed Naveed Qamar will lead Pakistani side, while Wu Guihui will lead the Chinese delegation in meeting. The high level Chinese delegation will reach Islamabad on Sunday (today). This will be the second meeting of Pak-China joint energy working group. The first one was held in Beijing in July last year.

Sources told INP that different proposals would be debated at the meeting for energy projects. Pakistan has sought Chinese technical and financial assistance to generate electricity through coal, hydel, thermal, nuclear plants and alternative sources of energy.

The projects proposed by Pakistan include 2,000MW from coal, 7,000 from hydel and construction and maintenance of transmission lines. The sources said that talks are also expected to cover exploration of oil and gas resources.

Talking about the meeting, Syed Naveed Qamar said the government was making all out efforts to overcome the energy crisis. He said energy projects are being fast tracked through Chinese support. He hoped that the projects being negotiated and implemented with Chinese cooperation would meet the current and future energy needs of the country.

All Day

Work on Gwadar Linkage roads: government making all-out efforts to provide security -- Business Recorder

Work on Gwadar Linkage roads: government making all-out efforts to provide security

The government is making all out efforts to provide security for completion of the remaining portion of M-8 that has become compulsory for completion of Gwadar Linkage roads' completion.

Informed sources told Business Recorder, here on Saturday that the Gwadar port does not have proper road network to deal with heavy transport while the government would not be able to get maximum benefit from the establishment of Gwadar Port unless its linkages roads are completed.

It is also a difficult task to work and incur expenditures on construction of Gwadar Linkages unless proper security arrangements are ensured.

"Unfortunately, the government is not taking it seriously while it is a fact that the government can generate billions of rupees revenue from Gwadar Port once its road connectivity completed and the port becomes fully functional", sources disclosed.

Sources said that National Highway Authority (NHA)'s point of view has been quite clear in the matter that most crucial factors for the construction of Gwadar Linkage is provision of security and arrangement of funds.

They said that to ensure transparency the NHA has formulated elaborate Standard Operating Procedures (SOPS), manuals and code for all activities and functions performed by the Authority.

All important decisions such as project planning and award are taken after filtration through different committees of expert officers.

All Day

Pak-China friendship: Pakistan to get four more F-22p Frigates -- APP

Pak-China friendship: Pakistan to get four more F-22p Frigates

Karachi: Pakistan is going to obtain four F-22P Frigates to be built in Pakistan in collaboration with China as part of country's efforts to strengthen its navy. Recently Pakistan has got three frigates from China while fourth is being built. Previously, China also handed over four frigates to Pakistan. According to a report, published in Daily Jang, the leading Urdu daily of the country, Pakistan was happy over getting the fighters at low price and got booked orders for four new ships. The report said that the Chinese frigate costs 200 million dollar while the US LCS ship having similar qualities and technologies costs 600 million dollars. According to the report, the F-22P Frigate is laced with modern missile technology. The first ship, PNS Zulfikar, was handed over to the PN on 30 July 2009 and the second, PNS Shamsheer, on January 23, 2010. The third is undergoing sea trials, The Fourth and Last Frigate of F-22P series for the PN was launched on 17 June 2011.

All Day

Pak-China traditional partnership transform into economic terms:

President -- Business Recorder

Pak-China traditional partnership transform into economic terms: President

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday said that the traditional friendship of Pakistan and China was being transformed into economic terms and Pakistan was trying to tap the full potential of the economic and commercial relations.

The President was talking to Zhang Hongwei, Chairman Orient Group of China, who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The President while highlighting the traditional all-weather and time- tested Pak-China friendship appreciated the Orient Group for taking lead in the Chinese investment in Pakistan.

Zhang Hongwei was accompanied by Ms. Christine Fu, President United Energy Group (UEG), Song Yu, Vice President UEG, Tariq Khamisani, President UEG Petroleum Pakistan, Lin Yang and Zhang Wei. Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Liu Jian was also present.

Senator Dr Asim Hussain, Petroleum Minister, Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Water & Power, M. Salman Faruqi, Secretary General to the President, Spokesperson to the President Senator Farhatullah Babar, Pakistan Ambassador to China Masood Khan and other senior officials were present from Pakistan side.

Chairman Orient Group briefed the President about his company's business ventures in Pakistan.

The President also appreciated close association of Orient Group with Pak- China Joint Energy Working Group saying that the JEWG has a tremendous potential of extending cooperation in all the sectors such as hydro, thermal, coal, solar wind and civil nuclear.

While noting the increased production of their petroleum project, the President expressed the hope that the company would be able to further enhance its production of oil by tapping new resources.

The President also invited the corporation to set up oil refinery at Karachi port. While assuring all necessary facilitation by the Government of Pakistan the President said that the corporation has the required competence for undertaking such a project.

The President expressed the hope that the company would undertake other oil and gas exploration, infrastructure and social projects in Pakistan. He said that we look

forward to benefit from Orient Group's expertise in port development, financial services, banking and investment.

Zhang Hongwei thanked the President for meeting and for the support of the Government to his company in its business ventures.

He said that Orient Group was keen to further expand its investment and businesses in Pakistan.

All Day

Pakistan to sign TIR Convention to boost trade -- NEWS TRIBE

Pakistan to sign TIR Convention to boost trade

By Yasir Ameen - May 10th, 2012 (No Comment)

Karachi: Experts at the 1st annual multi-model transport and logistics conference have urged the government to accede to Transport International Routiers (TIR) Convention to develop and encourage investment in multi-model transport and logistics in the country.

They said that TIR is the international guarantee mechanism on global trade cargo movement and assures the transit countries that duties are paid on these goods. The International Road Union (RIU) provides guarantee that it will pay the duties if they are not paid by the TIR certificate holders.

The conference was organized by the Pegasus Consultancy in cooperation with All Pakistan Shipping Association, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and Interanational Multi-model Transport Association (IMMTA) at Karachi Expo Centre here Wednesday.

Deputy Secretary General Economic Cooperation Organization, Tehran Altaf Asghar said that Pakistan must sign TIR Convention to promote multi-model trade between Iran, Turkey and other Central Asian States.

"Presently, Pakistani cargo going to Iran, Turkey and Central Asia States and Europe is subjected to Custom inspections and duties. Pakistani cargo containers carrying TIR certificates would not require any inspections anywhere in the world," he added.

He underlined the need for modernizing cross border facilities at Pak-Iran and Pak-Afghan borders. He said ECO Secretariat is committed to help Pakistan in this regard and can also provide loans in this regard.

Altaf Asghar said Turkey and Iran have requested Pakistan to set up several service centre at 650 kilometers long road between Quetta and Taftan.

Director General Planning Ministry of Railways Mazhar Ali Shah said that a huge investment of Rs 325 billion will be required in next five year to upgrade railway track and rolling stocks.

He said railways was looking for private sector's investment in cargo services.

"We offer our tracks to private sector for operating cargo trains," he added.

He said Railways have 633 stations, 1776 passenger coaches, 494 locomotives and 11,713 kilometers long railway track.

Chairman ICC Pakistan Tariq Rangoonwala urged the government to sign TIR Convention to boost Pakistan's international trade. He was of the opinion that Pakistan's trade will get a boost after TIR consent and said TIR is must for cargo bound for Central Asian States, he noted.

He called for the creation of national transit authority for cross border trade. He said that Gwadar deep sea port cannot be fully functional without TIR signing.

Country representative of International Multi-model Transport Association (IMMTA) for Pakistan, Capt Raffat Zaheer said that TIR is must to boost Pakistan cargo to the international destinations.

He also called for necessary legislation to encourage investment in multi-model transport and logistics.

Meanwhile, a large number of trade visitors thronged oil and gas exhibition POGEE, Safe Secure Pakistan and INTERTRANS Pakistan 2012 on the second day at Karachi Expo Centre.

Consul General Sri Lanka D W Jindasa, Director General Ports and Shipping Vice Admiral Azhar Anwar Shamim, managing director SSGC Azim Iqbal Siddiqui, chairman All Pakistan Shipping Association Capt Mushtaq Ali Shah

May 15, 2012

Tue

All Day

**Setting up Pak-China centers in universities to deepen
friendship,partnership:Ambassador Masood Khan -- APP**

Setting up Pak-China centers in universities to deepen
friendship,partnership:Ambassador Masood Khan

Date : 15-05-2012

BEIJING, May 15 : In order to deepen all weather friendship and the strategic partnership, Ambassador Masood Khan has suggested setting up of Pakistan-China centers in all key universities in Pakistan. "Some have already moved in that direction. We should also reinforce the trend for learning Chinese language and culture in Pakistani schools and colleges", Ambassador Khan said in an interview. Highlighting the benefits of these centers, he said this step would produce a new generation of Pakistanis equipped with the skills to deal with China more productively.

In China, Pakistan Study Centers are housed in four prestigious higher learning institutions namely Peking, Tsinghua, Sichuan and Fudan University.

Khan further elaborated that our economic teams and business leaders should learn how to do business with China.

Although the world is globalized, the template of doing business with the Western countries would not entirely work in China, he noted.

For instance, he said, "We need to understand a bit deeply, why would a Chinese corporate leader first assess a negotiator's personality before doing business with his company? What is the relevance of consensual decision making, long-term relationships and win-win solutions in China?"

Further more, the Pak envoy said, "We must focus on youth because they have to inherit this relationship. This is already happening.

Hundreds of young students and professionals are exchanging visits each year", he observed.

"This figure should move into thousands and then into millions. I can testify that there is a strong aspiration for that on both sides", Ambassador Khan noted.

The establishment of a Pakistan-China Young Entrepreneurs Forum will be a good initiative in this context, he said.(APP)

May 22, 2012

Tue

All Day

Peking University celebrates 61st anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations -- APP

Peking University celebrates 61st anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations

Date : 22-05-2012

BEIJING, May 22 : Youth of both Pakistan and China are the torchbearers of the friendship between the two countries and have the responsibility to further solidify this all-weather friendship whose foundation was laid by our forefathers over sixty years ago. Addressing at one of China's top higher learning institutions, the Peking University here Monday to celebrate the 61st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, Ambassador Masood Khan said although our relationship over the past six decades has deepened with every passing day, there is no need for complacency.(APP)

All Day

High-ranking Chinese delegation visiting Islamabad amidst strained Pak-U.S. ties -- ONE PAKISTAN

High-ranking Chinese delegation visiting Islamabad amidst strained Pak-U.S. ties

Islamabad, Amidst continued uncertainty surrounding the troubled ties between Pakistan and the United States, a high-level Chinese delegation, led by Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, is scheduled to visit Islamabad next week.

According to official sources, the delegation, comprising top officials from China's diplomatic corps and intelligence services, will have wide-ranging talks with Pakistan's civil and military leadership, reports The Express Tribune.

Jiechi would arrive on May 29 and hold formal discussions with his Pakistani counterpart Hina Rabbani Khar. Jiechi would also meet President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and army chief General Ashfaq Pervez Kayani, sources said.

An official described Jiechi's visit as significant in view of the ongoing tensions between Islamabad and Washington over the resumption of vital land routes for the foreign forces stationed in Afghanistan.

The supply lines were suspended in November last year in retaliation to NATO air strikes on the Salala check post near the border with Afghanistan, which left 24 Pakistani soldiers dead.

Pakistan is seeking an unconditional apology from the U.S. for the attacks and imposition of an additional transit fee on NATO trucks.

Washington is, however, so far reluctant to accept those demands, delaying Islamabad's final announcement to lift the six-month old ban on NATO supplies.

China is believed to have backed Pakistan's stance on resetting ties with the U.S. in line with the new policy terms approved by parliament last month.

"Pakistan and China share a common perspective on important regional issues including the Afghan endgame," an official said.

Pakistan and China have enjoyed cordial diplomatic relations throughout six decades.

All Day

Technology workshop: Pak-China collaboration on research -- Published in The Express Tribune, May 23rd, 2012.

Technology workshop: Pak-China collaboration on research

KARACHI: China will help Pakistan enhance its capacity in science and technology, said Prof. Dr Mohammad Qaiser, the vice chancellor of the University of Karachi, on Tuesday. The National Nematological Research Centre and the Pakistan Society of Nematologists is organising the 12th Nematological Event: International Workshop on biological control of root-knot nematodes in vegetables from May 24 to 26. The workshop is a collaborative programme with China in advanced molecular technology and is sponsored by Pakistan Science Foundation. Local and foreign researchers will participate. VC Prof. Dr Mohammad Qaiser will attend as chief guest. The speakers include Dr Manzoor Hussain Soomro of the Pakistan Society of Nematologists, Dr Shahina Fayyaz and Dr Richou Han.

All Day

**'Promotion of Chinese language to strengthen Pak-China friendship' --
PAKMED**

'Promotion of Chinese language to strengthen Pak-China friendship'

ISLAMABAD: Promotion of Chinese language in Pakistan will consolidate the "all-weather" and "deeper than the ocean" friendship between Pakistan and China and it will not only help improve bilateral relations but also enhance diplomatic, commercial, economic, cultural and strategic relations between the two neighbours, said Ambassador of China Liu Jian.

The envoy said this while addressing the prize distribution ceremony of the 11th Chinese Bridge – Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students – arranged by Confucius Institute Islamabad and Embassy of the People's Republic of China at National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad. Jian said that Pakistan and China are enjoying very cordial relations in every field of life and the recent visit of 100-member delegation of All-China Youth Federation reflects the fact that both countries are interested in people-to-people interaction, teacher-students exchanges and social and cultural exchanges to trickle these relations down to grassroots levels.

"Such platforms for language learning will enable you to search and avail economic, commercial and cultural opportunities from a global milieu," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, NUML Director General (DG) Brig Azam Jamal said, "We are thankful to the Chinese embassy and Chinese government for provision of proper syllabi, books, reading material and teachers for Chinese Department. The department is playing a very efficient role in producing young proficient Chinese language speakers and alumni of this department are now serving on key posts of the country as well as abroad. Our cooperation will increase manifold in future as our young Pakistani teachers of Chinese language imparting the language learning diligently and the time is not far when every second Pakistani will be able to understand and speak Chinese language."

As many as 10 Pakistani students participated in the 11th Chinese Bridge Competition. The competition was divided into three parts and students had to deliver a speech in Chinese language in the first part, answer questions of judges in the second part and perform something in Chinese talent show, which was third part of the competition.

Students delivered their speeches in Chinese, answered questions with confidence and performed cultural dances and sang Chinese songs to demonstrate their mastery in Chinese language. The first position was attained by Muhammad Waqas Ali Goraya, the second position was claimed by two students Musadiq Hanif and Fazal Rahim.

The winners of this competition will participate in the final competition of 11th Chinese Bridge, which will be held in China. NUML Rector Maj Gen (r) Masood Hassan and Liu Jian gave away prizes to the winners. In the end, the NUML rector presented a university shield to the Chinese ambassador, while the envoy also presented Masood Hassan a gift.

The competition was also attended by Chinese Cultural Counsellor Zhang Yingbao and Dr Lei Weizhong.

May 25, 2012

Fri

All Day

Pakistan, China enter into new era of Education diplomacy: Masood Khan -- PAK RADIO

Pakistan, China enter into new era of Education diplomacy: Masood Khan

Pakistan's Ambassador in China, Masood Khan has said Pak-China relations are increasingly under pinned in educational context

He was addressing a reception hosted for a joint delegation of COMSATS and Tsinghua University at Pakistan Embassy in Beijing.

Lauding the successful holding of joint workshop by two prominent higher learning institutions of Pakistan and China, Ambassador Masood Khan said the exchanges were now moving into hi-tech areas.

Earlier, the 17-member COMSATS delegation gave presentations on research study carried out in different areas. The delegation also visited the Technology Park of the Tsinghua University.

All Day

Zardari emphasizes upon need to fast-track implementation of Pak-China agreed projects -- SANA NEWS

Zardari emphasizes upon need to fast-track implementation of Pak-China agreed projects

South Asian News Agency (SANA) · May 29, 2012 · Share/Save

ISLAMABAD, (SANA): President Asif Ali Zardari has emphasized upon the need to fast-track implementation of Pak-China agreed projects in the areas of energy, mining, infrastructure, IT, communication and agricultural and others for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

He has also proposed establishment of trans-border economic zones for shared development and prosperity of Gilgit-Baltistan and western regions of China and for setting up an umbrella corporation in the energy sector called "Pakistan-China Power Corporation" which should include specialists and entities from all the fields.

This he said during two rounds of meetings with the visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Yang Jiechi here at Aiwan-e-Sadr here on Tuesday.

During the delegation level meeting, Foreign Minister Mr. Yang Jiechi was assisted by Ambassador Liu Jian, Sun Weidong, Deputy Director General for Asian Affairs of Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Wang Wenbin, Zhang Jianmin and other senior officials.

Pakistani side included Ch. Ahmed Mukhtar, Federal Minister for Defence, Senator Dr. Abdul Hafeez Sheikh, Federal Minister for Finance, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Khalil Ahmed, Ambassador-at-Large, Foreign Secretary Jalil Abbas Jilani, Pak Ambassador to China Mr. Masood Khan and Spokesperson to the President Senator Farhatullah Babar besides other senior officials.

Spokesperson to the President Senator Farhatullah Babar while briefing about the meeting said that the President thanked the Chinese Government and its leadership for their unswerving and continued support to Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and multifaceted assistance at all hours of need.

He said that Pakistani people highly value their brotherly relations with the Chinese and were eager to learn from the Chinese experience of growth and development

The President while recalling his previous visits to China said that each of his visits offered a unique experience of learning. He said that Pakistan was keen to translate its traditional equation with China into economic terms and attaches great importance to enhancing economic and trade linkages with China.

He said that the enhanced economic engagement of the two countries was an encouraging development and the two countries needed to fast-track implementation of mutually agreed projects for the mutual benefit of the people.

While expressing with satisfaction over the increased bilateral trade, the President remarked that there was still a great margin which could be explored for further enhancing the trade volume. He said that China may send frequent purchase missions to Pakistan to help reduce the current trade imbalance.

Terming the conclusion of bilateral currency swap agreement a major development between the two countries, the President said that ICBC's decision to open its branches in Pakistan was another positive development to enhance trade and investment. He expressed the hope that National Bank of Pakistan would also be able to open its branch in China soon.

The President said that Pakistan was passing through a challenging phase in the energy sector. He said that we greatly appreciate Chinese assistance and investment in the energy sector. The President expressed the hope that the 2nd

Joint Energy Working Group meeting which was held in Islamabad on 7-8 May 2012 would open new vistas of cooperation in the energy sector.

He said that in order to promote people to people contacts, there was a need to focus on increasing rail, road and air connectivity. He said that the two sides may consider initiating commercial flights between Islamabad-Kashgar to facilitate greater connectivity.

Discussing regional situation, the President said that Pakistan as an important player and China as a source of region stability have a great role to play in promoting regional stability and development. He said that trilateral dialogue recently initiated by the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan, China and Afghanistan offered new opportunities for enhancing mutual cooperation. He said that Pakistan fully endorses China's call for the SCO and existing multilateral mechanisms to play their full role in the region for promoting peace, stability and development.

The President said that extremism and militancy was a common enemy and should be defeated by joint efforts and mutual cooperation.

The President also thanked the Chinese Government for its assistance in searching the martyrs of recent Siachen avalanche.

The Chinese Foreign Minister thanked the President for meeting and assured Chinese Government's continued support to Pakistan. He reiterated China's firm commitment and support safeguarding Pakistan's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

He said that China will continue to support Pakistan on all regional and international platforms and thanked Pakistan for its unstinted support to China on critical issues of concern to Beijing like Taiwan.

He said that his visit was intended to further enhance and consolidate the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Ends-SANA-ZS

<http://www.sananews.net/english/zardari-emphasizes-upon-need-to-fast-track-implementation-of-pak-china-agreed-projects>

All Day

Gov't allocates over Rs 13.6b for Finance Division -- Observer

Gov't allocates over Rs 13.6b for Finance Division

Islamabad—The government has allocated Rs.13,616.044 million for Finance Division projects in Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for the year 2012-13.

According to official document, out of the total allocations, Rs.1584 million has been allocated for Project for Improvement of Financial Reporting and Auditing (PIFRA), Phase-II, Islamabad.

The government also earmarked Rs.1785 million for Greater Karachi Sewerage Plant (S-III), Rs.1500 million for Greater Water Supply Quetta (main), Rs.1000 for Gwadar Development Authority, Rs.900 million for 2MW Power Plant for Syngas (IGCC-209) Tharparkar and Rs.700 million for Capacity Building of Teachers Training Institutions and Training of Elementary Schools Teachers in Punjab.

In addition, the government allocated Rs.500 million for 10 Sewerage Schemes by WASA (Southern Punjab), Rs.500 million for Construction of Various Black To Roads in Districts Mastung, Bolan and Quetta, Rs.300 million for up-gradation of Cancer Treatment Facility at Nishtar Hospital (Southern Punjab), Rs.282.689 million for Tubli Badani Road, Balochistan while Rs.222.386 million have been allocated for Capacity Building of Teachers Training Institutions and Training of Elementary Schools Teachers in Sindh.

In addition, the government allocated Rs.135 million for Construction of Northern Bypass for Bosan Road to Qasim Bela Multan while Rs.100 million have been allocated for Capacity building of Teachers Training Institutions and Training of Elementary Schools Teachers in Balochistan and Rs.100 million for Southern Bypass (Southern Punjab).

The government allocated Rs.100 million each for Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Montehr & Child Health Care Center Nawabshah and Construction and Improvement of Roads in Hyderabad District (Rural) Hyderabad Package.

All Day

PM promises jobs to 35,000 graduates in Balochistan -- APP

PM promises jobs to 35,000 graduates in Balochistan

QUETTA - Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani on Sunday said he had given directions to the Balochistan chief secretary to identify 35,000 graduates of the province for providing them jobs in government departments.

Talking to a delegation of PPP Balochistan led by provincial President Mir Sadiq Umrani at the Governor's House, Gilani said 1,500 jobs had already been provided to the people of Balochistan in the Levies Force. "Another 1,500 jobs will be given this year in the Levies Force in Balochistan," the PM said.

Gilani said the federal government would further recruit 10,000 youth in different departments and of them, 5000 would be sent abroad after requisition of required skills in their respective fields.

The prime minister said Balochistan "is close to my heart for the welfare and well being of people of Balochistan".

He said under the 18th amendment, provisional autonomy had been granted to the provinces to empower them.

He said under the 7th National Finance Commission Award (NFC), the share of Balochistan had gone to Rs 120 billion as compared to Rs 40 billion in the past. He said Rs 5 billion would be provided to deserving and poor families of Balochistan, adding that the completion of Kachhi canal would bring revolutionary change in the economy of Balochistan. He said that Rs 31 billion had been allocated for Kachhi canal project and full amount would be released this year for its completion.

Gilani said Rs 3.2 billion had been allocated this year to complete the road between Rato-Dero and Gwadar. "This road would help make the Gwadar port operational and will improve connectivity between three provinces," the prime minister said. About the Afghan transit trade, he said, "We have improved relations with all our neighbors and Afghan transit trade is the milestone in this regard.

Afghan Transit trade will bring billions of dollars in revenue to Pakistan, he added. He said that incumbent government of PPP had improved relations with Iran, China and other countries. Gilani said Rs 1 billion had been allocated for provision of natural gas to Chaghai area adding that another amount of Rs 4.1 billion had been granted for development of Sui and Kohlu. "The people of Balochistan are very patriotic and talented, they only need an opportunity for which the PPP is making hectic efforts," he added.

All Day

Prime Minister announces Rs 50 million for Ormara solar energy project -- Business Recorder

Prime Minister announces Rs 50 million for Ormara solar energy project

Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Monday announced Rs 50 million for solar system project in this budget for generating energy for people of Ormara area. He was speaking after performing the ground-breaking ceremony for the Cadet College Ormara - a project of the Pakistan Navy. The Prime Minister referred to his previous visit to Gwadar and said that the electricity arrangement for that area was in collaboration with Iran.

He said that his effort is that in this budget there be a project for solar energy and for this he announced a sum of Rs 50 million so that electricity be provided in Ormara and that this would also be subsidised so that the people of the area should benefit from it.

Prime Minister Gilani stated that through the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) some 25,000 to 30,000 families can benefit in each of the districts and there are many districts in Makran Division. He said that it has also been decided that God forbid if one dies in that family then a compensation of Rs 100,000 would be given.

Prime Minister said that arrangements would also be made for giving the health insurance for medical treatment through the BISP. Likewise, 'Rozgar Scheme' would also be prepared through this programme so that one member of every family be provided with job, he said adding that technical and skill training would also be made available in order to enable one to serve either within the country or abroad.

Gilani said that through BISP some Rs 2.5 million to three million young students be provided free education besides arrangements for assistance and 'Waseela-i-Rozgar' in order to enable them to run their own businesses as well. He stated that after constitutional amendment the province of Balochistan was extended autonomy and its rights on the assets as well as royalty. The Prime Minister was confident that the pace of development in Baluchistan would enhance.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister recalled some of the measures that have been taken by his government for the betterment of Balochistan and the people of the province. He said that on top of this is the 'Aghaz-i-Haqooq-i-Balochistan' and that under this package Balochistan has been given 15 percent royalty in gas development surcharge and with this the province would be given Rs 120 billion for the next 12 years.

In addition to this, 5.4 percent special quota in federal government jobs has been allocated. The Prime Minister said that the head office of Gwadar Port has been shifted from Karachi to Gwadar. He said that the 7th National Finance Commission is an important step of the present government and the share for Balochistan has been enhanced from 5.11 percent to 9.09 percent.

Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani said that he was convinced that due to continued efforts of the present government the day is not far off when there will be progress and development in Balochistan. He also congratulated Pakistan Navy specially the Naval Chief, Admiral Asif Sandila, for an important role for the development of the coastal areas.

The Prime Minister assured that the federal government would ably play its role for the welfare and development in the coastal belt and every co-operation would also be made available to Pak Navy. He said that there is backwardness in this area where there is also unemployment.

Gilani said that he had already given 5,000 jobs on behalf of the federal government

to the graduates. He also announced jobs to 2,500 to 3,000 in the federal government as the remaining quota. The Prime Minister said that 35,000 graduates would be provided with jobs from the federal government. He said that due share would be extended in the Benazir Income support Programme.

About development programme, Prime Minister Gilani said that the federal government has fully given its fund towards the Katchi Canal so that the project is completed in this financial year. He said that the entire fund would be made available in this financial year for the Gwadar-Retodero Road project. Prime Minister said that the federal government would provide fund this year through the Higher Education Commission in these areas so that colleges and universities be set up promptly.

He said that our focus is fully towards education because those areas that do not have education or employment opportunities would tend to promote militancy and terrorism. Governor Balochistan, Nawaz Zulfiqar Magsi, Naval Chief, Admiral Asif Sandila, and ministers were also present on the occasion.

All Day

Pakistan, China sign MoUs -- ONLINE

Pakistan, China sign MoUs

BEIJING - Pakistan and China signed, on Wednesday, 3 Memoranda of Understanding about different plans aimed at social welfare and economic development of Pakistan, while President Zardari held meetings with Chinese businessmen. The memoranda covered the program of supply of water from Tarbela to Islamabad, establishment of Special Economic Zone in the proposed new city of Zulfikarabad, Sindh, building of 6,000 flats in I-15 sector on the basis of private-public partnership de-silting of canals and barrages in Sindh.

The MoU for water supply to Islamabad from Tarbela, was signed between Chairman Capital Development Authority, Farkhand Iqbal, and President of China Machinery Engineering Company, Zhang Chun. The MoU on the establishment of Special Economic Zone in Zulfikarabad was signed by Managing Director Zulfikarabad Development Authority, Lieutenant General (Retd.) Syed Iftikhar Hussain Shah and Chairman Sichuan Huantong Holding Investment Limited, Yang Yong. Chinese company, China Railway First Group signed MoU for building 6000 flats and developing Sector I-15 in Islamabad.

The agreement on de-silting canals in Sindh was signed by Mr. Saleem Mandviwala, Chairman Board of Investment with the President of China Harbour Engineering Company Limited.

Meanwhile, President Zardari also held separate meetings with four leading Chinese business executives inviting them to take advantage of the investment friendly policies of the Government of Pakistan and to extend their business ventures in all the sectors especially in the areas of energy, oil and gas, mining, engineering goods, electronics, chemicals, infrastructure, telecommunications, IT and agriculture.

The first meeting in the series was held with the Chairman of Orient Group/United Energy Group Mr. Zhang Hongwei. The President, appreciating Orient's Group existing investment in Pakistan in the area of oil and gas exploration and alternate energy, called for greater investment in the energy sector.

He also invited the company to set up an oil refinery at Karachi port.

It is pertinent to mention that President Zardari has been continuously inviting the Chinese companies to undertake projects involving onshore and offshore drilling for oil and gas as well as for reactivating the depleted oil and gas fields in different parts of the country.

During the meeting, he reiterated Government's commitment to provide all possible facilitation to the Chinese Companies in their business ventures.

President Asif Ali Zardari also said that the untapped tremendous natural resource potential of Pakistan offered great opportunities to the Chinese investors and entrepreneurs not only to get economic benefits but also to help in transforming the traditional Pak-China all weather friendship into a comprehensive economic engagement.

President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari also met with Chairman of China National Machinery Industry Corp (SINOMACH), Ren Hongbin. The firm is the largest machinery manufacturer in China.

During meeting with Hongbin, the President highlighted that the 2nd Pak-China five-year programme for trade and economic cooperation, launched in 2012, with 36 projects, in the sectors of Energy, Transport, Infrastructure, ICT, Industry, Water, Education, Environment, Health, Education and Agriculture offered great opportunities to the companies such as SINOMACH as these companies had the required potential for undertaking mega projects in these areas.

The President while noting with satisfaction on the Neelum Jhelum Hydropower project, expressed the hope that the company would be able to explore more projects of building new dams in Pakistan. The President also invited attention to Zulfikarabad city project, which offered great business opportunities to the foreign investors.

During meeting with Cao Guangjing of Three Gorges Project Corporation, the third meeting in the series, the President remarked that the Three Gorges Dam Project was a living testament to the genius and vision of the Chinese people and their leadership.

While appreciating the interest of the company in building the Bunji, Kohala, Karot and the Diamer Bhasha dam projects and the wind Power and Thar Coal power

projects, the President invited them to participate in constructing small and medium sized dams, which he said were critical for the socio-economic development of those regions of the country. The President said that Pakistan was keen to learn from the Chinese experience of growth in every field, especially in the area of hydropower generation, Wind Power, and coal technologies.

The fourth meeting in the series was held with President ZTE, Shi Li Rong. During the meeting, the President appreciated ZTE's role in the development of Pakistan's Telecommunication sector. He reiterated his call that ZTE could further help Pak telecommunication sector by helping in technical skills development of the local labour force.

All Day

Zardari meets Chinese corporate leaders, Pakistan-China ink 3 MoUs -- National News

Zardari meets Chinese corporate leaders, Pakistan-China ink 3 MoUs

BEIJING: Pakistan and China Wednesday signed three memorandums of understanding (MoUs) covering supply of water from Tarbela to Islamabad, establishment of Special Economic Zone in the proposed new city Zulfikarabad in Sindh and the building of 6,000 flats in I-15 sector on private public partnership basis, and an agreement for the de-silting of canals and barrages in Sindh province.

The MoUs were signed by respective officials from the two sides and witnessed by President Asif Ali Zardari and members of his entourage here.

The agreement on de-silting canals in Sindh was signed by Saleem Mandviwala, Chairman Board of Investment, with the President of China Harbour Engineering Company Limited.

The MoU on the establishment of Zulfikarabad Special Economic Zone was signed by Managing Director Zulfikarabad Development Authority Lt. Gen (R) Syed Iftikhar Hussain Shah and Yang Yong, Chairman of the Sichuan Huantong Holding Investment Limited.

The MoU for water supply to Islamabad from Tarbela was signed by Farkhand Iqbal, Chairman Capital Development Authority, and Zhang Chun, President of China Machinery Engineering Company (CMEC), the former also signed another MoU for building 6000 flats and developing Sector I-15 in Islamabad with another Chinese company CRFG (China Railway First Group).

Spokesperson to the President Senator Farhatullah Babar while giving details of the agreement and MoUs, said that with the signing of the memorandums and agreement today, a fresh impetus has been provided to further strengthening the economic engagement between the two countries.

The President also held separate meetings with the four leading Chinese business executives inviting them to take advantage of the investment friendly policies of the Government and to further extend their business ventures in all the sectors, especially in the areas of energy, oil and gas, mining, engineering goods, electronics, chemicals, infrastructure, telecommunications, IT and agriculture.

Senator Babar said that the President highlighted to the Chinese business executives great investment opportunities present in Pakistan and invited them to further extend their business ventures in the country assuring them Government's all possible facilitation to the Chinese personnel.

He said that the business community must take advantage of some very important recent developments between the two countries such as currency swap agreement, the 2nd five-year trade and economic programme and the opening of Chinese Bank branches in Pakistan.

The first meeting in the series was held with Chairman of Orient Group/United Energy Group Zhang Hongwei. The President during the meeting appreciated Orient Group's existing investment in Pakistan in the area of oil & gas exploration and alternate energy and called for greater investment in the energy sector.

He invited the company again to set up an oil refinery at Karachi Port as the company has the required competence for undertaking such a project. It may be recalled that the President has been continuously inviting the Chinese companies to undertake projects involving onshore and offshore drilling for oil and gas as well as for reactivating the depleted and abandoned oil and gas fields in different parts of the country.

In a meeting with Zhang during his visit to Pakistan this May, the President had proposed him to consider undertaking the refinery project. He reiterated the

Government's commitment to provide all possible facilitation to the Chinese companies in their business ventures.

The President said that the untapped tremendous natural resources potential of Pakistan offered great opportunities to the Chinese investors and entrepreneurs not only to get economic benefits but also to help in transforming the traditional Pak-China all weather friendship into a comprehensive economic engagement.

After meeting with the Chairman Orient Group, the President met Ren Hongbin, Chairman of China National Machinery Industry Corp (SINOMACH), the largest machinery manufacturer in China.

During the meeting with Hongbin, the President highlighted that the 2nd Pakistan-China 5-year for trade and economic cooperation programme, launched in 2012 with 36 projects worth more than 10 billion US dollars in the Energy, Transport, Infrastructure, ICT, Industry, Water, Education, Environment, Health, Education and Agriculture, offered great opportunities to the companies such as SINOMACH as these companies had the required potential for undertaking mega projects in these areas.

The President while noting with satisfaction the association of CMEC a subsidiary of SINOMACH- with various projects in Pakistan, including machinery and equipment for the Neelum Jhelum Hydropower project, expressed the hope that the company would be able to explore more economic opportunities in Pakistan, especially in the projects of building new dams in Pakistan.

He invited the company to invest in the projects of infrastructure, construction of highways and railways and setting up of new industries with Chinese assistance in China specific industrial zones.

The President especially invited their attention to Zulfikarabad city project which offered great business opportunities to the foreign investors.

The President also invited SINOMACH to make investments in the Capital Goods industry in Pakistan with technology transfer and help in developing the industrial base of Pakistan.

During meeting with Cao Guangjing of Three Gorges Project Corporation, the third meeting in the series, the President remarked that the Three Gorges Dam Project was a living testament to the genius and vision of the Chinese people and their leadership.

The President said that the Pakistan government, in view of future scarcity of water, intends to invest in the water sector for conservation of the water resources.

While appreciating the interest of the company in building the Bunji, Kohala, Karot and the Diamer Bhasha dam projects and the wind Power and Thar Coal power projects, the President invited them to participate in constructing small and medium sized dams, which he said, were critical for the socio-economic development of those regions of the country.

The President said that Pakistan was keen to learn from the Chinese experience of growth in every field, especially in the area of hydro -power generation, Wind Power, and coal technologies.

He reiterated the government's assurance of all possible support and facilitation to the Three Gorges Dam Project Company in the construction of dams and alternate energy projects in the country.

The fourth meeting in the series was held with Shi Li Rong, President of ZTE. During the meeting, the President appreciated ZTE's role in the development of Pakistan's Telecommunication sector.

He reiterated his call that ZTE could further help Pak telecommunication sector by helping in technical skills development of the local labour force.

The establishment of a R&D Centre and setting up of mobile handsets manufacturing facility in Pakistan would further help promote Pak-China cooperation in the telecom sector, the President suggested to Shi Li Rong.

Chen Qiufa, Administrator State Administration for Science, Technology and Industry (SASTIND) and Chairman China Shipbuilding and Offshore International Company (CSOC) also called on the President.

Matters relating to promoting mutual cooperation in the respective areas were discussed during the meeting.

Those, who were present during the meetings, included among others Dr. Asim Hussain, Petroleum Minister, M. Salman Faruqui, Secretary General to the President, Kamal Majidullah, SAPM, Saleem H. Manviwala, Chairman BOI, Foreign Secretary Jalil Abbas Jilani and Spokesperson to the President Senator Farhatullah Babar.-APP

All Day

Tubewells in Balochistan: Senate panel for raising subsidy to Rs 8 billion

-- BUSINESS RECORDER

Tubewells in Balochistan: Senate panel for raising subsidy to Rs 8 billion

Senate Standing Committee on Finance on Friday unanimously proposed enhancement of agricultural tubewells subsidy to Rs 8 billion for Balochistan in budget for 2012-13. The Senate committee meeting chaired by Mrs Nasreen Jalil also unanimously proposed that agricultural loan to farmers of flood affected areas may be withdrawn and the government should immediately plan railway and road projects for linking Gwadar port with other areas of the country.

The committee recommended providing required allocation of funds to implement projects linking Gwadar with rest of the country. The members of the committee were of the view that linking Gwadar port with Punjab, Sindh and Central Asia could strengthen economy of the country. Secretary Planning Commission Asif Bajwa informed the committee that Rs 18 billion projects had been envisaged to connect Gwadar port with other parts of the country and Rs 15 billion have so far been utilised. The remaining Rs 3.3 billion have been allocated in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for 2012-13.

Asif Bajwa said the government has also directed the Ministry of Railway to prepare a feasibility report to lay 901 kilometers railway track from Gwadar to Mastung. He said funds are not an issue but the feasibility report is awaited to initiate projects of laying the track. The committee also recommended to the Ministry of Industries and the Ministry of Commerce to re-examine import of reconditioned vehicles to allow import of more than five years old vehicles and examine the implementation of Auto Industry Development Plan (AIDP) after some members demanded vehemently to recommend the National Assembly to allow import of 10 years old cars.

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman said the government has agreed to the demands of Steel Melters Association to reduce sale tax on consumption of electricity to Rs 7 per unit from the proposed Rs 8 per unit. The FBR chairman said steel melters assured them of not increasing the price of steel products. The committee also decided to request the Council of Common Interests (CCI) to resolve the issue of circular debt to minimise electricity crisis in the country. The committee also proposed that same incentive may be given to commercial importers of raw material for manufacturing of medicines as are available to the industrial importers. Import of 10-year reconditioned/old cars may be allowed

All Day

China to back Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project -- Tehran Times

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari and Petroleum Minister Dr Asim Hussain remained successful in convincing the Chinese leadership during their recent visit to China to take part in the bidding for the construction of the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project.

An official source said after getting China's backing, the government had extended the deadline for the prequalification of the engineering, procurement, construction (EPC) and commissioning of the 785km-long pipeline from June 8 to June 22.

He said a leading Chinese firm was likely to participate in the construction of the IP pipeline.

He said it was a big achievement, as China's participation in the project would ensure its safety, adding that Iran had already assured Pakistan of providing all the financial and technical assistance, including equipment and compressors, for the commissioning of the pipeline.

The estimated cost of the project on the Pakistani side is estimated at \$1.2 billion.

The 42-inch diameter gas pipeline will be transporting high pressure one billion cubic feet gas per day (bcfd) from an off-take point near Gwadar to gas integration point near Nawabshah. The country is faced with a gas shortage of 2bcfd, which is estimated to increase to 6bcfd in the next five years if new discoveries are not made or gas is not imported.

The pipeline will follow the coastal route and will be safe from any sabotage activities in Balochistan. The government is ready to offer the project, either on EPC or turnkey basis, per the prequalification document. Construction includes pipeline, compressor stations, main line block valve stations, pig launching and receiving stations, CP installations, SCADA other related equipment, installations and pipeline crossings across various nullahs and rivers including River Indus.

Earlier, a selected consortium led by Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) and Habib Bank of Pakistan (HBL) waned away from financing the IP project after the United States issued strong statements against the project.

Pakistan was looking towards Gazprom to undertake the project but the deal did not materialize. The government has already decided to dedicate the imported gas through the IP pipeline for the power sector as power shortage is projected to increase over 11,000MW in the next few years. The government is working to starting process for setting up new independent power producers (IPPs) of 5,000MW cumulative capacity so that they should be ready for commissioning by the time natural gas starts flowing from the IP pipeline in December 2014.

Beijing finally agrees to lay IP gas line in Pak territory

In a new development China, which had earlier backtracked from being the financial advisor for laying the 785 km pipeline in Pakistan's territory under the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas project, has once again shown willingness to become the EPCC (Engineering Procurement Construction and Commissioning) contactor.

President Asif Ali Zardari and federal minister for petroleum and natural resources Dr Asim Hussain who are currently in Beijing have reportedly succeeded in persuading China to take part in the IP project, a senior official quoting the information trickling down from China told The News.

“Managing director of Inter-State Gas System Mr Mubin Saulat dashed to China for finalizing the details and Pakistan has agreed 90 percent of the terms and conditions offered by China for playing the role as contractor of the project.”

Pakistan had earlier issued tenders on April 27 to build the 785 kilometers long pipeline in two years’ time. The interested companies were bound to submit their technical and financial bids for the project by June 8. Now under the new scenario, the date of submitting the technical and financial bid has been extended to June 22 to accommodate the Chinese company.

About 750 million to 1 billion cubic feet of gas per day will be transported at high pressure through 42-inch diameter pipeline. The contractor will also install three pressure compressors in the pipeline from Pak-Iran border to Nawabshah.

The official said the strategy, which was earlier worked out between Pakistan and Iran, has been slightly changed. Now the Chinese company will complete the project, but Iran will provide the pipeline, gas compressors and block valves. Earlier it was decided that the Iranian company would construct the project in Pakistan’s territory.

To a question he said that Pakistan would provide reasonable funds for the project and in case of any shortage the Iranian offer of \$250-500 million is available. He said the increase of GDS (Gas Development Surcharge) on gas to five sectors would help collect Rs102 billion in one year that would be utilized for laying down the pipeline.

Under the gas sales purchase agreement (GSPA), the official said, Pakistan is bound to have a first take of Iranian gas by December 2014 and in case of failure, it will have to pay \$ 1 million per day to Iran as penalty.

Secretary Petroleum Ijaz Chaudhry said that Pak-Iran gas pipeline project would be completed up to December 2014.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that Pakistan is serious in the gas pipeline project.

He added that companies have been short listed for the construction of the pipeline.

Ijaz Chaudhry said that Iran has offered support for the project in shape of materials.

He further said that Pakistan is looking also for other options.

He added that talks were underway with Russian and Chinese companies.

The government will provide funds to build infrastructure of the project from its treasury, the Secretary added.

All Day

Rs7bn allocated to run copper-gold project -- DAWN

Rs7bn allocated to run copper-gold project

The hills near the proposed site of the Reko Diq copper mine in Pakistan's province of Baluchistan are seen in this undated 2010 photo. The mine in remote Baluchistan, near the border with Iran and Afghanistan, is potentially one of the biggest in the world, with an estimated \$60 billion in revenues over its 56-year lifespan. — File photo

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Aslam Raisani has said the provincial government itself would run the Reko Diq copper-gold project in Chagai and had allocated Rs7 billion for the purpose.

Talking to a delegation of newspapers editors here on Sunday, he said a team of senior lawyers had been constituted to represent the Balochistan government during the hearing of a case filed by the Tethyan Copper Company (TCC) in the international arbitration court.

The case was filed after the Balochistan government refused to issue a mining licence to the company.

The case will be heard in London.

The chief minister said the provincial government could also run the Gwadar port and acquire services of local and foreign experts to make it functional.

He said the federal government had assured him to provide Rs5 billion for roads linking the port with the rest of the country.

He said his government had extended an invitation to the Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industry to visit Gwadar and discuss the possibility of using the port for the Afghan transit trade.

Mr Raisani said the Balochistan government had allocated funds for investment in different sectors and for purchasing shares of the OGDC and Pakistan Petroleum Limited.

The chief minister said efforts were being made to restore the traditional beauty of Quetta by November this year. The government has allocated Rs1 billion for repair and restoration of roads and civic amenities in the provincial capital.

All Day

**Irrigation sector: Balochistan to spend Rs 3.8 billion -- RECORDER
REPORT**

Irrigation sector: Balochistan to spend Rs 3.8 billion

Balochistan Finance Minister Mir Asim Kurd has said that an amount of Rs 3.847 million have been allocated for 131 new and 46 ongoing uplift schemes in irrigation sector in the provincial budget 2012-13. Speaking during the provincial assembly budget session here Monday with Mir Aslam Bhutani in the chair, he said work on Sowantar Dam in Gwadar would be launched during the next financial year and a reasonable amount has been allocated for the purpose.

He said work on several major schemes in the provincial irrigation sector has already been completed with the financial assistance of the federal government. The schemes included Mirani dam, Sabakzai dam, Shadi Core dam and Batozai dam. Besides, he said 20 new delay action dams in parts of the province have also been construed which would greatly promote agriculture sector of the province.

All Day

People of Balochistan have foremost right over Gwadar port: Nawaz Sharif -- News Pakistan

People of Balochistan have foremost right over Gwadar port: Nawaz Sharif

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif has said that people of Balochistan have first and foremost right over the Gwadar port, adding that they should be permitted to harvest all or most of its remuneration.

While addressing a conference on Gwadar, the former two-time prime minister vowed that he will pay special attention for betterment of Baloch community.

He claimed that the development and progress of the region was the focus of his party's manifesto, adding that the Gwadar project was the brainchild of his previous regime. In his view, the project will be completed within the PML-N's next tenure in the power.

He also explained the geographical and economic importance of the port, saying that the construction of the coastal highway linking it to Karachi was a vital part of the plan.

The PML-N president also took credit for formulating plans to construct Gwadar port in 1992 and develop the region.

He observed, "The highway, which was built at a cost of Rs21 billion, is now a national asset worth Rs220 billion, on which the government was now thinking of issuing bonds"

He, however, said that the money should be spent on constructing new motorways instead of utilizing the amount raised against the bonds to meet the budget deficit.

Lashing out the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP), the leader of the opposition party lamented that national assets like motorways were being damaged through negligence in the present government's era.

Nawaz Sharif while hitting out at the National Highway Authority (NHA), said that it had no other task except to loot and plunder the exchequer. In his view, this is the reason the network of motorways was in the decaying condition in the country.

He noted, "I want to grant Gwadar a Hong Kong-like status of international acclaim, with similar laws and economic system in place to enable it to play an efficient role in the development of not only Balochistan, but the whole country".

He was of the opinion that the port's natural deep-sea could play significant role in exporting resources to the rest of the world to economically and socially benefit the whole country, as the region is brimming with oil, gas and other natural resources.

All Day

People of Balochistan have foremost right over Gwadar port: Nawaz Sharif -- News Pakistan

People of Balochistan have foremost right over Gwadar port: Nawaz Sharif

By newspakistan on July 3, 2012 | From newspakistan.pk

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif has said that people of Balochistan have first and foremost right over the Gwadar port, adding that they should be permitted to harvest all or most of its remuneration.

While addressing a conference on Gwadar, the former two-time prime minister vowed that he will pay special attention for betterment of Baloch community.

He claimed that the development and progress of the region was the focus of his party's manifesto, adding that the Gwadar project was the brainchild of his previous regime. In his view, the project will be completed within the PML-N's next tenure in the power.

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All Day

People of Balochistan have inaugural right over Gwadar port: Nawaz Sharif -- Baloch Times

People of Balochistan have inaugural right over Gwadar port: Nawaz Sharif

July 3, 2012 By Baloch

Tuesday, Jul 3rd, 2012 1:42:44 by Faisal Farooq

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif has pronounced that people of Balochistan have initial and inaugural right over a Gwadar port, adding that they should be available to collect all or many of a remuneration.

While addressing a discussion on Gwadar, a former two-time primary apportion vowed that he will compensate special courtesy for raise of Baloch community.

He claimed that a growth and swell of a segment was a concentration of his party's manifesto, adding that a Gwadar devise was a brainchild of his prior regime. In his view, a devise will be finished within a PML-N's subsequent reign in a power.

He also explained a geographical and mercantile significance of a port, observant that a construction of a coastal highway joining it to Karachi was a critical partial of a plan.

The PML-N boss also took credit for formulating skeleton to erect Gwadar pier in 1992 and rise a region.

He observed, "The highway, that was built during a cost of Rs21 billion, is now a inhabitant item value Rs220 billion, on that a supervision was now meditative of arising bonds"

He, however, pronounced that a income should be spent on constructing new motorways instead of utilizing a volume lifted opposite a holds to accommodate a bill deficit.

Lashing out a Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP), a personality of a antithesis

celebration lamented that inhabitant resources like motorways were being shop-worn by loosening in a benefaction government's era.

Nawaz Sharif while attack out during a National Highway Authority (NHA), pronounced that it had no other charge solely to rob and pillage a exchequer. In his view, this is a reason a network of motorways was in a ebbing condition in a country.

He noted, "I wish to extend Gwadar a Hong Kong-like standing of general acclaim, with identical laws and mercantile complement in place to capacitate it to play an fit purpose in a growth of not usually Balochistan, though a whole country".

He was of a opinion that a port's healthy deep-sea could play poignant purpose in exporting resources to a rest of a universe to economically and socially advantage a whole country, as a segment is packed with oil, gas and other healthy resources.

All Day**PML-N chief wants to grant Gwadar Hong Kong-like status --
RECORDER REPORT**

PML-N chief wants to grant Gwadar Hong Kong-like status

RECORDER REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has expressed his firm resolve to transform Gwadar into a splendid specimen of progress and prosperity, which will become an example to the rest of the country.

He said this while addressing "Gwadar Conference" held at PML-N Secretariat, Lahore with the cooperation of Gwadar Promotion Alliance on Monday.

The conference was also addressed by Member National Assembly Lt-Gen Abdul Qadir Baloch (retd), Brig. Nadir Mir (retd), Col. Maqbool Afridi (retd), PML-N leader from Gwadar Ashraf Hussain, Syed Irshad Ahmad Arif, Ijaz Ahmad Sheikh, Abrar Niazi and Ijaz Ahmad Butt.

The meeting was attended by Sartaj Aziz, Member National Assembly Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Ahsan Iqbal and Raja Ashfaq Sarwar.

The PML-N President said that they wanted to grant Gwadar a Hong Kong like status, with similar laws and system to enable it to play an efficient role in the development of, not only Balochistan, but in the whole country.

He said that Gwadar has tremendous potential, and Pakistan has its own industrial base, its unique skill and technology to effectively benefit from it. Gwadar provides expeditious and easy access to the world, upto the Central Asia. He said that the area of Balochistan is brimming with oil, gas and other natural resources.

Nawaz said that development and progress of Gwadar is one of the most significant aspects of PML-N's manifesto. He pointed out that this project was conceived during PML-N's last government and would be completed within the tenure of its next government.

According to him, the first and foremost right on Gwadar is of the people of Balochistan; therefore, its maximum benefit should reach that province as well. He said that, like Sindh, he will also pay special attention to the welfare of people of Balochistan and would visit there frequently.

Nawaz highlighted the extraordinary importance of Gwadar in geographical terms, as well as for the economic prosperity of Balochistan and Pakistan, and said that the first government of PML-N had chalked out project of construction of Gwadar port in 1992 for the development of the area, and building of coastal highway, linking Gwadar to Karachi, was an integral part of that project.

He said that project of linking Gwadar to other areas of Balochistan was also under implementation during his previous era. He said that roads and highways play a fundamental role in the development and prosperity of a country, and spreading a network of motorways, throughout the country, was reflective of that vision.

Nawaz further said that the motorway, constructed in his era, at a cost of Rs 21 billion, is now an asset worth Rs 220 billion, upon which the government is now thinking of issuing bond.

However, he stressed, instead of utilising the amount to meet the budget deficit, this money should be spent on constructing new motorways. He expressed his concern that, during the era of present government, precious assets like motorway are being damaged, whose carpeting had to be done after ten years. But, unfortunately, the National Highway Authority (NHA) has no other task left, except to loot and plunder, and give due share to the higher echelon, he added. He said that corroding national assets has, sadly, become our national culture.

Talking about his previous government, PML-N President said that, during his era, economy of Pakistan was progressing rapidly, and Pakistan's currency was one of the strongest in South Asia. However, unfortunately, some people derail and the whole system.

In Pakistan's chequered history governments and assemblies have been dissolved, but during the previous era of dictatorship, even judiciary was not spared, and the government of the day went to the extent of arresting judges of higher courts, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Gen. Abdul Qadir Baloch (retd) said that had the government of Nawaz Sharif not been dismissed in 1999 the glorious Gwadar projects would have been completed by now. However, now hundred percent greater efforts are required to do so, as 90-percent infrastructural work is still to be done there.

He said that Pakistan requires a national leadership, upon which the Baloch people can have trust, and such leadership can only be provided by Nawaz Sharif.

Brig. Nadir Mir (retd) said that foreign interference has an important role in the Gwadar issue. He suggested that Baloch leadership, and the people, should be taken into confidence for the development of Gwadar. He stressed the need for setting up in Lahore a special think-tank on Gwadar.

Col Maqbool Afridi (retd) opined that projects initiated by Nawaz Sharif with regard to Gwadar, are lying incomplete, and the leadership of Nawaz Sharif is essential for their completion as the construction of Gwadar, and progress and prosperity of Pakistan, are interdependent.

All Day

گواڈر پر سب سے پہلا حق بلوچستان کا، پاکستان کی ترقی کیلئے اس پراجیکٹ کی تکمیل ضروری ہے، نواز شریف -- اسلام ٹائمز

گواڈر پر سب سے پہلا حق بلوچستان کا، پاکستان کی ترقی کیلئے اس پراجیکٹ کی تکمیل ضروری ہے، نواز شریف

اسلام ٹائمز: لاہور میں "گواڈر نعمت الہی اور ہماری ذمہ داریاں" کے عنوان سے سیمینار میں خطاب کرتے ہوئے مسلم لیگ ن کے سربراہ کا کہنا تھا کہ گواڈر کی تعمیر ترقی مسلم لیگ ن کے اہم ترین نکات میں شامل ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ گواڈر پر سب سے پہلا حق بلوچستان کا ہے۔

اسلام ٹائمز۔ مسلم لیگ ن کے صدر میاں نواز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کی ترقی اور خوشحالی کے لیے گواڈر پراجیکٹ کی تکمیل ضروری ہے، اسے کسی صورت نظرانداز نہیں کیا جانا چاہیے۔ لاہور میں "گواڈر نعمت الہی اور ہماری ذمہ داریاں" کے عنوان سے سیمینار میں خطاب کرتے ہوئے نواز شریف نے کہا کہ گواڈر کی تعمیر ترقی مسلم لیگ ن کے اہم ترین نکات میں شامل ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ گواڈر پر سب سے پہلا حق بلوچستان کا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سندھ اور بلوچستان کے عوام پر خصوصی توجہ دیں گے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ قومی اثاثوں کو کھوکھلا کرنا ہمارا قومی کلچر بن چکا ہے، نواز شریف کا کہنا تھا کہ گواڈر کو ہانگ کانگ کی طرح خصوصی حیثیت دینا چاہتے تھے۔ گواڈر پراجیکٹ کی تکمیل سے خطے میں پاکستان کی تجارتی سرگرمیوں میں اضافہ ہوگا۔

All Day

Daily -- گوادر پر بلوچیوں کا حق ہے، منصوبے کو پایہ تکمیل تک پہنچانینگے، نواز شریف**Asas**

گوادر پر بلوچیوں کا حق ہے، منصوبے کو پایہ تکمیل تک پہنچانینگے، نواز شریف

Date posted: July 3, 2012

پاکستان مسلم لیگ (ن) کے صدر محمد نواز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ گوادر کی تعمیر و ترقی مسلم لیگ کے منشور کے اہم ترین نکات میں شامل ہے۔ یہ منصوبہ ہماری گذشتہ حکومت میں بنا، ہماری آئندہ حکومت اسے پایہ تکمیل تک پہنچائے گی۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ گوادر پر سب سے پہلا حق بلوچستان کے عوام کا ہے، اس کا سب سے زیادہ فائدہ بھی ان ہی کو پہنچنا چاہیے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ سندھ کی طرح بلوچستان کے عوام پر بھی خصوصی توجہ دیں گے اور یہاں بار بار جائیں گے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے گزشتہ روز مسلم لیگ (ن) سے خطاب کر رہے ”گوادر کانفرنس“ کے تعاون سے منعقدہ ”گوادر پروموشن الانٹنس“ سیکرٹریٹ لاہور میں تھے۔ کانفرنس سے مسلم لیگ (ن) کے رکن قومی اسمبلی لیفٹیننٹ جنرل (ر) عبدالقادر بلوچ، بریگیڈیئر (ر) نادر میر، کرنل (ر) مقبول آفریدی، مسلم لیگ (ن) گوادر کے رہنما اشرف حسین، سید ارشاد احمد عارف، اعجاز احمد شیخ، ابرار نیازی اور اعجاز احمد بٹ نے بھی خطاب کیا۔ کانفرنس میں سرتاج عزیز، ارکان قومی اسمبلی خواجہ محمد آصف، احسن اقبال، سینیٹر پرویز رشید اور مسلم لیگی رہنما راجہ اشفاق سرور بھی موجود تھے۔ نواز شریف نے اپنے صدارتی خطاب میں گوادر کی جغرافیائی حیثیت اور بلوچستان سمیت پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی میں اس کی بے پناہ اہمیت کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ان کی پہلی حکومت نے 1992ء میں گوادر پورٹ کی تعمیر اور اس علاقے کی ترقی کا منصوبہ بنایا۔ کراچی کو گوادر سے ملانے کے لئے کوسٹل ہائی وے کی تعمیر بھی اسی منصوبے کا حصہ تھی۔ گوادر کو بلوچستان کے باقی علاقوں سے ملانے کا منصوبہ بھی تھا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سڑکیں اور شاہراہیں کسی بھی ملک کی ترقی میں بنیادی کردار ادا کرتی ہیں۔ ملک بھر میں موٹرویز کا جال بچھانے کا ہمارا منصوبہ اسی سوچ کا مظہر تھا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ 21 ارب روپے کی لاگت سے بننے والی ہمارے دور کی موٹروے اب 220 ارب روپے کا اثاثہ ہے، موجودہ حکومت اس پر جاری کرنے کا سوچ رہی ہے لیکن یہ رقم بجٹ خسارہ پورا کرنے کی بجائے نئی موٹرویز کی (Bond) بانڈ تعمیر پر خرچ ہونی چاہیے۔ انہوں نے اس امر پر تشویش کا اظہار کیا کہ موجودہ حکومت کے دور میں موٹروے جیسے قیمتی اثاثے کو خراب کیا جا رہا ہے۔ 10 سال بعد اس کی کارپٹنگ ہونا تھی لیکن نیشنل ہائی وے اتھارٹی کو کو بھی اس میں سے حصہ دینے کے سوا کوئی کام نہیں ہے۔ ”اوپر والوں“ پیسہ کھانے اور

All Day

گوادر کو ہانگ کانگ جیسی حیثیت دینا چاہتے تھے، قومی اثاثوں کو کھوکھلا کرنا ہمارا ”قومی کلچر بن چکا ہے۔ نواز شریف -- وقت نیوز

قومی کلچر بن چکا ہے۔ ”گوادر کو ہانگ کانگ جیسی حیثیت دینا چاہتے تھے، قومی اثاثوں کو کھوکھلا کرنا ہمارا نواز شریف

گوادر کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے نواز شریف ”کے تعاون سے لاہور میں منعقدہ ”گوادر پروموشن الانٹنس“ نے کہا کہ گوادر سے دنیا کو وسط ایشیائی تیز رفتار اور کم فاصلے کی رسائی ممکن ہے، انہوں نے کہا کہ اس بندر گاہ پر سب سے پہلا حق بلوچستان کے عوام کا ہے، نواز شریف کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ بلوچستان تیل اور گیس سمیت دیگر قدرتی وسائل سے مالا مال ہے۔ جس کا سب سے زیادہ فائدہ بھی مقامی لوگوں کو پہنچنا چاہیے، اوپر ”نواز شریف نے نیشنل ہائی وے اتھارٹی پر سخت تنقید کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ اس ادارہ کو پیسہ کھانے اور والوں کو اس میں سے حصہ دینے کے سوا کوئی کام نہیں ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ قومی اثاثوں کو کھوکھلا قومی کلچر بن چکا ہے۔“ کرنا ہمارا

All Day

AAJ -- گوادر کی تعمیر و ترقی منشور کے اہم ترین نکات میں شامل ہے، نواز شریف**NEWS**

Monday, July 2, 2012 گوادر کی تعمیر و ترقی منشور کے اہم ترین نکات میں شامل ہے، نواز شریف لاہور پاکستان مسلم لیگ (ن) کے صدر محمد نواز شریف views Add a comment خبریں، قومی، لاہور 68 نے کہا ہے کہ گوادر کی تعمیر و ترقی مسلم لیگ کے منشور کے اہم ترین نکات میں شامل ہے۔ یہ منصوبہ ہماری گذشتہ حکومت میں بنا، ہماری آئندہ حکومت اسے پایہ تکمیل تک پہنچائے گی۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ گوادر پر سب سے پہلا حق بلوچستان کے عوام کا ہے، اس کا سب سے زیادہ فائدہ بھی ان ہی کو پہنچنا چاہیے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ سندھ کی طرح بلوچستان کے عوام پر بھی خصوصی توجہ دیں گے اور یہاں بار بار جائیں گے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے گزشتہ روز مسلم لیگ (ن) سیکرٹریٹ لاہور میں ”گوادر پروموشن الانٹنس“ کے ”گوادر کانفرنس“ کے تعاون سے منعقدہ سے خطاب کر رہے تھے۔

کانفرنس سے مسلم لیگ (ن) کے رکن قومی اسمبلی لیفٹیننٹ جنرل (ر) عبدالقادر بلوچ، بریگیڈیئر (ر) نادر میر، کرنل (ر) مقبول آفریدی، مسلم لیگ (ن) گوادر کے رہنما اشرف حسین، سید ارشاد احمد عارف، اعجاز احمد شیخ، ابرار نیازی اور اعجاز احمد بٹ نے بھی خطاب کیا۔ کانفرنس میں سرتاج عزیز، ارکان قومی اسمبلی خواجہ محمد آصف، احسن اقبال، سینیٹر پرویز رشید اور مسلم لیگی رہنما راجہ اشفاق سرور بھی موجود تھے۔ نواز شریف نے اپنے صدارتی خطاب میں گوادر کی جغرافیائی حیثیت اور بلوچستان سمیت پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی میں اس کی بے پناہ اہمیت کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ان کی پہلی حکومت نے انیس سو بانوے میں

گواڈر پورٹ کی تعمیر اور اس علاقے کی ترقی کا منصوبہ بنایا۔

کراچی کو گواڈر سے ملانے کے لئے کوسٹل ہائی وے کی تعمیر بھی اسی منصوبے کا حصہ تھی۔ گواڈر کو بلوچستان کے باقی علاقوں سے ملانے کا منصوبہ بھی تھا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سڑکیں اور شاہراہیں کسی بھی ملک کی ترقی میں بنیادی کردار ادا کرتی ہیں۔ ملک بھر میں موٹرویز کا جال بچھانے کا ہمارا منصوبہ اسی سوچ کا مظہر تھا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اکیس ارب روپے کی لاگت سے بننے والی ہمارے دور کی موٹروے اب دوسو بیس جاری کرنے کا سوچ رہی ہے لیکن یہ رقم بجٹ (Bond) ارب روپے کا اثاثہ ہے، موجودہ حکومت اس پر بانڈ خسارہ پورا کرنے کی بجائے نئی موٹرویز کی تعمیر پر خرچ ہونی چاہیے۔ انہوں نے اس امر پر تشویش کا اظہار کیا کہ موجودہ حکومت کے دور میں موٹروے جیسے قیمتی اثاثے کو خراب کیا جا رہا ہے۔ 10 سال بعد اس کی کو بھی اس میں سے حصہ ”اوپر والوں“ کا ریٹنگ ہونا تھی لیکن نیشنل ہائی وے اتھارٹی کو پیسہ کھانے اور بن چکا ہے۔ ”قومی کلچر“ دینے کے سوا کوئی کام نہیں ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ قومی اثاثوں کو کھوکھلا کرنا ہمارا

انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم گواڈر کو ہانگ کانگ کی طرح خصوصی حیثیت دینا چاہتے تھے جس کے اپنے قوانین ہوں، اپنا نظام ہو تاکہ یہ بلوچستان سمیت پورے ملک کی ترقی کیلئے اپنا بھرپور کردار ادا کرے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گواڈر کا بے پناہ پوٹینشل ہے، اس سے بھرپور فائدہ اٹھانے کے لئے پاکستان کا اپنا انڈسٹریل بیس ہے، اپنی مہارت ہے اور ٹیکنالوجی ہے۔ گواڈر سے دنیا کو سنٹرل ایشیائی تیز رفتار اور کم فاصلے کی رسائی ملتی ہے۔ بلوچستان ٹیل اور گیس سمیت دیگر قدرتی وسائل سے مالا مال ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم گواڈر کو تعمیر و ترقی کا ایسا شاندار نمونہ بنائیں گے جو ملک کے باقی علاقوں کے لئے بھی ایک مثال ہو اور یوں جگہ جگہ نظر آئیں۔ مسلم لیگ (ن) کے صدر محمد نواز شریف نے اپنے گزشتہ دور کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ تب ”گواڈر“ پاکستان کی معیشت تیزی سے ترقی کر رہی تھی۔ پاکستان کی کرنسی جنوبی ایشیا میں سب سے مضبوط تھی کر دیتے ہیں۔ ”ڈی ریل“ لیکن بد قسمتی سے کچھ لوگ سسٹم کو

پاکستان میں حکومتیں اور اسمبلیاں تو ٹوٹتی رہی تھیں لیکن گزشتہ دور میں عدلیہ بھی محفوظ نہ رہی اور اعلیٰ عدلیہ کے ججوں کی گرفتاری سے بھی گریز نہ کیا گیا۔ جنرل عبدالقادر بلوچ نے اس موقع پر اپنے خطاب میں کہا کہ اکتوبر 1999ء میں نواز شریف حکومت برطرف نہ کی جاتی تو گواڈر کا عظیم الشان منصوبہ مکمل ہو چکا ہوتا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اب اس کے لئے سو فیصد زیادہ کوششوں کی ضرورت ہے۔ وہاں نوے فیصد انفراسٹرکچر کی تعمیر باقی ہے۔ پاکستان کو ایسی قومی قیادت کی ضرورت ہے جس پر بلوچ عوام اعتماد کر سکیں۔ یہ قیادت نواز شریف ہی مہیا کر سکتے ہیں۔ بریگیڈیئر (ر) نادر میر نے کہا کہ گواڈر کے مسئلے میں بیرونی مداخلت کا بھی اہم کردار ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ گواڈر کی تعمیر و ترقی کے لئے بلوچ قیادت اور بلوچ عوام کو بھی اعتماد میں لیا جائے۔ انہوں نے لاہور میں گواڈر پر خصوصی تھنک ٹینک کے قیام کی ضرورت پر بھی زور دیا۔ کرنل (ر) مقبول آفریدی نے کہا کہ گواڈر کے حوالے سے نواز شریف کے شروع کردہ منصوبے نا مکمل پڑے ہیں جن کی تکمیل کے لئے نواز شریف کی قیادت کی دوبارہ ضرورت ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گواڈر کی تعمیر اور پاکستان کی ترقی لازم و ملزوم ہیں۔

All Day

گواڈر کو ہانگ کانگ کی طرز پر خصوصی حیثیت دینا چاہتے ہیں، نواز شریف -- روز نامہ

جسارت

نواز شریف، گواڈر کو ہانگ کانگ کی طرز پر خصوصی حیثیت دینا چاہتے ہیں
2012-07-03 00:00:00 PST

لاہور (نمائندہ جسارت) پاکستان مسلم لیگ (ن) کے صدر نواز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ گواڈر کی تعمیر و ترقی مسلم - یہ منصوبہ ہماری گزشتہ حکومت میں بنا، ہماری آئندہ ”لیگ“ کے منشور کے اہم ترین نکات میں شامل ہے حکومت اسے پایہ تکمیل تک پہنچائے گی۔ گواڈر پر سب سے پہلا حق بلوچستان کے عوام کا ہے، اس کا سب سے زیادہ فائدہ بھی ان ہی کو پہنچنا چاہیے، وہ سندھ کی طرح بلوچستان کے عوام پر بھی خصوصی توجہ دیں گے۔ ”گواڈر پروموشن الاٹنس“ کے اور یہاں بار بار جائیں گے پیر کی صبح مسلم لیگ (ن) سیکرٹریٹ لاہور میں سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے نواز شریف نے مزید کہا کہ ہم گواڈر کو ہانگ کانگ، ”گواڈر کانفرنس“ تعاون سے منعقدہ کی طرح خصوصی حیثیت دینا چاہتے تھے جس کے اپنے قوانین ہوں، اپنا نظام ہو تاکہ یہ بلوچستان سمیت پورے ملک کی ترقی کے لیے اپنا بھرپور کردار ادا کرے۔ گواڈر میں بے پناہ پوٹینشل ہے، اس سے بھرپور فائدہ اٹھانے کے لیے پاکستان کا اپنا انڈسٹریل بیس ہے، اپنی مہارت ہے اور ٹیکنالوجی ہے۔ گواڈر سے دنیا کو سنٹرل ایشیائی تیز رفتار اور کم فاصلے کی رسائی ملتی ہے۔ بلوچستان ٹیل اور گیس سمیت دیگر قدرتی وسائل سے مالا مال ہے۔ ہم گواڈر کو تعمیر و ترقی کا ایسا شاندار نمونہ بنائیں گے جو ملک کے باقی علاقوں کے لیے بھی ایک نظر آئیں۔ کانفرنس سے کانفرنس سے مسلم لیگ (ن) کے رکن قومی اسمبلی ”جگہ جگہ گواڈر“ مثال ہو اور یوں لیفٹیننٹ جنرل (ر) عبدالقادر بلوچ، بریگیڈیئر (ر) نادر میر، کرنل (ر) مقبول آفریدی، مسلم لیگ (ن) گواڈر کے رہنما اشرف حسین، سید ارشاد احمد عارف، اعجاز احمد شیخ، ابرار نیازی اور اعجاز احمد بٹ نے بھی خطاب کیا۔

All Day

Beijing offers Pak-China industrial park -- The Express Tribune

Beijing offers Pak-China industrial park

Pakistan and China enjoy an all-weather and time-tested friendship; but this friendship must be consolidated further by increasing mutual trade and investment.

BEIJING: China has offered to set up a Pakistan-China Friendship Industrial Park in Donggang city, which is located in China's northeast Liaoning province, revealed here on Monday by Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood, who is also leading a trade delegation to the country.

Senator Talha said that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in this regard has been initialled, but would be concluded upon the Donggang City delegation's visit to Pakistan later this year.

He said a delegation of Donggang traders has also been invited to visit Pakistan to further talks on this project and for looking into the possibilities of investment in Pakistan. "Pakistan and China," he said, "enjoy an all-weather and time-tested friendship; but this friendship must be consolidated further by increasing mutual trade and investment."

Earlier, Donggang Vice-Mayor Zhang Tao said the visit of the trade delegation was very productive. He termed the signing of the MoU for the setting up of the Pak-China Friendship Industrial Park a very important step in mutual cooperation.

Pakistan's Ambassador to China Masood Khan said that in the last four years, trade volume between Pakistan and China has increased to \$10.6 billion; and Pakistani exports to China have doubled to \$2.2 billion. "China is contributing in a big way to address Pakistan's energy crisis," Ambassador Khan said; adding that after hydro, nuclear and coal projects, Chinese entrepreneurs are now also investing in wind and solar energy.

"Investment inflows have also gone up. The time is ripe for deeper engagement between private enterprises of the two countries," he said.

A delegation from Punjab led by MPA Muhammad Arshad, and comprising high-level government officers including Secretary Agriculture Punjab, which is currently in China to explore possibilities of cooperation in the energy and agriculture sectors, was also invited to the reception. Relating his experiences, Arshad said his delegation had held useful meetings with relevant Chinese departments and hoped that this interaction would bear fruitful results for Pakistan.

Published in The Express Tribune, July 18th, 2012.

All Day

Gas import: Iran to lay Pakistan's portion of pipeline -- PAK TRIBUNE

Gas import: Iran to lay Pakistan's portion of pipeline

Working committee formed to finalise terms of agreement.

By Zafar Bhutta

Published: July 19, 2012

The 1,150 kilometre long pipeline is projected to cost \$1.2 to \$1.5 billion. PHOTO: FILE

ISLAMABAD: Avoiding pressure from the United States, Pakistan and Iran have committed to press ahead with the gas pipeline project and constituted a joint working committee to finalise a deal for laying Pakistan's portion of the pipeline by Tehran.

Iran has also offered to set up an oil refinery in Pakistan. Earlier, it had discussed a plan to lay an oil pipeline to Gwadar where a refinery would be set up to process crude oil.

Until one and a half years ago, two Pakistani refineries had been importing Iranian crude oil on three-month credit, but supply stopped afterwards as banks showed

reluctance to open letters of credit following imposition of US sanctions on Tehran.

According to sources, these developments came during two days of talks in Islamabad, which concluded on Wednesday.

Sources told The Express Tribune that Iranian authorities reiterated their resolve to provide technical and financial help for constructing the gas pipeline.

"A joint working group has been formed to consider different options for Iran to lay the pipeline," a source said, adding Tehran had already committed to provide \$250 million and was willing to arrange more financing through Chinese commercial banks.

"The working group will also discuss the option of financing offered by Iran," the source said. German-based firm ILF has completed detailed engineering design of the pipeline and according to an interim feasibility report, the project will cost \$1.2 billion to \$1.5 billion.

"If local companies participate in the project, the cost will come down and if foreign firms undertake the venture the cost will go up. There is also an option under which local and Iranian companies will join hands to complete the project," the source said.

"Though Iran is an option to strike deal on government-to-government basis, we are also discussing the construction of the pipeline with China and Russia," he said.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan-Iran joint committee on oil, gas and energy held a meeting on July 17 and 18 in Islamabad to discuss bilateral cooperation in oil and gas sectors.

The Iranian team was headed by Dr Ahmad Khalidi, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Petroleum while Pakistani team was led by Abid Saeed, Additional Secretary Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources.

The Iranian side expressed its intention to invest in hydrocarbon exploration and production including upstream and midstream sectors. It also invited Pakistani companies to invest in oil and gas exploration and production in Iran.

Published in The Express Tribune, July 19th, 2012.

All Day

MoU signed to establish Pak, China Friendship Industrial Park -- BR MoU signed to establish Pak, China Friendship Industrial Park

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have agreed to establish a Pakistan-China Friendship Industrial Park in Donggang city to help promoting bilateral trade between the two friendly countries.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard was signed by Donggang municipality official and Deputy Parliamentary Leader Jamiat Ulema e Islam-Fazal (JUI-F) in Senate Talha Mehmood, the chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control, says a message received here.

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Talha Mehmood said the main aim of the Park is to provide a common platform to traders community of the both countries. The businessmen will be able to bring their products to North Asia. The Park will help enhancing bilateral relations.

He urged Chinese businessmen to invest in Pakistan. He invited Chinese businessmen to visit Pakistan and explore opportunities of investment in the country. Chinese businessmen accepted the invitation and promised to visit Pakistan soon.

It may be mentioned here that during the last four years, the trade volume between

July 18, 2012 Continued

Wed

Pakistan and China has increased to \$ 10.6 billion with Pakistani exports to China have doubled to \$ 2.2 billion.

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All Day

Pak, China Natural History Museums sign MoU in areas of natural history -- BR

Pak, China Natural History Museums sign MoU in areas of natural history

BEIJING: Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH), a subsidiary of Pakistan Science Foundation, Ministry of Science and Technology and Beijing Museum of Natural History (BMNH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the areas of natural history.

The areas of cooperation covered under the MoU will include joint scientific research activities, exchange of researchers, students, scientific publications and collection of specimens, reciprocal information and cooperation in exhibition.

The MoU was signed in Beijing during PMNH Director General Dr. Syed Azhar Hasan and Senior Operational Manager Muhammad Akhtar Javed's recent visit to Beijing Museum of Natural History.

Dr. Hasan said under the MoU PMNH will arrange an exhibition of Pakistan's endemic species in China this year and later on Beijing Museum will arrange a similar exhibition in Pakistan.

These officers visited BMNH from July 1-7 under Pakistan-China 17th Science and Technology Protocol to find out the areas of cooperation between the two Museums.

The PMNH Director General Dr. Syed Azhar Hasan and BMNH Director Prof. Meng Qinjin signed the MoU on behalf of their respective Museums, according to Pakistan Science Foundation.

The Counsellor (Technical Affairs), Embassy of Pakistan, Beijing, Zameer Ahmad Awan was also present on the occasion.

This interaction between the two museums will greatly help in up-gradation of research and public education standard. The delegation also visited several other museums in Beijing.

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All Day

Pak, China Natural History Museums sign MoU -- APP

Pak, China Natural History Museums sign MoU

Wednesday, 25 July 2012 13:53 Written by Parvez Jabri ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH), a subsidiary of Pakistan Science Foundation(PSF) and Beijing Museum of Natural History (BMNH) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the areas of natural history.

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All Day

PM directs finance ministry to release funds to PTDC -- THE NEWS

PM directs finance ministry to release funds to PTDC

Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf has directed the Ministry of Finance to release funds to the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) enabling it to clear the emoluments of employees besides clearing liabilities.

The orders to this effect were issued by the prime minister when PTDC Managing Director Mir Shahjahan Khetran called on him on Monday.

Talking to 'The News,' the PTDC managing director said that during the meeting he briefed the prime minister on the efforts made for the promotion of tourism in different parts of the country, particularly Gwadar Port, Balochistan.

According to the managing director, the prime minister, after giving a patient hearing to the demands, assured him that the quarterly funds would be released within ten days. As far as demand for additional funds worth Rs50 million is concerned, the prime minister, on the occasion, issued instructions to the concerned authorities in the Ministry of Finance to take measures for allocating the

amount to the corporation.

The prime minister assured the managing director that his government would support the corporation in its efforts to boost tourism in the country. While appreciating the achievements made by the managing director, Pervaiz Ashraf directed Khetran to take more practical and effective steps for further promotion of tourism at national and international level.

Shahjahan informed the prime minister that with the improvement in law and order situation in Swat, Malam Jabba and Paidiam, tourism activities have gained momentum in the summer season this year. It would enable the corporation to generate enough revenue. As a result PTDC would come out of the present financial crunch it is facing over last three to four years due to terrorist activities in different parts of the country.

Khetran told the prime minister that contacts have been made with foreign counterparts during his visits to Germany, India, Thailand and China. He said that the PTDC has been unable to clear the dues to its employees for over six months due to paucity of funds.

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Tue

All Day

Senate body calls for pipeline from Mirani Dam to Gwadar -- THE NEWS

Senate body calls for pipeline from Mirani Dam to Gwadar

Islamabad: The Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change on Monday underlined the need for making coordinated efforts to address the issue of water scarcity in Gwadar and its adjoining areas.

Members of committee urged the government to declare Gwadar a calamity-hit area and make arrangements for uninterrupted water supply to the region. They reviewed the recommendations of its sub-committee and later endorsed them. Senator Hamayun Khan briefed the committee members on the options and action plans to ensure early provision of water to the affected areas. He said that the Mirani Dam was the only viable option to provide potable water to the people.

All Day

China to help Pakistan in promotion of religious tourism -- The News

Islamabad

China has agreed to extend its full cooperation to Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation in promoting religious tourism in Pakistan. In this connection PTDC Managing Director Mir Shahjahan Khetran would visit China by the end of August, this year on an invitation extended by a Chinese delegation.

Talking to 'The News' here Wednesday, Mir Shahjahan Khetran informed that the plan of cooperation in tourism sector was unveiled by a Chinese delegation headed by Zhang Yingbao, Cultural Counsellor, Embassy of the People Republic of China as well as Cui Mingjie, Country Manager, BGP (Pakistan) International who called on him recently. During the meeting, the Chinese delegates expressed their keen interest to visit the tourist sites in Pakistan including Swat, Naran, Malamjabba, Ayubia, Gwadar, Chitral, Moenjodaro, Taxila etc.

According to the delegates, people of China have little awareness of the scenic and mountainous beauty, peaks, rivers in Pakistan. Similarly, there are many sites of religious importance for Buddhist. Zhang Yingbao assured to arrange a trip of Chinese people to places of religious sites for promoting this activity in Pakistan. On this occasion, the delegates offered Shahjahan Khetran to visit China to attend seminars and meetings on tourism in Pakistan. This would help the people of China about knowing about the country of Pakistan in terms of best tourism sites likes mountainous areas, rivers etc.

Shahjahan Khetran said that PTDC has arranged a number of programmes after Eidul Fitr. Besides arranging a two-day trip of journalists and their families to Ayubia for Eid Milan Party, PTDC would also hold a 3-day, Eid Festival in Swat in collaboration with the Pakistan Army. People from all over the country could participate fully. The Chinese delegates along with their guest would be taken to Swat for providing them chance to participate in the Eid festival and known about the culture and tradition of Pakistan.

Referring to development activities, Khetran said that every effort is being made to revitalise tourism industry in Pakistan specially adventure tourism.

To a question, the PTDC chief floated the idea of organising meetings and seminars in colleges, universities in order to create awareness and motivation amongst the youth about adventure tourism.

All Day

Pakistan -Tajikistan signs sugar trade agreement -- BR

Pakistan -Tajikistan signs sugar trade agreement

Thursday, 16 August 2012 00:41 Posted by Abdul Ahad

ISLAMABAD: While concluding the Pakistan-Tajikistan extensive meetings held on August 13-14, 2012, Nurmahmad Akhmedov, Chairman of Agency on State Material Reserves of Tajikistan and Minister for Commerce, Muhammad Makhdoom Amin Fahim signed minutes of the Pakistan -Tjikistan negotiations for trade of sugar during a signing ceremony here Wednesday.

According to the agreement, Government of Pakistan, on request of Government of Tajikistan, agreed to provide 30,000 Metric Tons of white refined sugar through Trading Corporation of Pakistan in compliance with the Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet's decision dated August 7, 2012 at a rate US\$20/ PMT lower than the international market price (US\$ 548.25 PMT as on August 13, 2012-day of negotiations) in the wake of humanitarian crisis faced by the people of Tajikistan.

Both the parties have, after thorough negotiations, agreed upon a draft commercial agreement except the provision of inland/domestic transportation of sugar from mills to the point of delivery which will be finalized as soon as the clarification, sought by the Ministry of Commerce from the ECC of the Cabinet of Government of Pakistan, is received.

The government of Tajikistan, while appreciating the goodwill gesture of Government of Pakistan, requested for early delivery of sugar to Tajikistan i.e. before the onset of winter season (September 30, 2012).

Pakistani side agreed to fulfill the commitment within shortest possible time.

Sugar will be exported to Tajikistan against 100 % secured cash L.C (letter of credit) to be established/opened by the government of Tajikistan through any first class internationally recognized bank.

The delivery will be in three tranches of 10,000 MT each. .

The two sides also agreed to the point of delivery would be Amangarh, district Nowshera (KPK).

A commercial agreement between the two parties will be signed within 15 (fifteen) days.

On the proposal of Secretary Commerce, the two sides agreed to explore the potential of bilateral trade between the two countries and will have a technical level meeting soon.

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All Day

Pakistan-Ukraine trade relations August 24, 2012 RECORDER REPORT 0 Comments The dawn of Ukrainian-Pakistani bilateral relations goes back to the former Soviet Union times, when Soviet experts, the vast majority of whom were Ukrainians, assisted to devel --
BR

Pakistan-Ukraine trade relations

August 24, 2012 RECORDER REPORT 0 Comments

The dawn of Ukrainian-Pakistani bilateral relations goes back to the former Soviet Union times, when Soviet experts, the vast majority of whom were Ukrainians, assisted to develop the key industries and national economy of Pakistan in 1960-70's. The Karachi Steel Mills, which remains largest in Pakistan, a number of powerful hydro stations in Tarbella, Kalabakh were built in this period, as well as the large park of Ukraine agricultural machinery, trucks was made here in Pakistan.

After getting independence, Ukraine jointly with Pakistan assembled and subsequently took over the maintenance of the main battle tank "Al Khalid" which has export potential. The current stage of relations between Ukraine and Pakistan can be characterised as a dynamic process, which bases on the traditionally high level understanding in political, military, trade, economic areas and effective co-operation within international organisations. Both countries wish to expand and deepen mutually beneficial relations, so the main priority now is to use an existing positive experience of bilateral co-operation in civilian spheres, for intensification of political dialogue, boosting legal framework, creating auspicious conditions for functioning of business organisations at the markets of both countries etc. In this respect Ukraine is ready to play its part in the development of Pakistan and would welcome any efforts to search new approaches for co-operation and expanding ties with Pakistan in various sectors.

The total trade turnover between both the countries in 2010 was \$168.2 with exports from Ukraine to Pakistan \$113 and imports from Pakistan to Ukraine \$55.2. In 2011 the volume of total trade turnover between Pakistan and Ukraine was \$251.9 among which the total exports from Ukraine to Pakistan was \$183.7 and import from Pakistan to Ukraine was \$68.2.

The urgent task for both sides is to create more favourable conditions for building up mutually beneficial business co-operation. Primarily, it refers to the intensification of political contacts, the formation of a proper legal base for co-operation in the spheres of trade, investments, finance, transport, launching a fruitful inter-regional, cross-industry co-operation.

One of the most important steps on this road is a development of the legal framework and bilateral mechanisms of our co-operation. The relations between Ukraine and Pakistan are likely to get more dynamics with approval of various agreements, conventions and setting up of commissions. These efforts would not only bring both the countries closer but would also assist in making them close partners to achieve economic prosperity and stability.

In January 2011, the Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on trade and economic co-operation entered into force, in June 2011 _ the Convention between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of Pakistan on the Avoidance of Double Taxation.

At last Ukraine and Pakistan managed to complete a necessary legal base for the creation of the Ukraine-Pakistani Commission on Economic Co-operation. On July 25, 2012 the Intergovernmental Agreement on Establishment of Joint Ukrainian-Pakistani Commission on Economic Co-operation was signed. After the establishment of the Commission the trade relations and economic ties between both the countries would grow further.

We believe the bilateral Commission on economic co-operation could be a key instrument of co-operation in the economic sphere. There are few other important

draft documents under consideration of both sides: the Agreement for the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investment; MoU for Collaboration and Co-operation in the field of Agriculture; the Agreement about mutual recognition of documents on higher education, scientific degrees and academic titles; the Agreement on Co-operation in the field of Education etc.

In order to promote contacts between entrepreneurs of both countries, there were created the Ukrainian-Pakistani trade and information centers in Islamabad and Karachi, as well as Ukrainian-Pakistani Business Council at the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries. In October 2011 the Honorary Consul of Ukraine was appointed in business capital and main industrial center of Pakistan - the city of Karachi.

A visit to Ukraine of the delegation of Pakistani business circles headed by the Chairman of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan T.I.Puri held on 06-10 December 2011 has contributed to the intensification of bilateral economic co-operation. The delegation consisted of more than 30 businessmen, represented the following business areas: steel imports, export-import operations, pharmaceutical, textile and leather industries, telecommunications, hydrocarbons production, agriculture etc.

In March 2012 the Ukrainian part of Ukrainian-Pakistan Business Council was established. Its delegation visited the city of Karachi on 21-24 May 2012 at the invitation of the Pakistani side. During the said visit it was signed an Agreement establishing the Joint Business Council between the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry.

Pakistani companies have been actively promoting their products on the Ukrainian market. Thus, in 2011 the growth of Pakistani exports to Ukraine continued (according to the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine _ by 23.5%). This trend has been observed in recent years. It appears that Pakistani products are of higher quality and cheaper than their competitors' ones and that is the key to their success in the Ukrainian market.

Ukraine is interested in importing from Pakistan consumer goods that are of high demand in Ukrainian market. Shortage of electric power generating capacity is one of the key problems constraining the economic growth in Pakistan. As one of the leading producers of electricity in Europe, Ukraine has important experience in development of power generating capacity and building up the electricity infrastructure, and is interested in being engaged in such projects.

Producers of both countries do not compete on domestic and foreign markets. At the same time, our economic and trade co-operation is mutually beneficial and complementary. So, the urgent task for both sides is to create more favourable conditions for building up mutually beneficial business co-operation. Primarily, it refers to the intensification of political contacts, the further development of a proper legal base for trade-economic, financial, transport, launching a fruitful inter-regional, cross-industry co-operation.

All Day

Strong Pak-China relations momentum: Masood Khan -- APP

Strong Pak-China relations momentum: Masood Khan

BEIJING - Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Masood Khan has said the momentum between China and Pakistan relations is very strong.

During an interview with China's biggest web portal, china.org.cn he said both the countries need to maintain this momentum and work harder to take their relationship to new heights. He said economic cooperation, cultural exchanges, and particularly the relations between the people of the two countries should be enhanced.

Ambassador Khan said in the past few years, the two sides have maintained vigorous high-level political dialogue. In the past four years, the President of Pakistan has visited China nine times and former Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani visited China five times.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visited Pakistan in December 2010, Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang visited in June 2010 and State Councilor Dai Bingguo visited in December 2011.

He said the newly elected Prime Minister, Raja Pervez Ashraf, will visit China later this month to attend the World Economic Forum New Champions meeting taking place in Tianjin. But this visit is also very important because he will be able to meet the Chinese leadership and further strengthen bilateral ties, he added.

Ambassador Khan said that towards China there is continuity in Pakistan's foreign policy. The new Prime Minister will build on the strong foundation we have, to consolidate what we have already achieved and to help move this relationship to new heights, he said.

A decade ago, the total volume of Pakistan-China trade was only about US\$2 billion. But in 2011, the total volume of bilateral trade reached US\$10.6 billion. In the past four years overall Pakistan-China trade increased by 70 per cent; whereas Pakistan's exports to China have doubled to US\$ 2.2 billion.

"It is encouraging," Khan said. "In 2010, there was an increase of 37 percent and last year we saw [an increase of] 22 percent," he maintained.

China became Pakistan's largest trading partner in 2011. Pakistan is currently China's second largest trade partner in South Asia. Both the countries have set a goal for US\$15 billion in bilateral trade by 2015. The present volume of trade is not high enough," Khan said, "we need to work harder to expand, deepen and diversify our economic and trade relations."

He said that both sides are working to fully utilize their free trade agreements on goods, investment and services they signed between 2006 and 2009. "We have requested the Chinese government and private sector to help us strengthen our capacity in processing and manufacturing, textiles, leather products, garments, and also in the light engineering sector," he said.

The Ambassador said that cross-infrastructure development is a priority for governments of Pakistan and China. The Karakoram Highway is being upgraded and plans are being considered to explore a rail link between Khunjerab and Havelian and to establish a fiber link. An advanced infrastructure and communication network will revolutionize investment and trade in the adjoining regions of Pakistan and China as well as the region.

According to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, a three-member Chinese delegation recently visited Pakistan to conclude an agreement to order 100 tons of Pakistani mangoes. "We are thankful to the Chinese government that they have sent official Chinese missions to go to Pakistan, and identified a product that can find a market here in China," Khan said.

Cooperation is also continuing with China in the field of agriculture with a focus on development of hybrid seeds of cotton, corn, wheat and rapeseed oil, he said. China and Pakistan decided to establish agricultural technology demonstration zones in Pakistan during Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to Pakistan in December 2010. This is an important step that would revolutionize agricultural production and trade in the region, he said.

Asked about the recent strain in the Pakistan-US relations following attack on a Pakistani border post by US/NATO troops, Khan said our bilateral relations are back on track adding that engagement is now taking place at all levels.

Khan maintained that Pakistan and the US have had a long history of close relations, despite ups and downs. It is important that Pakistan's sovereignty,

territorial integrity and independence are respected. Best inter-state relations are based on the principles of mutual respect, mutual trust and mutual benefit, he said.

Turning to Afghanistan, Khan said that Pakistan supports Afghanistan's efforts to create conditions of peace, stability and prosperity. He said Pakistan has been contributing to the economic reconstruction of Afghanistan. Pakistan attaches highest importance to the initiation of an intra-Afghanistan dialogue to ascertain the wishes of the Afghan people.

But, he said, such a dialogue as well as national reconciliation process should be Afghan-led and Afghan-owned. Afghanistan's immediate neighbors, especially China have a special responsibility in this regard. Recently, Afghanistan, Pakistan and China have established a trilateral mechanism to coordinate their positions. The establishment of the platform is for the three countries to enhance friendly cooperation and maintain regional peace and stability.

He said the war against terrorism has caused devastation in Afghanistan and in the bordering Pakistan territory. International community's help in the reconstruction of these areas is very important. China is already playing a very constructive role by investing in Afghanistan and Pakistan, he added.

In addition, Khan said, we appreciate SCO's support for efforts to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan. Afghanistan was on the agenda of the last SCO summit. An SCO Contact Group has also been reviewing developments in Afghanistan.

Ambassador Khan said that Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other countries, particularly Afghanistan's neighbors, should work together to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and all SCO members are committed to fighting the three evils of terrorism, extremism and separatism, he said.

All Day

Alternate energy goals met, nearly -- APP

Alternate energy goals met, nearly

ISLAMABAD - The Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) Chief Executive Arif Alauddin hoped that 500 megawatt (MW) of electricity will be added to the national grid during the next few months.

While talking to the official TV channel, he said that a number of projects were in the pipeline to overcome the energy crisis in the country which would provide relief to the people.

He said his board was mandated only to attract private sector investment while the government sector was meant only to regulate and facilitate the process.

He further said that Pakistan was relying heavily on fossil fuels to meet its energy requirements and the nation was spending more than \$ 11 billion on the import of petroleum products every year.

He added that it would increase to \$ 38 billion by 2015 which would further increase the strategic risk for Pakistan as it was heavily dependent on the fuel for its vital services.

He said that after the establishment of the AEDB in 2003, Pakistan had made considerable progress in this field.

While replying to a question, he said that the AEDB recently approved New Park Energy Phase I, a 400-MW wind project near Port Qasim. With the help of China 3 Gorges Corporation, a 50 MW wind energy plan at Jhimpir in Sindh would be completed next year.

The wind power pilot project had been made operational by installing a wind turbine at Daman-i-Koh in Islamabad, he added.

The AEDB Chairman said that recently a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) had been signed at the second two-day meeting of Pak-China Joint Energy Group (JEWG) for setting up wind energy projects with the initial accumulative capacity of 550MW. Moreover, the government had also created a fund to mainstream and implement alternative energy technologies in the country.

As per the breakup, 340,000 MW could be generated from the wind energy, 2,900,000 from solar power, 50,000 MW from hydro energy (large), 3,100 MW from hydro energy (Small), 1800 MW from biogas cogeneration, 500 MW from waste materials while 550 MW could be generated from geothermal energy sources, he added.

In reply to another question, he said that a number of countries had successfully developed renewable energy sources based on wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, ocean tides and bio-fuels to minimize their dependence on fossil fuels.

He said that currently 11 wind projects of 556 MW of accumulative capacity had reached an advanced stage of completion and some of these would start supplying electricity by the end of this year, whereas the others would be functional by 2013.

He also said that the government was determined to overcome the energy crisis in the country and had taken several measures in the past in this regard and had been carrying on several new measures to provide relief to the common man and help boost industry in the country.

He further said that the government had initiated a fast track scheme to develop additional 1582.4 MW through private sector which would be commissioned by December 2013, adding that nine solar PV projects of 228 MW were also under development.

He added that the government had also taken measures to promote use of solar applications that include solar systems, solar water heaters and solar water pumps in the country.

According to him, Pakistan had been currently building solar power plants in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan and the program was launched in collaboration by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) of China and private sector energy companies of Pakistan.

He mentioned that in May this year, Pakistan had stepped forth by inaugurating the first ever solar power on-grid power plant in Islamabad, adding that over 12,000 solar water heater and 754 solar water pumps were imported to introduce the new technology besides reducing dependency on national grid station.

Efforts were also being made to convince the owners of sugar mills to use cane waste for power generation and two units of 34 MW were operational and three new projects were in advance stages, the chairman said.

All Day

China to take charge of Pakistan's Gwadar Port -- The News

China to take charge of Pakistan's Gwadar Port

BEIJING - Ahead of Pakistan's Premier Raja Pervez Ashraf's visit, China on Tuesday tacitly confirmed reports that it was taking charge of the strategic Gwadar deep water port in Balochistan, which may then be converted into an oil pipeline hub to augment energy supplies from the Gulf.

Talking about Pakistan's Shipping Minister Babar Khan Ghauri's remarks that China may take charge of the port operations with USD 10 billion investment, following pullout of Singapore Port Authority (SPA); Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said both countries are engaged in cooperation to build infrastructure projects.

"China and Pakistan are neighbours of traditional friendship. Over the years, China and Pakistan have engaged in wide-ranging cooperation in all fields including infrastructure construction with a view to helping Pakistan improve people's well-being and promote social and economic development," Hong said in a written response to a query.

"Such cooperation is also beneficial for regional stability and development," he said, without directly referring to Babar's comments.

He also did not say whether the issue would be discussed during Pakistan PM's visit who is due attend the World Economic Forum 2012, also known as Summer Davos, starting from September 11 at Tianjin city.

The forum would be inaugurated by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, who is expected to hold talks with PM on its sidelines.

All Day

Pakistan: CHEC Set to Run Gwadar Port -- APP

Pakistan: CHEC Set to Run Gwadar Port

Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) and its partners, Aqeel Kareem Dedhi (AKD) Group of Karachi and the National Logistic Cell (NCL), are ready to sell their share of Gwadar Port to China Harbour Engineering Co Ltd (CHEC).

According to atimes.com, CHEC will take over the Pakistan's port after Singapore decided to pull out of a 40-year port management and development contract signed in 2007.

Gwadar Port was built with Chinese assistance of more than \$220 million.

Atimes.com reports that after taking control, CHEC will simultaneously become the builder and operator of the Gwadar Port.

All Day

Rich potential for Pak value added goods in China: Zhang Wei --

Pakistan Today

Rich potential for Pak value added goods in China: Zhang Wei

URUMQI - Pakistan's value-added products envisaged rich potential to get business in China and correct the balance of trade between the two countries, said Zhang Wei, a senior commercial officer of the local government of Xinjiang Autonomous Region.

"We love to buy Pakistani products, provided they meet the required quality standards", he said while talking to newsmen here Tuesday at the 2nd Eurasia expo, in which Pakistan has displayed its products, including carpets and mineral-goods. He noted Pakistan is much ahead of producing value-added items and it could easily compete in international market. Pakistan's garments, leather-made products and handicrafts could get good business in the Chinese market as well, he added.

He proposed that Pakistan's major industrial Houses should set up their representative offices in China to regulate their business. Besides, Pakistan should also hire Chinese-speaking staff to project their goods, he suggested. It is also imperative that Pakistani entrepreneurs should be well-versed of the Chinese business's laws and regulations. Merely, participating in trade fairs will not be enough, he remarked.

Pakistan has already entered in second phase of FTA with China that allows a large number of value added textile products duty free exports to China including readymade garments to China.

A Pakistani businessman Muhammad Hanif who has put up his stall at the expo also claims that there is tremendous potential in the value-added garment sector, such as, trousers, pullovers, cotton blouses for women, socks, towels, bed linen, etc. Depending on export of just raw material will not help to achieve the desired results, he said.

A lot of idle benefits have to be utilized from the FTA before entreating for more concessions. In the Fishing sector, China has already started buying more quantity with high value products like cuttlefish, scads and shrimp from Pakistan.

Five years ago China was not on the list of Pakistan's top 10 export destinations. Now it ranks fourth after the US, the UAE and Afghanistan, while the bilateral trade ranks third just behind the UAE and the US if the value of trade is computed on balance of payments format.

The signing of an accord during last visit of former Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani to Beijing, on opening up of two bank branches — one of a Chinese bank in Pakistan and the other of our National Bank in China — is also good step forward to spur bilateral trade.

All Day

Putin's visit to Pakistan: Currency swap, banking deals likely to be signed -- BR

Putin's visit to Pakistan: Currency swap, banking deals likely to be signed

September 06, 2012 MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN 0 Comments

Pakistan and Russia are expected to sign agreements on currency swap and opening of bank branches in the two countries during the visit of President Vladimir Putin, scheduled to arrive in Islamabad on October 2 this year, officials told Business Recorder on Wednesday. Russian President's visit will be the first-ever highest level bilateral visit from the Russian side, during which 12 agreements will be signed between the two countries.

The list of pacts to be inked during the visit of Russian President are as follows: (i) Muzaffargarh and Guddu thermal power plants;(ii) Thar Coal project;(iii) Kandra gas thermal power plant;(iv) Tarbela-IV extension project;(v) currency swap arrangements;(vi) opening of bank branches;(vii) assistance to the Heavy Mechanical Complex(HMC);(viii) assistance to the State Engineering Corporation (SEC);(ix joint ventures in auto sector(manufacturing of spare parts); (x) partnership in water sector;(xi) co-operation in agriculture sector and (xii) assistance to the National Centre for Rural Development(NCRD).

Sources said, the Presidency has directed all Ministries/ Divisions concerned to finalise agreements in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A meeting will be held in the Presidency this week to review progress made in the finalisation of proposed agreements. Both countries will also sign agreements on expansion of Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM), increasing its production capacity up to three million tons per year.

According to a proposed agreement, Russia will co-operate for BMRE (Balancing, Modernisation, Revamping and Expansion) of PSM as agreed. The Ministry of Production engaged its counterpart Ministry of Economic Development of Russian Federation to finalise modalities with regard to the BMRE and capacity expansion of PSM with the approval of the Cabinet. The sources said, after exchange of voluminous correspondence, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was agreed between PSM and Russian Federation. The Board of Directors (BoD) of PSM discussed in detail the enclosed MoU in its meeting held on May 25 this year and approved it.

The MoU was also circulated among stakeholders. The Ministry of Law & Justice, Economic Affairs Division, Board of Investment, and Ministry of Commerce have approved/vetted the MoU whereas, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission made certain observations, especially on inclusion of Article 4 in the MoU which relates to the settlement of outstanding debt of Pakistan with Russia. Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project will also come under discussion between the Presidents of the two countries.

All Day

Steps to maximise benefits of Pak-China FTA proposed -- BR

Steps to maximise benefits of Pak-China FTA proposed

September 07, 2012 RECORDER REPORT 0 Comments

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has proposed several measures to maximise the benefits from Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and China by creating conducive environment to attract more investment from China in industrial, agriculture and energy sectors.

The FBR on Thursday issued a report on the "Pak-China Free Trade Agreement: Prospects and Challenges" suggesting that Pakistan should focus on modern techniques for maintaining better quality and higher yield in agriculture sector. It further suggested that the government should make a comprehensive plan to diversify exports. Pakistan should ensure quality, efficiency and cost minimisation particularly in textile sector. The FBR has further proposed construction of rail track from China to Gwadar port, which would be beneficial in all respects.

The FBR said that during last four years trade patterns have changed. Pakistan's imports from Iran have declined by 50% and USA by 11% in 2011-12 as compared to 2007-08. On the other hand very significant growth ie 243 percent in imports from Afghanistan has been noted. Similarly, a substantial growth in imports has been witnessed from China (109 percent), UAE (221 percent) and India (34 percent).

On the exports side some healthy changes have been noticed like Pakistan's exports to China and Afghanistan have increased by 357 percent and 188 percent respectively during the period 2007-08 to 2011-12, report added. The item-wise data indicate that imports from China in terms of value of 25 items have increased significantly during fiscal 2004-05 and fiscal 2011-12. It includes electrical machinery, fertilisers, iron and steel & articles of iron and steel, man-made filaments & staple fibres, vegetables, paper & paperboard. The import of these items as raw materials are important both for industrial and agriculture sectors of Pakistan.

Pak-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has been helpful in changing the geographical composition of Pakistani exports. Earlier in 2007-08 Pakistan's major export destination was USA with more than 17% share, followed by UAE (9.5 percent), Afghanistan (5.2 percent), UK (4.8 percent), Germany (3.8 percent) and China (3.3 percent) at number seven.

In 2011-12 the share of China has increased to 9.4 percent. Another desired change is the rising share of exports to Afghanistan ie 9.2 percent from just 0.1 percent in 2004-05. More exports to neighbouring countries not only reduce the transportation cost, but also help strengthen economic and political ties in the region, FBR said.

Under the FTA between Pakistan-China, the volume of free trade which was only 12% in 2004-05 has gradually reached to 45 percent in 2011-12. In rupee terms the volume of free trade increased from Rs 14 billion in 2004-05 to Rs 271.4 billion in 2011-12. After the enforcement of FTA, the expected loss due to reduction in rates of customs duty has largely been compensated by the increase in the volume of trade.

It is evident, Rs 17.5 billion were collected under the head of customs duty in 2006-07, whereas this collection grew to Rs 36.5 billion in 2011-12. Similarly, other taxes like sales and withholding tax have also risen during the same period. The collection of sales tax has increased from Rs 12.8 billion in 2004-05 to Rs 51.6 billion in 2011-12 and withholding taxes rose from merely Rs 97 million to Rs 20.4 billion.

So far the impact of free trade on revenue, due to trade creation or trade diversion is positive, which is of course encouraging sign. Therefore, it is projected if this trend of higher trade volume continues; there will be no revenue loss in future. Nonetheless, if there is any loss on revenue front it will be compensated through other gains in shape of more exports, cheaper imports, investments, job creation in

local labour market etc, FBR added.

The report said that the preliminary assessment reveals that there are various issues involved in the Pak-China FTA. As a whole the volume of trade between two countries has increased significantly. China has become the second largest import destination and third largest export partner of Pakistan during last five years after the implementation FTA. Trade creation and trade diversion has also been witnessed.

Moreover, due to the increased imports from China the tax revenue has also grown substantially. However, on the other hand there are various issues involved making FTA less effective as it should have been. It is a fact that there is a huge gap between the size of the two economies, level of industrial development and infrastructure.

The economies of scale of Pakistan and China are unmatched given the structure of industrial production of the two countries. Pakistani exports are mainly raw materials, whereas its imports are comprised of value added manufactured commodities. Up to now the trade between two countries is tilted in the favour of China. China's exports to Pakistan constitute more than 20% of its imports; Pakistan's exports to China constitute only 0.13% of Chinese imports.

The under-invoicing is another grey area causing loss to the exchequer along with other threats to the economy. There is a huge discrepancy, amounting to billions of rupees, between the data on Pak-China trade provided by the International Trade Center and local sources. There is a need to immediately review the existing systems and technologies used for clearance at the ports. The strengthening of audit and a better risk management system can also be helpful, report said.

The FBR further said that Pakistan has a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement with China covering Trade in Goods, Investments and Trade in Services. Country like Pakistan needs foreign investment to boost up the economy. Major challenge faced by the Pakistan economy is the declining FDI.

In this regard the Pak-China FTA should have been an opportunity to attract investors from China, but unfortunately the level of investment from China also remained low. Whereas, it is believed that investments in the industrial sector could help reduce the growing trade imbalance.

Pakistan attempted to persuade the Chinese side, from both public and private spheres, to bring in investments along with their goods to make the trade partnership sustainable and create a win-win situation. But it looks that Pakistan could not attract much the private or public investment, one possible reason may be the law & order situation in the country.

The common perception in the Pakistani business community is that the Chinese private and public sectors are not interested in investing in areas that could enable Pakistan to create an export surplus for Chinese markets as well as other destinations. Rather, they contend, Chinese entrepreneurs simply want to sell products and make quick profits while based in China and do not seem to be interested in generating profits from Pakistan through joint ventures of private foreign ownerships. If this perception is correct then there is a need to find out the causes and to remove them for wider benefits.

One of the major challenges is the widening trade deficit and deteriorating terms of trade. During last five years bilateral trade has expanded, but the balance of trade remained in favour of China. The possible reasons could be the lower potential of our export oriented sectors, low quality (not meeting the international standards), sever energy crisis and high cost of production.

Pakistan economy largely depends on exports and particularly textile related exports, which is more than 60% of total exports. Competition for exports is very tough in global market and Pakistani exporters face difficulties in finding sustainable markets particularly in Europe.

Moreover, it is costly to trade with countries located faraway. Hence Pak-China FTA is a good opportunity for Pakistani exporters; they should concentrate Chinese market for finished products and also for import of cheap machinery. Pakistan's export base is very narrow and skewed towards few items and destinations for long time. Ma

All Day

PM to leave for China to represent Pakistan at Economic Forum -- APP
PM to leave for China to represent Pakistan at Economic Forum

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf leaves for China tomorrow to represent Pakistan at the Economic Forum meeting.

This year the forum topic is "Framing the Future of Economy". It is the first official visit of the Prime Minister to China.

During his four day stay the Prime Minister is scheduled to meet Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and the Chinese Investors and Industrialists.

The Prime Minister will apprise the Chief Executives of World investors about investment opportunities in Pakistan. He will also identify various projects for investment and will invite them to visit Pakistan.

The Prime Minister will inform the Chinese media about the regional peace and stability and Pakistan's role for the elimination of terrorism.

Prime Minister will meet Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and discuss how to make more stronger the economic coordination and to increase them between the two countries.

Pakistan's ambassador to China Masood Khan in an interview said that definitely the talks between the two leaders would be result oriented and important decisions would be taken. He said the centre of the talks will be how to help Pakistan to bring it out of energy crisis.

The Economic Forum is an important annual event where the world leaders are gathering to discuss economic improvements. The three day forum will be attended by over 2000 delegates representing 85 countries.

All Day

Pakistan to seek Chinese assistance in developing Gwadar -- The News
Pakistan to seek Chinese assistance in developing Gwadar

BEIJING: Pakistan is expected to seek assistance from China in developing Gwadar during the maiden visit of Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, who is arriving here today (Monday) for a three-day trip to participate in the World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting.

China and Pakistan will have in-depth and extensive discussions on the regional situation, subjects of mutual interest and upcoming challenges for both the countries pertaining to developments in the area.

The Pakistani premier will also avail the opportunity to interact and discuss a number of topics of common interest with the Chinese leadership, including Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao. The interactions between the Pakistan and China leadership will help greatly in enhancing bilateral cooperation in trade, economy, defence and regional cooperation. It is understood that Pakistan would be seeking assistance from China in developing its strategically important port of Gwadar. Federal Finance Minister Hafeez Shaikh and Foreign Secretary Syed Jalil Abbas Jilani will also be accompanying Prime Minister Raja, who is travelling in a small plane as a measure of austerity, sources said.

PM Raja will also have meetings with other participants of the forum known as the Summer Davos. The presence of leaders from the Baltic States would be of conspicuous significance besides the prime ministers of Pakistan and China in the gathering.

According to the organisers of the forum, the annual meeting of the new champions, under the auspices of the WEF, is the foremost global business gathering in Asia. It is taking place after five years, reflecting the "spirit of Davos" that for more than four decades has meant openness, collegiality and frank exchange among leaders from business, government, academia, civil society and media.

The annual meeting of the new champions provides a platform for the rising generation of global leaders from business and society to contribute to broader policy discussions and engage with the world's top business executives. The new champions are led by the forum's growing global growth companies community as well as the communities of technology pioneers, young global leaders, global shapers and young scientists.

The meeting will highlight the role new and fast-emerging multinational companies play in enabling and driving sustainability in a global business landscape that has been fundamentally changed by the economic crisis. The theme for the forum has been set as 'Creating the Future Economy.' Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao will attend and address the opening ceremony of the sixth Annual meeting of the new champions, also known as the Summer Davos Forum, tomorrow (Tuesday) in Tianjin.

Sources at the Chinese Foreign Office told the media that several foreign leaders, including Pakistani Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Lithuanian Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius, Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Dombrovskis, Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt, Costa Rica's Vice President Jack Lieberman, Rwandan President Paul Kagame, and Zimbabwe's Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara will attend the forum. He said that the host prime minister will meet foreign leaders and WEF chairman Klaus Schwab, and talk with representatives of entrepreneurs. China hopes the forum can be a platform for people to discuss the main problems of global economy and send positive signals to promote world economy recovery.

The forum was created, according to a joint proposal, by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) and the Chinese Government. Northern Chinese port cities of Dalian and Tianjin have hosted the forum in turn since 2007.

The Tianjin Summer Davos Forum will be held at Tianjin Meijiang Convention and

Exhibition Center. By now, the total number of registered representatives to attend this Forum has reached 1363, exceeding the level at the same time of 2012, and the number of formal representatives to participate in the Forum is expected to surpass 1600.

Diplomatic sources told The News here that Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf lived with the traditions of great Pakistani leaders who opted to undertake his first business foreign trip to China. It also reflects Pakistan's deep commitment for ties with China since it had been Islamabad's all weather and time tested friend.

All Day

Handing over Gwadar port to China best solution: PEW -- APP

Handing over Gwadar port to China best solution: PEW

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Tuesday welcomed the decision by the government to hand over management of Gwadar deep-water port to China following the pull-out of Singapore's PSA International.

Willingness on the part of Beijing to take control of the port will encourage investment and professional handling of port operations. It will bring two countries closer and promote social and economic development, it said.

Gwadar is close to the Strait of Hormuz through which much of the Gulf's oil exports are carried to other countries while converting it into an oil pipeline hub best suit Chinese interests, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President PEW.

Since Pakistan is unable to exploit opportunities in strategically important port of Gwadar, the decision seems only option which will also open new economic opportunities for people of Balochistan in shape of around \$10 billion Chinese investments, he added.

Mughal said that this will be another major Chinese contribution to the development of Pakistan's infrastructure construction which is part of Beijing's continued commitment to support their friends become self-reliant.

Both the friendly countries and all-weather allies will stand beneficial from a deal on country's only deep water and transshipment port from strategic and economic stand points, he observed.

It may be mentioned that Gwadar was developed by the Chinese government at a cost of \$288 million which was later handed over to SPA International under a 40-year agreement in 2007 for management, operations, maintenance and development.

However, SPA and its partners could not fulfil contractual obligations including investment of \$775 million due to some reasons.

Mughal demanded of the government to offer tax exemptions, complete highways network and take steps to safeguard Chinese investments as no other country will be willing to invest in mega projects in Pakistan due to a variety of reasons including adverse Western sentiments.

China is a trustworthy friend and has always supported Pakistan against all odds and in difficult times, he said adding that the visit of PM Raja Pervez Ashraf to China at this time is of critical importance.

All Day

PEW supports handing over Gwadar port to China -- BR

PEW supports handing over Gwadar port to China

By: INP | September 12, 2012 |

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All Day

Pakistan, China to enter FTA Phase-II next year -- BR

Pakistan, China to enter FTA Phase-II next year

Thursday, 13 September 2012 10:49 Posted by Imaduddin

RECORDER REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China will enter Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Phase-II next year to enhance mutual trade and export, informed sources told Business Recorder.

The FTA between Pakistan and China is going to be concluded at the end of 2012 where both the countries have succeeded in achieving most of the commitments including bringing down tariff for different products, sources in the Textile Ministry said on Wednesday. Commerce and Textile Ministry has already initiated work to prepare agenda and future plan for post Phase-I of the FTA. In this regard a meeting was held in the Ministry of Textile Industry here on Wednesday, chaired by the Secretary Textile Ministry.

All textile industry stakeholders participated in the meeting where the post Phase-I FTA scenario was discussed to evaluate future plan. It was further discussed that which items should be included in sensitive list while others to be allowed under the FTA. Sources revealed that both the countries have the commitment that 90 percent products would be brought on zero-tariff by the end of Phase-II. Currently, Pakistan has only allowed yarn while China has protected garments; however it was deliberated upon that how many items would be allowed while getting market for garments. However, it is yet to be decided, when the Phase-II would be implemented.

Pakistan is also going to organize an international conference & exhibition "Pakistan Textiles" next year in Lahore. During the meeting matters related to the conference were discussed with all stakeholders. Textile Ministry in collaboration with the Commerce Ministry will organize the international conference while it will be sponsored by the Export Development Fund (EDF), sources maintained. During the meeting budget allocation and other aspects were discussed.

Ministry of Textiles plans to organize this three-day event involving textile manufacturers, importers and exporters, where delegation from all the major textile markets may be invited for participation. This event would help our exporters to find new opportunities to enhance their exports but most importantly, this event would help promote Pakistan as a safe place for business. This event will include the following activities:

Textile products exhibition, seminar on joint ventures/investment in textile sector, conference on value addition and innovation in textiles, cotton conference, promotion of local brands through exhibition and fashion shows.

Ministry of Textile Industry sets to achieve following objectives by holding abovementioned event, building image of Pakistan as a business friendly destination, facilitation of textile exporters, export and product diversification, technology up-gradation, promotion of value added textile related higher education, creating linkage between academia, promotion of local brands (garments & home textiles) and industry and promotion of domestic commerce.

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All Day

PM invites Chinese to invest in IT sector -- The Nations

PM invites Chinese to invest in IT sector

By: Agencies | September 13, 2012 |

TIANJIN - Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Wednesday invited the Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan's emerging information technology sector. The prime Minister was talking to the chairman and CEO of Inspur (Computing) Group, a leading Chinese multinational company, who called on him in Tianjin. The meeting was held on the side-lines of World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting of New Champions in China's port city. Raja told the Inspur CEO that there was a growing demand for advanced technology in Pakistan. He urged him to benefit from the country's investment-friendly environment by introducing new projects. The Chinese executive briefed the prime minister about his company's projects and said it wanted to invest in setting up high-performance computer centres in Pakistan at a cost of \$20 million. He said the company was already working with Telenor in Pakistan and intended to expand its network related to communication and technology, in other areas as well. Meanwhile, the prime minister told media persons that the next general elections would be held on time. He said an impartial and consensus election commissioner was appointed despite the propaganda by the adversaries. The prime minister said independent judiciary, unprejudiced election commission and unfettered media were clear signal of a positive change in the country. Vowing to hold the general elections on its stipulated time, the PM noted an effort was being made to create ambiguity by spreading reports about delaying the process.

All Day

USAID, Wapda ink \$12m agreement -- The Nations

USAID, Wapda ink \$12m agreement

ISLAMABAD - The United States will provide \$12 million for the construction of Waran Canal system that will supply year round irrigation water to over 28,000 acres of barren land in Tank, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. An agreement was signed by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) country chief Jock Conly and Chairman Water and Power Development Authority here at Wapda Staff College at a simple ceremony. The project of construction of Waran Canal will be funded through USAID and implemented by Wapda and will be completed within six months. Jock Conly, Country Director USAID in Pakistan, said, "Water is one of the biggest constraints on agriculture and economic growth in Pakistan and by helping to construct this irrigation system, will increase employment opportunities and income for the local communities." He said the United States is committed to provide best possible financial assistance to Pakistan in different fields especially to overcome the shortage of electricity and irrigation water. Jock Conly said with the construction of the Waran Canal irrigation system, it will make irrigation water available for all the crops through out the year allowing the farmers to plant a second crop each year increase their overall productivity. The new irrigation system will also increase fodder production and make more water available for livestock. The USAID Country Chief, said besides Waran Canal, the USAID had been providing assistance for the improvement of infrastructure, education and health facilities in the area. "The US is committed to ensure assistance and cooperation for the development, progress and prosperity of Pakistan," said USAID Country Chief. Deputy Speaker of National Assembly Faisal Karim Kundi, who also hailed from Tank, thanked the USAID for providing financial assistance for the construction of Waran Canal.

All Day

Urea shipment reaches Gwadar port -- BR

RECORDER REPORT

KARACHI: Two consignments of urea, imported by Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) to meet demand in Rabi season, have reached Gwadar Port.

In August this year, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet asked TCP to import 0.3 million tons of urea to avoid any shortage during Rabi crop as the domestic urea plants were unable to produce commodity due to gas curtailment.

Following the ECC directives, TCP successfully opened tender for urea import on August 27, 2012 and finally awarded the contract letters to four international suppliers, which were agreed to supply urea at lowest price of \$399.38 per ton.

Out of 12 participants, M/s Key Trade AG Switzerland offered the lowest price of \$ 399.38 per ton for 100,000 tons and accordingly got contracts letter. To complete the procurement of total targeted quantity of 300,000 tons, TCP invited other bidders to match the lowest bid, hence the import contracts for balance quantity were awarded to three other bidders namely M/s Dreymoor Fertilizer Overseas (PTE) Ltd, Singapore for 100,000 tons, M/s CHS Europe, Switzerland for 50,000 tons and M/s Transammonia AG Switzerland, for 50,000 tons.

As per schedule, submitted by the successful bidders, the two ships namely "Mandrin Glory" and "Marie Paul" carrying about 50,733 tons and 47,640 tons urea, respectively has reached Gwadar Port and both ships are now under discharge port.

Sources said another ship Namely Shan Dong Hai Tong carrying some 52,447 tons of urea has also arrived at FAP. In addition, three more ships are expected to reach Pakistan in first and second week of October 2012. With timely arrival of first consignment, it seems that TCP will complete urea import operation in specified time period to avoid any shortage in Rabi season. "Urea operation, being conducted by TCP, is likely to be completed in third week of October 2012," they added.

All Day

Committee on shipyards at Port Qasim, Gwadar Port set up -- APP

KARACHI (APP): A meeting of the NA Standing Committee on Defence and Production was held on Tuesday under the Chairmanship of Shaikh Aftab Ahmed (MNA) here at the Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works Limited.

The Managing Director of KSEW, Rear Admiral Syed Hasan Nasir Shah, welcomed the participants at the Karachi Shipyard and briefed the Committee about the performance and the schemes.

He informed that Chief of Naval Staff is the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

He said that Karachi Shipyard is a unique Shipyard in the world, having capability to built submarines as well, he added that Karachi Shipyard has built 437 vessels of different size, design and capabilities.

The Committee has constituted a Sub Committee, which will look after the issues of establishment of new Shipyards at Port Qasim and Gwadar port. The Committee recommended that matter to lease of land to KSEW will be resolved immediately and a meeting with concerned department will be arranged in this regard by the Sub-Committee.

It was decided by the Committee that said Sub-Committee will call a joint meeting of al relevant departments in this regard.

The Committee has strongly recommended to review the PPRA Rules, wherein Karachi Shipyard is facing problems and directed the Ministry of Defence and Production to furnish required amendments regarding first right of refusal to National Assembly Standing Committee.

The Committee recommended that all Governemnt Agencies like PNSC, PQA, KPT, etc as well as the private sector should utilize the services of KS&EW for ship building.

The Committee has shown its satisfaction about the financial performance and revitalization.

The Committee recommended that Ship Lift and Transfer System at Karachi Shipyard should be built on top priority.

Besides the Chairman following members of the Standing committee attended the meeting.

i) Syed Akhonzada Chitan, (ii) Mian Abdus Sattar, (iii) Sahibzada Muhammad Fazal-e-Karim, (iv) Naseer Bhutta.

All Day

Chinese state firm takes control of Pakistani port -- VANCOUVER

A Chinese state-owned company is taking over the management and development of Pakistan's economically and militarily strategic Gwadar Port after a Singaporean company pulled out of its 40-year contract.

The developments are being closely followed in India and the United States, where China's interest in Gwadar is viewed as part of Beijing's acquisition of access to several ports across Asia as bases for its increasingly assertive navy, known as its "string of pearls strategy."

Gwadar, in Pakistan's western Balochistan province close to the border with Iran, is indeed a strategic location.

It is close to the Strait of Hormuz, gateway to the oil terminals of the Middle East, but also overlooks all the major ship-ping lanes linking Asia, Africa and Europe. Over 60 per cent of global trade and oil shipments travel the waters over-looked by Gwadar Port.

And if ever Afghanistan opts for peace and economic development instead of stupidity and civil war, Gwadar is the perfect terminus for trade with Central Asia.

So why then did the Port of Singapore Authority (PSA), one of the most professional, experienced and highly regarded port management companies anywhere which operates 20 ports in 11 countries, pull out of its 2007 contract?

The explanations being offered of why this potential gem of a project is now being to the China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) are simple.

The PSA pulled out of the 40-year contract after it was unable to fulfil its obligation to invest \$775 million in development of a duty-free industrial zone attached to the port.

This investment couldn't be made because the Pakistan government failed to arrange the transfer to the port of 236 hectares of land owned by the Pakistan Navy.

This dispute between the federal government in Islamabad and the Pakistan Navy, with the Balochistan provincial government occasionally intervening from the sidelines, has pre-vented development of the port for five years.

So, it is quite understandable that the PSA eventually threw up its hands in frustration.

Pakistan's various military wings are just as much business operations as they are fighting forces.

The Pakistan Navy acquired ownership of the 236 hectares next door to Gwadar Port some years ago in payment from the Balochistan government for unspecified services.

It should be kept in mind that since development of the port started 10 years ago land values in the area have risen dramatically and there have been huge scandals about people and institutions, including Islamabad government ministers, who have acquired land around Gwadar at artificially low prices.

So Pakistan's Navy has dug in its toes, noted that it was never consulted when its land, known as Shamba Ismail, was incorporated in the Gwadar development plan, and insists it wants 405 hectares of land at Pishukan, the other side of West Bay from Gwadar Port, in compensation.

A deal along those lines will probably be done in the end.

China has shown by its march into Africa and other unattractive markets that it has

a higher threshold for risk and capacity for operating in inclement business climates than many other nations.

Gwadar is potentially of great strategic economic importance to China in addition to its attractions as a naval base.

China has a common border with northern Pakistan. Trucking routes and oil and gas pipe-lines can span Pakistan from Gwadar into China's far western Xinjiang province if and when peace and security come to the region.

Iran has already built a gas pipeline from its massive Pars fields up to the border with Pakistan. China is interested in a trans-Pakistan spur line into Xinjiang.

At the moment 60 per cent of China's imported oil comes from the Middle East and 80 per cent of that goes through the Malacca Strait between Singapore and Indonesia.

China is paranoid that in the event of conflict, the United States could close down this choke point.

To avoid the strait China is already building a pipe-line across Burma to the Bay of Bengal and pipelines from Gwadar to Xinjiang would also calm China's security fears.

And China is no stranger to the Gwadar Port development. Indeed, China put \$220 million into the first phase of the project, which includes three berths with 600 metres of quay, a 100-metre service berth and 4.4 kilometres of deepwater anchorage roads, and which was constructed by Chinese companies.

Now CHEC as the new operator is contracting to put \$10 billion into the next phases of development and there is speculation that Beijing may revive a \$12 billion oil refinery project which was shelved in 2009.

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Read more:

<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/business/Chinese+state+firm+takes+control+Pakistani+port/7323888/story.html#ixzz2C823F9uM>

All Day

Pak-China trade ties to go to a new high Punjab Governor launches Nanchuan Industrial Park Business Centre -- Pakistan One

LAHORE, Punjab Governor Sardar Latif Khosa has said that the Qinghai Business Development Centre in provincial capital will take trade relations between Pakistan and China to new height by exploring opportunities for joint ventures in industry as well as trade.

He was addressing the launching ceremony of Nanchuan Industrial Park Business Development Centre in Lahore on Sunday at Raiwind Road.

Governor said that the Business Development Centre has been set up to connect thousands of Pakistani entrepreneurs with leading Chinese entrepreneurs and investors to exchange experiences and discuss business trends, leading to ultimate investment in both countries.

While assuring his all-out support to the industry, the governor said that promotion of commercial activities is of supreme importance for economic stability in the country and the federal government has adopted a comprehensive economic policy.

The governor said that business community was playing a very vital role in the development and progress of the country adding that the federal government attached top priority to facilitate businessmen and resolve their problems.

Director General of Nanchuan Industrial Park in Xining city of Qinghai province, Huang Guojun, observed that the investment centre is the latest example of Chinese efforts to increase links among Pakistani entrepreneurs, the Pakistani-Chinese diaspora community, and Chinese entrepreneurs and business people. Connections like these are important because entrepreneurs unlock growth.

On this occasion World Handmade Carpet Organization (WHCO) Chairman Akhtar Nazir Khan Cooki, who has been appointed the honorary commercial consul of Nanchuan Industrial Park, said that the Centre will host events along with Pakistani entrepreneurship associations.

Cooki said that he accepted the honorary consulship on the condition that Chinese businessmen will also invest in Pakistan if they are seeking investment from Pakistan for China.

He said that Chinese investors are interested to invest in mining, marble, energy, chemical and other potential economic sectors of Pakistan. He said that business-friendly environment is the pre-requisite to attract the foreign and local investment. He observed that business centre aimed at organising events throughout the country to build skills of entrepreneurs and seek investment and exchange technologies.

He said that a promotional meeting regarding the Nanchuan Centre will also be held on Monday and will be graced by Board of Investment Secretary Anjum Bashir as a chief guest. Business promotional seminar will largely attended by all major industries representatives and top businessmen including Tariq Shafee from Leather Industry, Tariq Sehgal from Cement and Textile sector, Agha Saidden from Pakistan Tanners Association, Pervaiz Malik and Iftikhar Ali Malik, besides participation of leadership of PCMEA, FPCCI, and LCCI.

All Day

Fit for business: Japan may set up automobile supply chain in Pakistan -- APP

LAHORE:

Declared by Japan as 'fit for business', the first ever Japanese business delegation, visited Pakistan last week to spot hidden opportunities to inject investments in three major sectors among which the automobile sector intrigued them the most, not only due to emerging potential of the market but also due to geopolitical location of country on the world map, which Japan seeks to tap for expansion of their automobile supply chain via land routes to access Central Asia in the future.

"Pakistan is blessed with some wonderful ports, among which Gwadar port is the best due to its location, if the Pakistani government makes efforts on infrastructural development to link its land routes to neighbouring countries, then we may export our automobiles from Pakistan to other Central Asian states in near future", said Daisuke Hiratsuka, vice chairman of Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro), in an interview with The Express Tribune.

Hiratsuka left Pakistan on Thursday night along with a fifty-member delegation, who visited Pakistan to seek potential investment opportunities. Jetro is a non-profit official trade and investment promotion agency working under the aegis of the Government of Japan. The delegation visited Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore and Sialkot to meet with business groups and government officials. Hiratsuka declared Pakistan "the best in the region" for foreign investment but urged Pakistani government to patch up some of its investment policies for long-term plans.

Expressing his feelings, Hiratsuka clearly showed his interest in injecting investments to establish automobile accessories units in Pakistan. "The investments in accessories and supply chain network will not only help improve the supply chain of the Japanese automobile industry but will also generate employment opportunities and initiate a gradual shift of technology to Pakistan," he said. The local industries attached indirectly with the automotive industry will also benefit hence; assisting manufacturers in slashing prices in this part of the region gradually, Hiratsuka added.

"We are looking to capture the emerging market of automobiles in Pakistan and the Central Asian states via land routes of Pakistan, however, this will not be possible without technology transfer to Pakistan", he added.

Hiratsuka also expressed his interest in retail services and logistics along with its supporting industries after successfully venturing their investment in the local automobile sector. "We have observed a huge potential in these sectors and we will definitely go for it," he said. He also pointed out the potential for electronic products in Pakistan. When asked if Japan was interested in importing agriculture products from Pakistan or invest in the sector, Hiratsuka said that the standard of fruits, vegetables or other commodities varies between two countries. "This was a large-scale project which needs time, research and huge capital influx to set up the supply network, we have not worked fully on this segment yet," he added.

"We need only one Japanese investor to enter the Pakistani market, the rest will follow him for sure," he said.

"The negative perception of Pakistan due to media reports needs to be changed in Japan, I am sure this will not be our only visit to Pakistan," he said. Pakistani entrepreneurs were hardworking; people and have the potential. The foreign investment policies of Pakistan are the best compared with its neighbours. All these things impressed me and my fellow members and we are hopeful to return back to Pakistan with some initial investments, Hiratsuka added.

Published in The Express Tribune, October 13th, 2012.

All Day

Gwadar cooperation opens up Central Asia to global marketplace

There have been hot discussions since Pakistan decided in September to provide operational control of the Gwadar port to China.

The decision has been welcomed by many in Pakistan and is seen as a giant step in further consolidating Pakistan-China friendship. With its critical strategic location, the port provides the shortest possible sea route to the Central Asian republics and connects the Middle East with China, Central Asia and Russia.

In 2007, operational control of the port was given to Singaporean company PSA International for 40 years, but the firm could not fulfill the commitments made, and decided to pull out.

Much of the world's oil moves through the Strait of Hormuz, close to Gwadar, giving it the potential to be turned into an energy hub.

China is heavily dependent on oil from the Gulf to fuel its expending economy and production. At present, the oil it receives passes through a very long route. It starts in the Strait of Malacca from where it reaches China's east coast and is transported overland to western China. This transportation is very costly. Gwadar provides a cheaper and shorter route.

Nevertheless, China is not the only beneficiary of the Gwadar port. Landlocked Central Asian states are also set to make significant gains. Tajikistan can transport its gas to the world, once the pipeline is extended to the port. For Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, the shortest possible route to the sea is through Gwadar.

And Afghanistan's gateway to the world has always been through Pakistan. For a stable economy, this land locked country needs an opening to the sea, and Gwadar has the potential to provide that. Pakistan and China will not get the sole benefits of the development of Gwadar. Instead, the whole region will prosper.

The two countries intend to build a railway link between Xinjiang and Gwadar. This will not only enhance the mobility of goods, but also cut the cost of transportation by road.

There is an existing railway link between Pakistan, Iran and Turkey, and the three countries have decided to extend this railway link to Europe.

If China agrees, the railway link from Xinjiang to Gwadar can be connected to the current Iran, Pakistan and Turkey rail link.

This will provide Chinese goods with another route to European markets.

The development of the port is a cause of concerns for many countries in the region, especially India. The port and a naval base at such an important strategic location enhance the importance of Pakistan. India is already trying to increase its influence in the Arabian Sea and does not want any competitor. It feels threatened by the development of the port.

New Delhi is pressing hard to increase its influence in Afghanistan and the rest of Central Asia, but once the port is developed, all these states will be dependent on Pakistan and will no longer remain under Indian influence.

The closer Pakistani-Chinese strategic partnership is already seen by India and the US as a threat to their interests in the region.

The US is increasing its influence in the Asia-Pacific region, especially in the Strait of Malacca, and is empowering India to stand against China. The superpower has concluded many defense and strategic agreements with countries in the region. This is seen by defense analysts as an attempt to contain China and block its mobility in the Southeast Asian region.

According to Pakistan Economy Watch, a "willingness on the part of Beijing to take control of the port will encourage investment and professional handling of port operations. It will bring two countries closer and promote social and economic development." Gwadar remains the only safe and feasible option which provides China an opportunity to counties with its economical activities to the external world.

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All Day

Gwadar Port road linkages projects -- Daily Times

Country has not benefited despite spending Rs 45bn

* Senate body told security hurdles main reason for delay in completion of projects

By Sajid Chaudhry

ISLAMABAD: The Senate's Sub-Committee on Finance and Planning was informed on Friday that the country has not benefited despite spending Rs 45 billion on Gwadar Port road linkages projects due to security hurdles.

Security situation was the main reason that led to leaving the construction of some nine bridges incomplete between highways constructed to link Gwadar Port to rest of the country and this has resulted in making the port non-operational.

The sub-committee proposed that the Ministry of Finance should separately allocate funds for security arrangement for ongoing development projects in Balochistan after National Highway Authority (NHA) held law and order situation as a major hurdle in the province for delaying completion of projects.

The committee chairman Senator Sardar Fateh Muhammad Hassani also proposed that security arrangements could be ensured through providing funds to Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps, Rangers or provincial police to make sure of the security at the sites of the said projects so that the country could benefit from the vital Gwadar Port.

Hassani invited Interior Minister Rehman Malik, Finance Minister Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh and Planning Commission Deputy Chairman on Monday for taking a decision regarding allocation of funds for security issue for early completion of the ongoing projects. Members of the committee stated that security is a problem in the province and Gwadar Port could not be made fully operational unless road and train links are not developed to connect it with the rest of the country.

The security problem remains a major bottleneck in completion of these projects, said NHA chairman and added that the FC has sought Rs 1 billion for one year to provide security for completion of road from Khuzdar to Rathodaro.

The committee's chairman was of the view that during the preparation of the projects a separate allocation for arrangement of security arrangements be ensured so that vital projects like linkage of Gwadar Power to rest of the country could be completed in time.

On the issue raised by NHA for annual road maintenance, Ministry of Communication director roads informed that some Rs 80 billion is annually allocated for maintenance purposes, Rs 50 billion in Public Sector Development Programme and Rs 30 billion through NHA's own resources.

NHA officials present in the meeting informed that NA's communication body members the other day strongly objected arrangement of additional funds for security arrangements at projects sites for NHA and members of committee were of the view that this would be a wastage of money.

Planning Commission infrastructure member informed the committee that the Planning Commission had included security related funds in the final cost of the Gomal Zam Dam Project. Senator Begum Kulsoom Parveen was of the view that until and the Gwadar Port road linkages projects are not completed the country would not be able to make economic progress by using Gwadar Port.

Senator Humayun Mandokhel expressed his serious concern that despite spending Rs 45 billion on construction of highways for linking Gwadar Port, the country has not been able to benefit from economic opportunities from Gwadar.

All Day

Gwadar-Turbat Hoshab Road: PC1 cost revised upward to Rs 18 billion -- BR

The construction cost of Gwadar-Turbat Hoshab Road has been revised upward to Rs 18.379 billion in the PC1 from Rs 5.687 billion because of National Highway Authority's inability to complete the project even after the completion date was revised upward by five years.

Senior officials of NHA and Ministry of Communication informed the Senate Sub-Committee on Finance here on Monday that the cost of all the three sections of road has been revised upward by in the amended PC-1. The original cost of 54-kilometer road from Gwadar to Dasht was estimated at Rs 1.527 billion with completion date of September 2006, but NHA failure to complete the project led to upward revision of cost to Rs 2.494 billion and completion date to June 2008. However, the project was not completed even on the upwardly revised date of June 2008 and now is expected to be completed in June 2013. According to NHA overall progress was 60 percent.

The cost of 63 kilometers section of the road from Dasht-Turbat went up from Rs 1.699 billion to Rs 3.687 billion with upward revision in completion date from September 2006 to February 2012, but the implementing authority was unable to complete the project even on the revised completion date. The project now, as NHA stated before the committee, is expected to be completed in June 2013. According to NHA, the cost of 76 kilometers section road from Turbat to Hoshab was revised upward to Rs 3.166 billion from original Rs 1.933 billion with completion date from September 2007 to February 2012 but the project could not be completed even in 2012 and now the completion is expected in June 2013. The meeting was informed that 34 kms link service road from adjoining villages has been completed with a cost of Rs 940 million in November 2011. The NHA official said that law and order situation was major obstacle in timely completion of development projects in Balochistan. Members said that the law and order situation was not a major problem till 2006 when these projects were to be completed and the problem started in 2007 and worsened in subsequent years.

Chairman of the sub-committee Fateh Muhammad Hassani stated that Ministry of Communication and NHA should come up with the list of the sites of the development project where security is an issue so that the committee could devise some modalities regarding security arrangements for early completion of infrastructure related development projects in Balochistan aimed at linking them with Gwadar sea port. The committee also decided to invite Inspector General Police along with Chief Secretary Balochistan after Eid for their input on the issue of law and order to address the problem amicably.

Senior officials of NHA stated that National Assembly Standing Committee on Communication has rejected a proposal for incorporating security component in the PC1 of all the development projects of Balochistan on ground that it would set a wrong precedent and other would also start demanding security component in their projects.

The representative of Finance Ministry said that keeping in view the importance of the matter, the ministry would support provision of funds for security component for development projects in Balochistan. However, approval of the proposal would depend on how effectively NHA and Planning Commission would plead the case. Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Dr Nadeem-ul-Haq said he has been requesting the government to stop approving development projects for the next three years so that the ongoing projects could be completed first but 'pressure' was not letting this happen.

All Day

Pakistan, China conclude fifth round of strategic dialogue -- The News

BEIJING: Pakistan and China have successfully completed the 5th round of strategic dialogue here on Friday. Foreign Secretary Jalil Abbas Jilani represented Pakistan while Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying held dialogue on behalf of China.

While warmly greeting the Foreign Secretary to Beijing, Vice Foreign Minister Fu said the latest round of the strategic dialogue would further strengthen the "all-weather Pakistan-China partnership". She said that the complex international environment necessitated deeper cooperation between the two countries.

Foreign Secretary Jilani said that the strategic dialogue was the most important interaction between the two countries. He said maintaining strong strategic cooperation with China was the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy.

The Foreign Secretary agreed with Vice Foreign Minister Fu that the two countries needed to close ranks to face the extraordinary global and regional challenges. Vice Foreign Minister Fu said China and Pakistan shared the same concerns on a host of regional and global issues, ranging from the question of UN Security Council reforms to the crisis in the Middle East.

Both countries were united in their desire to see peace and stability restored to Afghanistan.

China appreciated Pakistan's vital role in the global war on terrorism and urged the international community to recognize Pakistan's contribution and sacrifices in this struggle.

She thanked Pakistan for its unwavering support on issues that related to China's core interests, including Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang. The Foreign Secretary pointed out that the two countries indeed enjoyed complete convergence of views on all important regional and global issues. He said that Pakistan regarded any threat to China's interests as a threat to its own interests. Pakistan supported China's efforts to resolve the South China Sea issue through peaceful means and diplomacy.

Foreign Secretary Jilani appreciated China's firm and forthright support for Pakistan's efforts for safeguarding its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. He said Pakistan was looking forward to working with China and the Afghan government to push forward the political reconciliation process in Afghanistan. The Foreign Secretary also expressed Pakistan's appreciation for China's consistent support for major infrastructure and development projects in Pakistan.

Foreign Secretary Jilani also asked Vice Foreign Minister Fu to convey the president's and the prime minister's best wishes to the Chinese leadership ahead of the upcoming 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. The two leaders later conducted a comprehensive review of the bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the two neighbours and close allies.

All Day

Pak-China expanding ties -- BR

The Pak-China strategic dialogue that concluded in Beijing on Friday resolved to enhance the already existing multifaceted cooperation between the two countries. That was rightly considered the most appropriate response to the prevailing international geopolitical situation. Foreign Secretary Jalil Abbas Jilani, who led the Pakistan delegation, said that a strong strategic cooperation with China was a cornerstone of Islamabad's foreign policy, a view put across differently by Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying, who felt that the two countries shared the same concerns on a host of regional and global issues. Be that the desire to see a quick return of peace and stability to Afghanistan, to set the Middle East's disturbed situation right, or to effect reforms at the UN Security Council, China and Pakistan were on the same page, she said.

A glance at the history of Pak-China relations beginning 1951 to date would prove the oft-repeated point that despite the changes in the global and internal scenarios that occurred from time to time these relations have continued to flourish. Mr Jilani, therefore, was justified in hoping that the new leadership, shortly to be inducted in office in Beijing, would keep up the momentum of growth. He might as well have stated that Pakistan's new leadership that would assume power following the general elections due to be held soon would be equally enthusiastic in further strengthening these ties. Beijing's assistance to Pakistan has been free of strings, timely and in fields that are vital to our sovereignty and, indeed, survival, reinforcing the confidence that China is a genuine friend that Pakistan can ill afford to lose. The Heavy Mechanical Complex, the Kamra Rebuild Factory, the Karakorum Highway, the Chashma power plant and the Gwadar seaport are a few among a host of other projects it has helped build here and that constitute a monument to the strength of that relationship. The feelings of friendship have been sustained as both have felt that their stands on the various issues confronting them and the world as a whole were based on sound moral principles. And frequent exchange of visits between the two countries when common aspirations and goals as well common apprehensions and dangers come up for discussion have put that equation on a solid footing. The report that the newly tested landmark achievement of China in the defence field – the J-31 stealth fighter – would be exported to Pakistan when it comes on line says a lot in that context.

All Day

Pakistan embassy publishes book on Chinese poetry -- BR

BEIJING - The Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing has published *The Call of the Trumpet*, an anthology of early twentieth-century Chinese poetry translated into English by late Ahmed Ali, Pakistan's first envoy (Chargé d'Affaires) to the People's Republic of China.

Ahmed Ali was a man of many talents. A scholar, a writer, a poet, a diplomat par excellence, an art collector of exquisite taste, Ahmed Ali was the original 'Sinologist' – a man ahead of his time who, tasked with opening Pakistan's embassy in Beijing in 1951, knew that the founding of 'New China' in 1949 marked a turning point in modern history.

Ahmed Ali's association with China in fact predated his diplomatic assignment. He had been a Visiting Professor of English for the British Council at Nanjing Central University in 1946.

It was here that he witnessed the first stirrings of the revolution that culminated in the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. As one of the founding figures of South Asia's own "Progressive Writers' Movement", Ahmed Ali developed an interest in the work of revolutionary Chinese poets and took to translating their works into English. Nanjing had, of course, been the scene of some of the worst atrocities during the Second World War.

Ahmed Ali saw firsthand the pain and suffering of the Chinese people, and came to share their yearning for peace and freedom. It is this heartfelt feeling for China and Chinese people that runs through his meticulous rendition of Chinese poetry, and made him the obvious choice for Pakistan's first envoy to China.

A complete volume of Ahmed Ali's work on Chinese poetry had not been published previously. It only became possible now after Ahmed Ali's son, Orooj Ahmed Ali, approached the Embassy with the idea of publishing his father's anthology of translated Chinese poems.

The Call of the Trumpet is a fitting tribute to its author and his lifelong passion: forging an enduring and everlasting friendship between Pakistan and China.

All Day

China wants Balochistan traders visit -- Observer

Quetta—Vice Consul General (VCG) of China based in Karachi, Mr. Qingjiang Pan has pledged to help Balochistan in educational sector and assured that the message of allotting scholarships for the students of Balochistan in different institutions of China, would be conveyed to high ups. We want traders and people of Balochistan to visit China and know more about trade, culture and development of our country.

He was addressing a round table conference titled China and Pakistan Economic Relations with reference to the province of Balochistan, organized by Balochistan Economic Forum at a local hotel in Quetta here China Pakistan relations have bright future as both countries always remained close neighbours, trusted friends and enjoyed cordial relations.

China intends to boost economic ties with Pakistan particularly in Balochistan which will further bring the people of both countries closer, Balochistan Provincial Minister Habibur Rehman Muhammad Hassani, Afghanistans Consul General in Quetta Ghulam-i-Muhammad Bahadur, traders, industrialists, politicians and members of civil society attended the roundel table conference.

Mr. Pan said both China and Pakistan have established unique relations in different sectors and their friendship is duly based on mutual trust and mutual understanding. There was a cooperation between both countries in different sectors particularly in Balochistan for instance Gwadar Project, Dodar Zink Project and Saindak Copper and Gold project, he added. He assured that China would continue to playing its constructive role in Pakistan especially in Balochistan to boost its economy and help agriculture and other sectors.

Responding to questions, of traders and politicians, Mr. Pan said assured that the China is firm to extend its support in issues faced by the people in Pakistan especially those living in Balochistan, adding China would try to issue maximum visa in different categories.

Earlier, addressing on occasion, BEF president Sardar Shaukat Populzai thanked Chinese envoy for visiting Balochistan, saying his visit would help traders of Balochistan in boosting trade with China. Highlighting BEF's role in introducing Balochistan to the world, he said Balochistan is largest province of Pakistan comprising 43 per cent landmass of total bordering with Iran and China.

He said that Balochistan has great potential in minerals, fisheries, agriculture and livestock sectors and praised China's role in Balochistan and asked for playing a role in materializing Pak-Iran gas pipeline.

November 8, 2012

Thu

All Day

THIS CHINESE 6×6 TRUCK PATROLS PAK-CHINA BORDER -- Pak Wheel

Pakistan and China has a long and strong relationship with each other but the borders are also quite long and encompasses mostly of barren, mountainous regions and to patrol such type of borders, a vehicle with special abilities is needed.

This is Huling CXL02 Border Patrol Vehicle, China's answer to patrol such type of borders. Equipped with a 6-liter in-line diesel engine with 6×6 all-wheel-drive, the CXL02 mainly roams along China's northern and northwestern borders with Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Tajikistan.

With temperatures ranging upto -40 degrees on areas that are 6000 meters above sea level and a weather which is extremely dry or wet due to snow, with no sign of any living thing, the CXL02 can survive such challenging lifestyle by also giving soldiers on patrol as much comfort as it can.

All Day

Balochistan is foremost priority of government: PM -- APP

Balochistan is foremost priority of government: PM

GWADAR, Nov 9 (APP): Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf on Friday approved a project with an estimated cost of Rs 4.5 Billion for provision of Water Supply to the people of Gwadar. This was announced in response to a pressing demand by Chief Minister Balochistan Nawab Aslam Raisani and the Members of his Cabinet.

Speaking to a special meeting of the Balochistan Cabinet here, the Prime Minister said that the federal government will bear 50 percent of the cost while the balance will be borne by the Government of Balochistan. The Prime Minister also announced to make Jiwani a Model Town and directed the provincial government to present a proposal for the project.

He announced that the federal government also released funds for the construction of Gwadar-Ratodaro Road to improve connectivity.

The Cabinet meeting held with the Provincial Cabinet Members led by Chief Minister Balochistan Nawab Aslam Raisani sitting traditionally on the floor.

The Prime Minister was presented a Balochi Chaddar before the commencement of Cabinet meeting, which started with the recitation from the Holy Quran.

The Prime Minister said that the root cause of most of the problems lies in our failure in establishing democratic order in Pakistan in general and Balochistan in particular.

He said that the developed countries were able to progress because of democracy and continuity in their policies.

Pervez said that the Balochistan Cabinet is an example that the people of different parties and views have synergized their energies and managed to complete the term of their government. This, he said, was no mean achievement. "You can use your strengths and pool up your resources for the overall benefit of the people of Balochistan," he added.

Alluding to the National Finance Commission Award, he termed it as a step in right direction which brought in betterment for the people of Balochistan and other provinces.

He said it was unheard that any person could have divested himself of powers vested in him. President Asif Ali Zardari voluntarily surrendered his powers to the Parliament by consenting to amend the Constitution whereby his powers were transferred to the Parliament.

Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf said that the PPP took over the government in 2008 in very challenging circumstances when the financial position of the country was on the verge of bankruptcy. The PPP-led coalition government, under the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari, has been pursuing the policy of reconciliation and has now achieved the historic landmark of being the first elected government in Pakistan which has completed its tenure.

He congratulated the Balochistan government for having completed its tenure. "We have together laid down a fundamental on which we can erect a building."

The Prime Minister said that Aghaz-e-Hoqooq-e-Balochistan was a step to start working towards the development and progress of the people of Balochistan.

He said that we need to dispel the misperception about the law & order situation in Balochistan. The perception has been created by exaggerating accounts and events in Balochistan.

The Prime Minister said that when he assumed the office he consulted a variety of people, including the Government of Balochistan and the people who have knowledge of Balochistan to find a viable solution for the law & order situation in Balochistan.

He said that as a first step, he decided to post competent officers of repute to improve the law & order situation in the province. In this connection, he formulated a transfer and posting policy so that the competent officers are posted in Balochistan. Despite tremendous pressure, he did not waver from the policy nor did he accept any pressure regarding transfers.

As a result, the situation has started slowly improving. Earlier, he said, officers in Balochistan were sent as a punishment. Such officers were unwilling and not fully motivated. If one is sincere and committed to hold merit then results are always in the public interest. He expressed the hope that the situation in Balochistan will show improvement due to the collective efforts made by the Government of Pakistan and Balochistan.

The Chief Minister Balochistan thanked the Prime Minister for addressing the

Cabinet and taking the Provincial Government into confidence. He also thanked the Prime Minister for approving projects which will go a long way in improving the standards of living of the people of Balochistan.

All Day

Pakistan, China ink MoU for joint marketing -- Pakistan Today

KARACHI - Heavy Industries, Taxila and Norinco -China on Thursday inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) paving way for joint marketing and sale, on private-public partnership basis, of jointly manufactured defence and commercial products.

The MoU signed by Lt. Gen Ayaz Saleem Rana, Chairman, Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT) and Wang Li, Vice President of Norinco, the Chinese defence firm, will enable HIT to open itself to international markets in consent with Government of Pakistan and Government of China.

Secretary, Ministry of Defence Production, Lt. Gen (retd)

Shahid Iqbal and Additional Secretary, Tariq Rashid Khan were also present during the signing ceremony.

This MoU signed, on the sidelines of the ongoing defence exhibition, IDEAS 2012, also encompasses further strengthening of joint commercial ventures undertaken by the two.

HIT established in 1974, in collaboration with Norinco -

China, was initially a rebuilt factory and is presently manufacturing different defence and commercial products including tanks, prime movers, trucks and so-forth.

All Day

PM Raja to attend Balochistan cabinet meeting in Gwadar -- The News

QUETTA: A meeting of the Balochistan cabinet scheduled on November 9 at Gwadar will be attended by Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf.

According to a statement issued by the Balochistan government on Friday, Chief Minister Aslam Raisani has convened a meeting of the provincial cabinet on November 9 at Gwadar; PM will attend the meeting especially and meet with the cabinet members.

Earlier, CM Raisani had advised Balochistan assembly Speaker Aslam Bhootani to summon the provincial assembly's session on November 9 and 10 at Gwadar but he refused.

Aslam Bhootani said in his refusal note that after the interim order of the Supreme Court in the Balochistan law and order case, calling a meeting of the assembly was tantamount to contempt of the court.

All Day

China reiterates to maintain close ties with Pakistan -- Pakistan Today

BEIJING - China has reiterated that it will continue to maintain close relations with Pakistan as it is based on strong popular support.

This has been stated by a senior Chinese Foreign Ministry official while briefing media in Beijing.

He pointed out that these bonds of friendship are also featured by high level frequent mutual visits.

The official said the friendship between the two countries is deepening with the passage of time.

All Day

Gwadar Civic Centre -- The Nation

According to media reports, the prime minister of Pakistan is visiting Gwadar on November 9 or 11, 2012 to inaugurate the Gwadar Civic Centre, constructed by the Gwadar Port Authority. If the details of the project and previous expenditure on its inauguration are revealed, an amazing picture will emerge. The Gwadar Civic Centre project is a very small project, costing only Rs 188 million and comprising of a ground and mezzanine plus three floors. Its construction was started in March 2007 and was to be completed by the end of September 2008. However, it was actually completed during April 2012 and is now being inaugurated by the PM. The interesting part of the story is that the ground ceremony of this small project has already been carried out twice — once by the then president of Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf and again by the then PM of Pakistan, Mr Shaukat Aziz. A huge amount of money was spent on these events; we are talking about billions of rupees. At the time of Musharraf's visit, it was learnt that a C-130 craft had brought the president's special car from Islamabad to Pasni. Due to some defect, the car was taken back to Islamabad and another car was brought from Islamabad to Pasni and then driven to Gwadar for the use of the president in Gwadar, which lasted only a few hours. Everyone knows that a visit by the president or PM to a place like Gwadar entails extraordinary security and unimaginable cost; apart from the VVIP and his team, a number of federal ministers, senators, MNAs, federal secretaries and the entire administration of the provincial government, including the chief minister, ministers and chief secretary also attend the ceremony. Now, one can only imagine how much money has been spent on the previous two inaugurations and will be spent on the upcoming one. It is not understood why there is so much hypocrisy in the case of Balochistan where small results are highly exaggerated and projected as big achievements. It is not understood why these huge amounts are not spent on the construction of vital roads, which have been lying in a half complete state for many years, and on the establishment of colleges and universities also in dire need of financial aid. Can anyone tell me what justification exists for spending billions of rupees to inaugurate a project worth Rs 188 million, which should actually have been inaugurated by the commissioner of the district? HAFEEZ BALOCH, Turbat, November 7.

All Day

‘Water-related projects to be completed soon in Gwadar, Jiwani’ -- The News

KARACHI: Gwadar's water issue is to be resolved soon as a few water-related projects are expected to be completed soon, said Sohail-ur-Rehman, deputy commissioner of Gwadar here on Monday.

"A major breakthrough took place on November 9 during the prime minister's special meeting with the Balochistan Cabinet at Gwadar," he said. "The Mirani dam project was approved to connect it to Gwadar in order to avert the prevailing water crisis."

The project's estimated cost is Rs4.5 billion for the provision of water supply to the people of Gwadar, he added. In view of project funding, the prime minister has announced that 50 percent funds would be provided by the federal government, while the rest would be provided by the provincial government.

"The estimated timeframe for project completion is almost two years," he said. He further added that once the project materialises, the Mirani dam would have the capacity to provide a minimum of seven million water gallons per day.

Gwadar and Jiwani's current population is around 0.2 million. The daily water requirement of the population stands at 3.5 million gallons.

The Sunt Sar Water Supply Scheme, which costs Rs350 million, would have the capacity to generate 10,000 gallons per hour, he said. However, this would be a small support system for the water deprived populace, he added.

Rehman said that the desalination plant, which was kept idle, would be completed by December 31 with a cost of Rs180 million as the provincial government had provided funds for it. It would have the capacity of 200,000 gallons per day. Furthermore, to provide water through the pipeline from desalination, the government has also approved a project of Rs220million to avert tanker costs.

Another project, which has almost been completed is the Sawad dam in Nalant. It has a capacity of 45,000 acre feet, which would also bode well for the current water crisis.

According to Rehman, Gwadar and Jiwani are still on temporary water tanker supply since the last 20 weeks. Each tanker costs almost Rs15,000 and so far the provincial government has allocated Rs154 million for the water tankers, whereas almost Rs190 million still has to be paid. It is expected that the cost would increase further till the time different projects are completed, he observed.

These tankers, he added, are supplying water from the Belar dam, which is 85 kilometre away from Gwadar.

The water crisis started in Gwadar and Jiwani almost 20 weeks ago when the Ankara Kaur dam, which was the sole source of water supply, dried out and caused a severe water shortage. However, Rehman is hopeful that the ongoing water projects would be completed on time, which would help to overcome the present water crisis.

All Day

BALUCHISTAN PLANS GIFTING 200 ACRES TO SULTANATE
Share on linkedin Share on reddit 4 By Our Correspondent 21/11/2012
9:43 am Muscat - Pakistan's Baluchistan province is planning to gift 200 acres to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said as a token of gra -- Muscat Daily
BALUCHISTAN PLANS GIFTING 200 ACRES TO SULTANATE

Muscat -

Pakistan's Baluchistan province is planning to gift 200 acres to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said as a token of gratitude and honour for Oman's commitment towards the development of the region and the port city of Gwadar in particular.

Speaking during a private visit to the sultanate, Muhammad Syed Faseih Iqbal, former senator and senior member of the Pakistan Press Council, said that the move would also help to boost the close historical ties between Oman and Baluchistan.

"Nawab Muhammad Aslam Khan Raisani, the chief Minister of Baluchistan is planning to gift 200 acres to honour His Majesty the Sultan as a goodwill gesture to the people of Oman. The topography of Gwadar is the same as Oman. Government-to-government relationship is fine but we want to revive the Baluchi-Omani bond."

Iqbal said that he personally witnessed Oman handing over Gwadar to Pakistan in 1958. "Gwadar is strategically positioned and shares a 'deep historical link' with the sultanate. The Baluchistan government is also taking care of the Fort of Sultan Said Taimur.

"Baluchis in Oman share a long history with their counterparts in Pakistan dating back at least 300 years. Many Baluchis are permanently settled in Oman. I feel that ties can still be improved and people on both the sides can be brought closer through education, business and trade. We would like to invite the Omani government to construct a university and a hospital in Gwadar. Gwadar has none of these and this would help in bringing people closer."

H E Nawabzada Aminullah Khan Raisani, the Pakistani Ambassador to Oman, welcomed the proposal of gifting the land and said, "His Majesty the Sultan has done a lot for people of Gwadar. The Baluchistan government's initiative is a token of appreciation and I am sure the Pakistan government will welcome the move."

His Majesty the Sultan had announced a US\$100mn (RO38.5mn) grant during his 2001 visit to Pakistan. Out of this, US\$64mn (RO24.64mn) was allocated for development work in Baluchistan. Reports stated that US\$17.5mn (RO6.73mn) was earmarked for the development of Gwadar International Airport and US\$27.5mn (RO10.5mn) for Gwadar city. Iqbal said that the grant has been utilised to boost infrastructural facilities like the building of 300km Gwadar-Turbat-Hoshab road and electrification of Gwadar city.

"We believe that there was a strong link between Omanis and Baluchis in the 16th and 17th centuries and would like to revive the same bond."

All Day

Pak-China friendship integral part of foreign policy: PM -- The Nation

Pak-China friendship integral part of foreign policy: PM

By: Israr Ahmad | November 28, 2012 . 0

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf has said that Pakistan has always attached great importance to its time-tested relationship with China and Pakistan-China friendship is an integral part of Pakistan's foreign policy. He was talking to Ambassador-designate to China, Masood Khalid, who called on him at PM House on Tuesday.

Expressing satisfaction over present trade relations, the Prime Minister directed the ambassador designate to work for further expansion in trade between the two countries. He underlined the need for transforming the friendship between the two countries into strong business partnership. The prime Minister said, "We are proud of our excellent relations with China, with which we have a strategic partnership." Our cooperation with China on regional and international levels is exemplary, he added. The PM emphasised that the friendly ties between the two countries were backed by social, economic and cultural cooperation in the fields of infrastructure, energy, agriculture, education and health.

Meanwhile, Jamshed Ahmed Dasti, MNA, Anwar Saifullah, MPA from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pir Syed Nazim Hussein Shah, member Federal Council PPP, Mirza Fazle Haq, ex-MPA, and Salis Kayani called on the Prime Minister Raja Pervez Tuesday morning at PM House, Islamabad and discussed with him issues pertaining to their constituencies.

The Prime Minister urged the legislators to actively play their role for bringing about positive changes in the lives of people at the grassroots level. He urged them to regularly monitor the implementation of ongoing developmental projects and ensure their timely completion for the benefit of the people.

The Prime Minister said that the government has allocated record development funds in various sectors, which will improve the living standards of the people.

All Day

President asks Chinese to explore investment avenues * Zardari praises China's contribution in infrastructure, industrial development projects
ISLAMABAD: President Asif Zardari on Saturday invited the Chinese investors to explore avenues for investments -- APP

President asks Chinese to explore investment avenues

* Zardari praises China's contribution in infrastructure, industrial development projects

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Zardari on Saturday invited the Chinese investors to explore avenues for investments and opportunities being offered in various sectors of economy in Pakistan, especially in energy and infrastructure.

He praised the longstanding friendship between Pakistan and China and said that both the friendly countries were working shoulder to shoulder in various fields, politically and economically, for the prosperity of their people. "Pakistan-China friendship is time tested, long standing with strong feelings, higher than mountains and sweeter than honey. China is always kind to Pakistan", President Zardari said while addressing a business round-table organized for a China Investment Corporation (CIC) delegation.

The ICI delegation led by President Gao Xiqing is currently visiting Pakistan to explore avenues for investment in various economic sectors.

During one-on-one meeting the CIC delegation, the president hoped that various presentations given on investment regime and the interaction of the delegation with businessmen during its stay in Pakistan would have exposed them to the tremendous investment opportunities in diverse fields on one hand and would help promote bilateral investment and trade cooperation between the two countries, on the other.

The president appreciated China's contribution in the infrastructure and industrial development projects, including Karakoram Highway, Gwadar Port, Heavy Mechanical Complex and Chashma Nuclear Power Plant, Pak-China Friendship Centre and Sports Complex and said that Pak-China close ties were now being effectively transformed into a mutually beneficial economic relationship.

At the roundtable meeting, the president said that the government had introduced various policy measures, which were aimed at maximum facilitation of the local as well as foreign business communities. He said that besides the geo-strategic location to serve the huge markets of over 3 billion in our neighbourhood, Pakistan was offering huge incentives to the business community in various fields.

He said that the promotion of public-private partnership patterns and encouraging joint ventures were another important feature of the economy. The public-private partnership was being encouraged to stimulate private sector growth and investment. The president said that recently a law had been enacted to protect the incentives offered to entrepreneurs so that they could work without fear for their investment.

He urged the private sector to assume the role of a driving force in propelling economy, because a vibrant private sector was important for achieving sustainable growth and attracting foreign and domestic investment.

He assured that the government would continue to provide a conducive economic environment and supporting infrastructure to facilitate private sector and promote public-private partnership.

The president invited Chinese investment in the Special Economic Zones, which he said, would have basic utilities and infrastructure of international standard, 10 years exemption on duty and taxes both to zone developers and enterprises.

He expressed the hope that SEZ would lead to reduction in the cost of doing

business and would play a pivotal role in the economic development of Pakistan as had been witnessed in case of China, Malaysia, Thailand and other states.

He said that under the new Special Economic Zones law all capital goods, machinery and equipment would be given one time exemption from customs duties.

CIC President Gao Xiqing, speaking on the occasion, said that the delegation had interacted with public and private sector in Pakistan during the last three days and had been impressed by the potential that Pakistan offered to investors.

He thanked the people and the Government of Pakistan, the private sector and government functionaries for being open to them and sharing various avenues for investment with them.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nawabzada Malik Amad Khan welcomed the Chinese delegation and said that Pakistan valued its friendship with China.

“Pakistan is a supporter of One-China policy”, he said and added that Pakistan would welcome China’s support in trade and infrastructure development.

The CIC delegation included Zhou Yuan, Chief Strategy Officer (CSO), Fan Kunsheng, president of CIC International (Hong Kong), Cao Yu, Managing Director Lu Jinuo, Vice President Ms. Xu Di, Managing Director Li Xinxin and Chinese ambassador in Pakistan. The president later hosted a dinner for the delegation. app

All Day

**Benefits of Pakistan-China mutual cooperation 00 By STAFF
REPORTER Published: December 4, 2012 * Regional trade with
SAARC, ECO can multiply: KCCI KARACHI: Through Pakistan-China
mutual economic and cooperation, regional trade and trading -- The
Lahore Times**
Benefits of Pakistan-China mutual cooperation

* Regional trade with SAARC, ECO can multiply: KCCI

KARACHI: Through Pakistan-China mutual economic and cooperation, regional trade and trading with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) and Central Asian blocks can multiply manifold.

Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI)'s President Muhammad Haroon Agar said Pakistan and China could collectively do wonders as the economic and commercial activities were now focusing towards Asia.

Speaking at the KCCI's reception in honour China Investment Corporation (CIC) President Gao Xiging, he urged Chinese investment in energy, infrastructure, metro-railways, mass-transit, dams projects which were direly needed to uplift economy and further strengthen Pak-China friendly relationship and economic cooperation.

He said Chinese cooperation with Pakistan reached high points with substantial investments from China in Pakistani infrastructural expansion, including the noted projects in the Pakistan deep water port in Gwadar, however in view of Pak China Friendship growth in mutual cooperation was essential to uplift Pakistan's weakening economy.

Both countries have free trade agreements, which should be effectively explored for mutual benefits of both friendly nations.

Public as well private sector Pak-China joint ventures are need of time owing to immense investment potential in Pakistan.

Karakorum Highway is a remarkable example of mutual cooperation and is the symbol of friendship and understanding.

Chinese investment in Pakistan increased manifold in key sectors including port development, roads, railways, mobile telephones communication technology, hydro and thermal power, mining, electronics and nuclear energy.

Xiging said both countries have committed to develop closer bilateral relations and further broaden their economic engagement for achieving common development. Opportunities for joint ventures in different sector do exist. So far China-Pakistani economic and trade cooperation has seen good progress.

Chinese always feel safe in Pakistan as Pakistan has very good potential in different fields. China is giving new face to its industry with sector diversification.

CIC is a state-owned institution having around \$200 billion foreign exchange reserves enters into investment, joint ventures, shareholding etc.

All Day

Oman, Pakistan ink MoU to boost aviation ties MUSCAT Aviation authorities from the Sultanate and Pakistan signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to regularise air transport services between the two countries. The MoU allows national carriers of the -- MUSCAT
Oman, Pakistan ink MoU to boost aviation ties
MUSCAT Aviation authorities from the Sultanate and Pakistan signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to regularise air transport services between the two countries.

The MoU allows national carriers of the two countries to operate any number of flights between the Sultanate and the Pakistani city of Gwadar, besides opening of skies between the two countries to operate any number of cargo flights through intermediate points and points beyond the two countries.

The agreement was signed on the Public Authority for Civil Aviation (Paca) premises after two days of talks, by Eng. Salim Bin Nasser Al Oufi, CEO of Paca, and Major General Raja Muhammad Arif Nazir, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Defence and member of the Board of Directors of the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA).

They discussed operating flights between Pakistani cities and upcoming airports of Duqm, Sohar and Ras Al Hadd in the Sultanate.

It was also agreed that flights between the two countries will be increased. National carriers will operate weekly flights (2,600 seats) between the Sultanate and Karachi Airport. There will be 16 weekly flights to cities such as Lahore, Peshawar, Sialkot and Multan in north Pakistan and seven weekly flights each to Islamabad and Turbat, Oufi said in a statement.

The Sultanate's delegation included officials of the Air Transport Department at Paca and Oman Air.

All Day

Chinese firms willing to invest in Pakistan -- Pak Tribune

Chinese firms willing to invest in Pakistan

RAWALPINDI: The Chinese Ambassador Li Jian has said Chinese companies are willing to invest in private sector of Pakistan and it is time for Pakistan's private sector to come forward and join hands with Chinese counterparts for joint ventures to bring foreign direct investment (FDI) into the country. He said enhancing bilateral trade is the common goal of both sides and the business communities of the two countries were serious in boosting bilateral trade relations. The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry was playing a proactive role in strengthening trade ties and Chinese Embassy will cooperate with the chamber to arrange business-to-business meetings. He was exchanging these views in a meeting with a delegation of the RCCI led by the Acting President Ch Nadeem A Rauf while Commercial Counselor Li Shoaotong, executive members Raja Amer Iqbal, Malik Shahid Saleem and Bilal Maqbool were also present on the occasion. The ambassador said Chinese investors were eager to explore the trade market of 200 million and through Pakistan China can enhance its market to Middle East, India and Gulf countries. He said that Pakistani mango and rice were in high demand in China; business community must focus on these products to extend the exports volume of their country. Speaking on the occasion, Rauf said that China is known for its technology, while Pakistan has skilled manpower but lacks technology. "China must provide first hand technology to Pakistan to further endorse bilateral trade relations," he said. He further said that trade volume between two countries is \$10.6 billion and in the next three years this figure should be increased to \$15 billion. The ambassador appreciated the vision of RCCI and ensured his full cooperation in this regard.

All Day

Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan to hold trilateral summitUpdated: -- APP
Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan to hold trilateral summitUpdated:

ANKARA - Turkey, Afghanistan and Pakistan will hold a seventh edition of a trilateral summit, which kicks off on Wednesday, to provide a comprehensive platform for promoting high-level political dialogue, security cooperation and development partnership.

Pakistani and Afghan delegations, led respectively by the countries' presidents, Asif Ali Zardari and Hamid Karzai, will arrive in Turkey's capital of Ankara to attend the three-day summit. The delegations also include communication and interior ministers, along with high-ranking military officials.

The summit will focus on strengthening economic and commercial cooperation through improving existing ties and developing new links of transportation between the three countries.

The first of the annual summits was held in Ankara in April 2007, focusing mainly on security issues in war-torn Afghanistan.

Afghanistan has accused Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) agency of supporting Taliban insurgents, who launched a string of dramatic attacks in recent months as foreign troops prepare to pull out most combat troops by 2014.

Islamabad, which denies supporting the Taliban, complained in turn that insurgents from the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), or Pakistani Taliban, have been using Afghanistan as a base from which to launch attacks in Pakistan.

All Day

In-house meeting with Chinese delegation held, Pak-China relation lauded Posted about 17 days ago | Onepakistannews
Islamabad : The Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) organized an In-House meeting with the Chinese Delegation from Chinese -- The Nations
In-house meeting with Chinese delegation held, Pak-China relation lauded
Posted about 17 days ago | Onepakistannews

Islamabad : The Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) organized an In-House meeting with the Chinese Delegation from Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) on Monday. The Chairman ISSI, Mr. Gul Haneef welcomed the guests and said that we had long standing relations with the Chinese institutes and are very delighted to have CPIFA delegation here and are looking forward to useful and constructive exchange of views enormously from the delegation's wisdom.

Director General ISSI, Mr. Ashraf Jehangir Qazi reiterated the Chairman's warm welcome and said that Pakistan-China relation has passed the test of time in all type of changes that took place around the globe. One of the constant in International Relations is the relation between Pakistan and China and hoped that the deliberations would go a long way in bringing peace and cooperation to this region.

Mr. Lu Shumin, Vice President of CPIFA, provide the brief overview of the Institute and said that the purpose of CPIFA is to engage in the studies of world affairs, international and foreign policy issues and carry out the exchanges with senior officials, noted statement, congress men and senators etc.

He said that CPIFA has carry out people to people contact and played a unique role in bringing wider exchange. He spoke a large about the Pakistan-China relations and believed that Pakistan is the only country with which China enjoys all type of healthy relations.

He also discussed that the new Chinese leadership is very much important and all including Chinese are concerned that where China is heading and said that China is based on the reality of socialism and it is going to promote Sociological, Economical, Political, Cultural and Ecological (newly added) developments. He said that the general task of the new leadership is to promote the Socialist Modernization and is expecting to complete the beauty of modern and prosperous society. Director General ISSI, Mr. Ashraf Jehangir Qazi said that there is a national consensus with respect to image of China as a real friend on all the dimensions. He alleged that despite of all the internal issues and dimensions of our relations with US and India, we always seek to normalize our relations. The event was concluded after an enlightening question and answer session and closing remarks by Director General ISSI, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi.

All Day

Chinese to be taught at school level -- APP

Chinese to be taught at school level

KARACHI – Karachi University will set up Chinese language institute and students of this institute will be able to study free advance course at Sichuan Normal University, China. KU Vice Chancellor, Prof Muhammad Qaiser informed after his return from China. KU VC Qaiser and KU Registrar Mansoor Ahmed made a visit to China to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between KU and Sichuan Normal University, China. According to the MoU, the University will set up a Confucius Institute for Chinese language at the campus and will disseminate the knowledge of this language among students. The MoU signing ceremony was an extension of the agreement signed between the governments of Pakistan and China according to which, Pakistan will make arrangements for teaching of Chinese language at Primary to Higher Secondary level of education in the country. The Sichuan Normal University will award masters degree of Chinese language after the completion of a two year program at its campus. A presentation based on the introduction of University of Karachi was also given which was highly appraised. New horizons of collaborative research in various fields will also be explored by these two Universities.

All Day

Pak-China ties has stood test of time: Qazi Posted on December 11, 2012

F.P. Reporter ISLAMABAD: Director General Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad ambassador Ashraf Jehangir Qazi here Monday, said that Pakistan had long standing relations with Chi -- Frontier Post

Pak-China ties has stood test of time: Qazi

Posted on December 11, 2012

F.P. Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Director General Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad ambassador Ashraf Jehangir Qazi here Monday, said that Pakistan had long standing relations with China and its institutions and is looking forward to useful and constructive exchange of views enormously from the delegation's wisdom.

Jehangir Qazi said this during an in-house meeting with the Chinese delegation from Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) organized by ISSI. He said that Pakistan-China relation has passed the test of time in all types of changes that took place around the globe. Further he said that one of the constants in international relations is the relation between Pakistan and China and hoped that the deliberations would go a long way in bringing peace and cooperation to this region.

Lu Shumin, Vice President of CPIFA, said that the purpose of CPIFA is to engage in the studies of world affairs, international and foreign policy issues and carry out the exchanges with senior officials, noted statesmen, congress men and senators etc. He said that CPIFA has carried out people to people contact and played a unique role in bringing wider exchange. He spoke a large about the Pakistan-China relations and believed that Pakistan is the only country with which China enjoys all types of healthy relations.

He also discussed the new Chinese leadership and said that it is very much important and all Chinese are concerned that where China is heading. He said that China is based on the reality of socialism and it is going to promote sociological, economical, political, cultural and ecological (newly added) developments. He said that the general task of the new leadership is to promote the socialist modernization and is expecting to complete the beauty of modern and prosperous society. He alleged that China will follow the win-win strategy through cooperation. Speaking about the US-China relations he said that China seeks to long term stable relations with US and other global powers.

Ashraf Jehangir Qazi said that there is a national consensus with respect to image of China as a real friend on all the dimensions. He alleged that despite of all the internal issues and dimensions of our relations with US and India, we always seek to normalize our relations. For Pakistan, he said, that what is most important is to concentrate on prioritization for the next generation in terms of growth and development and Pakistan-China should use their bilateral relations for the economic transformation.

All Day

China to continue unconditional support to Pakistan: CPIFA -- Pakistan Today

China to continue unconditional support to Pakistan: CPIFA

LAHORE - A delegation of the China Peoples Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) on Wednesday said that China would continue unconditional support to Pakistan.

The CPIFA, led by its Vice President Lu Shumin said this during its meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

Matters of mutual interest and promotion of bilateral ties were discussed at the meeting. The Chief Minister expressed his best wishes for the success of new Chinese leadership.

The Chief Minister said that China is a trusted and sincere friend of Pakistan who has given all-out support to Pakistan in case of any need like wars, floods, earthquakes and other natural disasters.

He added that the people of Pakistan also whole-heartedly respect the Chinese government and the people. The Pak-China friendship has strengthened with the passage of time and now it has turned into strategic ties.

Shahbaz Sharif said that we want more Chinese cooperation for the promotion of trade and investment, sharing of technology and other fields. He stressed the need for more coordinated efforts in the fields of education and health, and the eradication of poverty. This is not the age of wars, but of economic and trade cooperation. Development and progress could only be achieved by fighting economic war. Pakistan can learn from the experiments of China in the financial development.

Discussing the regional situation, the Chief Minister said extremism and terrorism have badly disturbed economic activities. In the war against terrorism, Pakistan has rendered more sacrifices than any other regional country.

He said the peace in Pakistan, and regional progress and development is linked to peace and stability in Afghanistan.

The Chief Minister said that the unprecedented corruption of the federal rulers has not only damaged Pakistan's image at the international level but national resources are also shrinking. Despite all these odds, the Muslim League-N government in Punjab has taken concrete steps for the welfare and development of the masses. He said that revolutionary steps have been taken in education, health, job generation and other sectors. He said that record development funds have been earmarked to remove sense of deprivation in the people of South Punjab. For the welfare of the people of South Punjab, more funds than any other part of the province in relation to population have been allocated.

He said the Rs. 30 billion metro bus project launched to provide best and comfortable traveling facilities to the people is nearing completion at a fast pace.

He said if the provincial government had launched the underground railway project, it would have cost much more and could have taken five years for completion. He accepted the offer of the Chinese delegation to visit China and promised he would visit Beijing after the forthcoming general elections.

Talking to the Chief Minister, Lu Shumin said China values its relation with Pakistan and wants to enhance its cooperation in various fields. He said China would continue unconditional support to Pakistan. The Chinese delegation presented a new year card and conveyed the message of the best wishes to Pakistan Muslim League-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on behalf of the Chinese leadership.

All Day

Pakistan is a big market for China's top SIMs, Smart card manufacturer -- APP

Pakistan is a big market for China's top SIMs, Smart card manufacturer

ZHUHAI, (China), Dec 14 (AP): One of China's top mobile phone SIMs and Smart cards manufacturers said here Friday that there is a big market and business opportunities available in Pakistan. "Pakistan is good friend of China and we have excellent relations with our neighboring country, I came from Pakistan yesterday and had a good business meetings with the Mobile operators there including Zhong", said Rolph Luo, Sales Manager of the International Department of Eastcompeace Technology while talking to a group of media persons from BRICS and developing countries here.

He pointed out that his company entered into Pakistani market in 2006 and has generated a revenue of US\$ 9 million this year.

Eastcompeace Technology, also provided Smart cards for the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) branches in Pakistan, he noted.

The company specializes in R&D, production and sale of smart cards products, Public Transport Cards, system solutions for telecommunications, payments and ID cards as well as security and related applications.

It has a largest manufacturing base in Zhuhai that was certified by GSMSAS, VISA, MasterCard, China UnionPay, ISO 9001 and 14001 and 27001.

In Zhuhai, the headquarters of the company, it produces one million Smart cards every day.

Zhuhai, popularly known for its bi-annual China international airshow, is one of the growing Special Economic Zones in China that is located in the south of Pearl River.

Established in 1998, it registered as public listed company in Shenzhen in 2004 after which its all round expansion started.

The media team was taken to a number of manufacturing facilities available in the headquarters where a team of 400 engineers were busy in carrying out research and development jobs.

December 20, 2012

Thu

All Day

Pakistan working with China to develop drones: reports (Credit: ABC)

Pakistan working with China to develop drones: reports

Pakistan is now reportedly working with China after failing to convince Washington to share its armed drone technology

All Day

Maritime experts call for development of Gwadar Port -- The News

Maritime experts call for development of Gwadar Port

ISLAMABAD: Policy planners and maritime experts here in the federal capital have sought urgent development and operationalisation of the Gwadar Port in the face of major regional and economic challenges.

"Why is the federal government ignoring the Gwadar Port option?" an expert associated with a major think tank in Islamabad asked. "Is it due to some political considerations or pressure from some political groups? Whatever the case may be, it is time that we made the budding port operational."

The expert reiterated that Gwadar was a strategic project which could not be overlooked because of political concerns or minor threat from some ragtag militia. "Given the motivation, the government can sort out any type of pressure, even strong regional pressures on the port issue."

Deliberating on its importance, the expert said that Gwadar was identified as a site suitable for a port by a team of US Geological Survey in 1954.

On March 20, 2007, former President General Pervez Musharraf had inaugurated the port, which was to become one of the world's largest deep sea ports, along with the Chinese communication minister. Subsequently, however, the government failed to build and connect the port with CARs and Afghanistan and provide land to a Singaporean firm for industrial zone.

The foreign firm failed to invest \$525 million it had promised and the project came to a standstill. Now the port is being used only for transportation of bulk cargo like wheat and urea.

Another expert, a retired official, said that the importance of Karachi or its port, some 290 miles west of the new port, would not be diminished if Gwadar became fully operational.

"We should have made the alternate port functional decades ago after the lessons we learnt from the attack on our Keamari installations in 1971. Therefore, work on the port should not be delayed now."

He emphasized the importance of the Gwadar Port, pointing out that its location near the Strait of Hormuz, home to some 70 percent of world oil reserves, proximity to landlocked Central Asian States and busy shipping lanes gave it an unparalleled significance. He added that an operational port would also provide thousands of job opportunities to local people. ---Waqar Ahmed

All Day

Russia eyes \$ 600 million trade with Pakistan -- Pakistan Today

Russia eyes \$ 600 million trade with Pakistan

KARACHI - Russia plans to increase the volume of bilateral trade with Pakistan to the 2008 level of \$ 600 million, Consul General of Russia Andrey V. Demidov has said. "Still we plan to reach the level of US \$ 600 million by the end of 2012," Demidov told a gathering organized by the Asian Union Forum (AUF) here. Present among others were Patron-in-Chief Justice Said-uz-Zaman Siddiqui, Chairman Waseem Yasin, Secretary General Tariq Shadab and members of the AUF's executive committee. "We were and are prepared to cooperate with Pakistan in different spheres and primarily in commerce and in economy," he said. In the last two decades of the 20th century the cooperation between the two countries remained on a very low level, he recalled. "The bilateral trade volume in 1980 was US \$ 95 million only and in 1990 – 138 mln. These figures were negligible," said the consul general. He said the record high volume of bilateral trade, about \$ 600 million, was reached in 2008.

"But later we experienced the effects of the World financial crises and the volume of trade dropped to the level of US \$ 300 mln in 2009," he said. Demidov said he had already mentioned a very good example of mutually beneficial cooperation that was the Pakistani Steel Mills. The project was inaugurated more than 30 years ago. And it was still operational. The machinery built in the Soviet Union, although old, was still working without any serious technical problem.

Nevertheless, the Pakistani Steel Mills needed to be upgraded, he said. The new machinery was to be supplied and fit in. The production level was to be brought up. "And we are prepared to come and to modernize the project. About four years ago we presented the management of the Steel Mills with a detailed plan of upgrading the production to the level of 3 million tons. This plan is still under consideration by our partners," the consul general said.

In this respect, Demidov stressed his conviction that the follow-up of bilateral cooperation around the Pakistani Steel Mills could move forward the whole complex of our bilateral ties. "We know that Pakistan is experiencing energy deficit. But Russia is the world's biggest energy supplier. Our assistance in the field of energy can be rendered in the form of oil and gas supplies. Our experts assisted the Iranians in bringing the gas pipeline to the Iran-Pakistan border," said the Russian consul general. It had been announced that Russia had a plan to allocate \$ 500 million for the upgrading of the Pakistani Steel Mills, he said.

Special agreements, he said, were underway on construction of a South Asian Electricity Trade and Development Project CASA-1000 and gas pipeline TAPI. Demidov said good prospects for fruitful bilateral cooperation could be found in the fields of railroads and highway construction, energy, coal mining and others.

A very important and a very fruitful sphere of bilateral cooperation was Russian possible participation in building irrigation projects in Pakistan.

"Russia has a very serious experience of using modern machinery in this field. In the past we built a lot of irrigation systems in Central Asia," said he.

Both the parties can cooperate in the field of transport, building roads, railroads, bridges etc, including air transport. On May 5 this year, he recalled, a Russian-made passenger airplane of latest brand "Sukhoi Superjet" performed demonstration flights in the Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, in the presence of officials from the Civil Aviation Authority of Pakistan.

"In our view the biggest prospects for the future development of mankind lie in outer space. Space is an inexhaustible source of energy, raw materials. And of course it is an important source of human knowledge. Russia now is an undoubtedly world leader in space exploration, in manned spaceflights," Demidov said.

The two countries, he said, had already started cooperation in the space. In December 2001, a Russian missile launched into orbit a Pakistani satellite "BADAR-2". In September 2012, the two sides witnessed the second session of Inter-ministerial Russian-Pakistani Commission on trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation held in Islamabad.

"We can cooperate in the field of education that is in training of Pakistani students in Russian universities," he said. Also, according to Demidov, the two countries had an intense political dialogue including regular contacts at the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the so called "Dushanbe Four". "Both sides have regular consultations between foreign ministers," he said.

The consul general said Russia and Pakistan had close approaches to main international issues. "This cooperation should be continued," he said.

"Of course the moving forward closer with Russia is not and should not be the only option for Pakistan. We think that Pakistan should continue its long-time cooperation with the United States. And, undoubtedly we will only support Pakistan in its aspiration to maintain its time-tested all-weather friendship with China. What we want is to complement the existing cooperation with these nations. We wish to add what the listed nations could not and possibly do not want to give to Pakistan," he said.

Russian businesspeople, Demidov said, were listed among quite fortunate ones. "But they are to be encouraged to come and to invest in Pakistan. They are to be invited to invest in Pakistan. In what way invited? Invited to business and investment exhibitions and fairs. Invited to take part in business forums, in talks and negotiations on specific projects," he said.

He said his side was awaiting with keen interest the visit to Pakistan of Russian President Vladimir V. Putin. "I would like to stress that the visit was not cancelled, it was postponed.

PSM to import iron ore from Iran

Chief executive officer of Pakistan Steel Mills is on a visit to Iran to discuss and secure supplies of iron ore from a less expensive and quick source of raw material to boost PS production. The spokesperson of the PS said that the main purpose of the visit is to explore possibilities of securing a continuous supply for the Steel Mills, IRNA News Agency Reported. The mill is experiencing difficulties in importing iron ore from Australia, Canada and Brazil as shipments take 50 to 60 days with a high freight compared to a 10-12-day cost-effective shipment from the neighbouring country. The spokesperson said the PS delegation would meet representatives of five Iranian companies and would also discuss possibility of barter trade, under which PS would supply metallurgical coke in exchange for Iranian ore.

December 26, 2012

Wed

All Day

ADB approves loan for Pakistan power network -- Dawn/Asia News Network

ADB approves loan for Pakistan power network

December 26, 2012, 2:12 pm TWN

ISLAMABAD -- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) yesterday announced approval of a loan worth US\$245 million for eight power distribution companies to improve power distribution system in Pakistan.

The investment is part of the ongoing US\$810 million Power Distribution Enhancement Investment Program agreed in 2008. The multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) targets investment in priority areas to reduce power losses and increase the reliability of the power distribution system.

Through this facility, ADB has already provided financial assistance for up-gradation work at 250 grid stations of 66KV and 132KV across Pakistan, out of which work relating to 125 grid stations has already been completed.

The loan will help increase distribution capacity of 106 grid stations including construction of 14 new grid stations.

"The energy sector in Pakistan is suffering due to shortages in generation and system bottlenecks at distribution and transmission level. ADB has made available four MFFs amounting to US\$2.9 billion to address these system constraints, and will continue to assist Pakistan in the energy sector," said Werner E. Liepach, country director of ADB in Pakistan.

The project will help all the eight power distribution companies improve reliability and quality of power supply to customers.

The eight power distribution companies are: Fesco, Gepco, Hesco, Iesco, Lesco, Mepco, Pesco and Qesco. The outcome will be removal of power system bottlenecks through distribution system rehabilitation, augmentation, and expansion.

December 27, 2012

Thu

All Day

**IAEA team may come on Pak-China atomic plant inspection: FM --
Dunya TV**

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team could visit the country to examine the Pak-China atomic plant. Talking to media in Multan on Thursday, the FM said that Pakistan is signing deal to meet the energy crisis facing the country. He said that a nuclear deal has been signed with China, and added that the latter is playing a crucial role in Pakistans economic uplift. He said 'to understand politics, it is important to understand the economy' . The FM told the reporters that currently China is working on 120 projects in Pakistan besides extending help to upgrade the railway sector.

December 30, 2012

Sun

All Day

Chinese scholars propose to boost Pakistan, China economic, trade ties -- Beijing,

Chinese scholars propose to boost Pakistan, China economic, trade ties

Beijing, Dec 30: A group of Chinese scholars have reviewed Pakistan China relations at a seminar held in Beijing and proposed the way to take this friendship to new heights in future by expanding trade and bussiness links between the two countries.

They stressed there is a dire need to make efforts to expand economic and trade relations between the two countries.

On the occasion, addressing the seminar Pakistan's Acting Ambassador Zahoor Ahmed highly appreciated China's investment in Pakistan.

He said that Chinese enterprises, especially those working in energy sector were making huge investment in the country to overcome the power shortage.

All Day

Pakistan, China sign contract to manufacture a new version Al-Khalid-I tank -- THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Pakistan, China sign contract to manufacture a new version Al-Khalid-I tank

ISLAMABAD: State-run companies of Pakistan and China today signed a contract for manufacturing the Al-Khalid-I tank, the latest version of the combat vehicle jointly developed by the two countries.

The Al-Khalid tank was developed in the 1990s and introduced in 2001.

The new version has improved capability and systems, an official statement said.

The contract for making the new tanks was signed by Pakistan's Heavy Industries Taxila and China's NORINCO at the Ministry of Defence Production.

The joint marketing of the Al-Khalid tank with China would open up potential markets, the statement said

Pakistan, China sign contract for manufacturing Al-Khalid-I tank - The Economic Times

Source: <http://www.defence.pk/forums/pakistan-army/227278-pakistan-china-sign-contract-manufacture-new-version-al-khalid-i-tank.html#ixzz2J6UAzZF2>

All Day

Pakistan-China sign agreement for manufacturing of Al-Khalid-I tanks -- RADIO PAKISTAN

Pakistan-China sign agreement for manufacturing of Al-Khalid-I tanks

The contract was signed by the representatives of a Chinese and Pakistani companies at a ceremony in Rawalpindi

Pakistan and China have signed a contract for manufacturing of Al-Khalid-I tanks.

The contract was signed by the representatives of a Chinese and Pakistani companies at a ceremony in Rawalpindi.

Earlier, a delegation of the Chinese company met senior officials of the Ministry of Defence Production and discussed bilateral cooperation in the defence sector.

The title "Gwadar's largest commercial scheme" Al-Noor cargo city holds this distinct. Al-Noor cargo city is also known as Gwadar's first strategic commercial scheme. Al-Noor cargo city is situated in the mid of Gwadar airport and Gwadar sea port. It has one-kilometer wide front on the 205ft wide main Baluchistan Broadway and 150ft wide Existing coastal highway.

Al-Noor Cargo City gives an eye-catching stance to both local and international investors due to its strategic location. In addition, just 1500 yards distance to Deep Sea East Bay gives another edge to Al-Noor Cargo City.



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GWADAR NEWSBOOK 2013

January 7, 2013

Mon

All Day

Gwadar port vital for economy -- DAWN NEWS

Gwadar port vital for economy

From the Newspaper | 7th January, 2013 5

THIS refers to completion of Gwadar deep sea project that has immense strategic and socio-economic value. It is sad that such a high value project is a victim of government's negligence as the completed part of port project has enabled it to be used only for transportation of bulk cargo like wheat and urea.

The construction of Gwadar port was embarked upon by the government with Chinese assistance in March 2002. Its first phase was completed in December 2006 at a cost of \$248 million.

However the port, which was to become one of the world's largest deep sea ports, came to a standstill due to traditionally lethargic and unprofessional approach of ministry concerned and associates.

Sadly, like PIA, railways, power and energy sector, Steel Mills, the port project is yet another victim of apathy of the government.

It is high time development is started at the Gwadar port in the face of major regional and economic challenges. The port, once fully operational would serve as hub of trade and economic activities in the whole region enabling high volume cargo movement to and from the landlocked Central Asian states, up lift of the impoverished people of Balochistan by providing thousands of employment opportunities.

It will also serve as an alternative deep water port as it is situated 470km away from Karachi making it less vulnerable to the Indian naval blockade. So in the best national interest, there is a need that the government should adopt corrective measures and appoint sincere leadership which could amicably resolve the extraneous issues (including any political considerations or pressure from any political groups) standing in the way of this project of unparalleled significance.

SHAMSA ASHFAQ

Islamabad

All Day

Lecture on Chinese New Leadership And Future of Pak-China Relations -- APP

Lecture on Chinese New Leadership And Future of Pak-China Relations

January 8, 2013 at 9:48 AM

The Department of International Relations, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur organized a lecture on Chinese New Leadership And Future Of Pak-China Relations. The lecture was delivered by Prof Zhou Rong, Chief of Gaung Ming Daily South Asia Bureau. At the outset of the lecture Prof Dr. Abdul Majeed Chandio Chairman Department of International Relations cordially welcomed the guest speaker. Dr. Chandio said that Pak-China relations are cordial and dispute free. China is the most developed country who's economic growth is 25%. Pak-China relations are time tested and proved helpful during the day of trial. Prof. Zhou Rong said in his lecture that China-Pakistan Relations began in 1950 when Pakistan was among the first countries to break relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan and recognize the Peoples Republic of China (PRC). Relations between Pakistan and China are very brotherly. Following the 1962 Sino-Indian War, both countries have placed considerable importance on the maintenance of an extremely close and supportive relationship. Since then, the two countries have regularly exchanged high-level visits resulting in a variety of agreements. The PRC has provided economic, military and technical assistance to Pakistan and each considers the other a close strategic ally. China is reliable friend first than Russia. Prof. Rong relieved that with the help of Pakistan the relations with USA remained normal and Pakistan deserves the respect. He said that Pak-China relations are strongest like wise the relations between Israel and USA and the relations between two countries (Pak-China) are tension free. Late. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was the pioneer of Pak-China relations on the principal of bilateralism. The other leaders also played a pivotal role in the maintenance of friendly relationship like wise Mr. Mohammad Khan Junejo, Mr. Nawaz Shareef and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. He said that in future relations China sees Pakistan as strong and viable country. The priority of China is to support Pakistan in energy sector and to control on load shedding problem. The Chinese language courses are being conducted in Pakistan. He promised that efforts will be made for establishing the Centre of Chinese Language Course in the Department of International Relations and China and Pakistan trying to remove misconceptions about rise of militancy in the Sinkiyang province of China. Prof Dr. Syed Ahmed Hussain Shah Dean Faculty of Social Sciences & Arts delivered the presidential speech and said that with the efforts of China the regional balance had been maintained and Indian hegemony had been minimized. The Pak-China relations are based on mutual guarantee and assurance against war and aggression. Prof Dr. Lutufullah Mangi Director Shikarpur Campus, Prof Dr. Amir Ahmed Khuhro, Mr. Imdad Chandio, Mr. Liaquat Ali Chandio, Mr. Sarfaraz Korejo, Mr. Ishrat Ali Mirani and large number of Teachers and Students attended the Lecture program. The lecture was followed by questions answers sessions. The students and participants participated in question answer session with enthusiasm.

All Day

Gwadar Port: An opportunity in waiting! -- FRONTIER POST

Gwadar Port: An opportunity in waiting!

Zia Siddiqui

Our visionary founding leaders saw through an opportunity of great benefits in this small Omani town of Gwadar as early as 1954. For the purpose, newly born state of Pakistan purchased this small fishing town, which was geographically contiguous anyway, for a partly \$3 million in 1958.

This small coastal town located on the mouth of the strategic Persian Gulf was seen as a major trading and energy hub on the warm waters of the Arabian Sea. For Pakistan, it was to be an alternate to Karachi Port which was located some 460 Km to its south east, and for landlocked Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics (CARs), the nearest to warm waters of the Arabian Sea for trade and energy supplies. In fact, the centuries old Great Game of the Russian Empire envisaged its landings to the warm waters of Arabian Sea around the same areas. However, the dream of our founding leaders of making Gwadar, a truly regional hub was kept pending until the turn of the new millennium; "for strategic reasons."

In any case, the construction of Phase-I of Gwadar Deep Sea Port commenced on 22 March 2002, at a cost of some \$248 million by the Chinese firm. President Musharraf takes the credit of finally launching the project of Gwadar Deep Sea Port and predicted it to be a beginning of an era of economic progress for Pakistan as well as the coastal belt of Balochistan.

He then inaugurated the Gwadar Port on 20 March, 2007. The completion of the Phase-I of Gwadar Port meant that the Bulk carries of 30,000 deadweight tonnage (DWT) and container vessels of 25,000 DWT could be berthed and do business on the port. Musharraf government saw the completion of Phase-I of Gwadar port as an opportunity to boast its valued strategic location to engage any renowned international port operators.

Finally, the contract of Gwadar Port operations was awarded to the Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) on 1 February, 2007. According to the terms of contract, the PSA was to invest some \$550 million over the next 5-10 years, however, the dream to see Gwadar Port as the regional energy and trade hub remains unfulfilled till to-date.

The construction of Phase-II started in 2007 at a cost of \$932 million with an aim of establishing a Bulk Cargo Terminal with the capacity of 100,000 DWT, a Grain Terminal and two oil terminals. The work continued at snails pace while the government contemplates withdrawing the port from PSA's control due to its failure to operationalize the port with promised investment. Reportedly, PSA has agreed to hand over the ports administration after the Government of Pakistan terminated its contract on technical grounds as well as for violation of contractual obligations.

Pakistan now plans to hand over the Gwadar Port operations to Chinese firms so that its development and functioning could be expedited. There is no denying that till to-date, Gwadar Port has not been able to make any significant contribution in Balochistan or Pakistan's economy, in spite of its invaluable strategic location and immense potential of being a gateway for trade and energy corridor for China, Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics (CARs).

I believe, only we are to blame ourselves for the painstaking lethargy and complacency that nearly all the stakeholders have shown towards the development of Gwadar Port. Allah Almighty has blessed Pakistan with this golden port named Gwadar and we, unfortunately have miserably failed to exploit its true potential. The delayed development of the Gwadar Port is denying the people of the area of employment opportunities and related economic benefits.

I would sincerely urge upon all stakeholders including Ministry of Ports and Shipping, Gwadar Port Authority, the provincial Government of Balochistan to shun their differences and work together to remove the impediments related to land issues, and control of administration and authority.

This would certainly help realize the dream of our founding leader by making Gwadar Port, a truly trade and energy hub of the region, bringing peace, progress and prosperity for the people of Pakistan in general and people of Makran and Balochistan in particular.

All Day

Pak-China friendship to further deepen in coming years: Masood Khalid -- APP

Pak-China friendship to further deepen in coming years: Masood Khalid

Friday, 18 January 2013 20:43 Posted by Shoaib-ur-Rehman Siddiqui

BEIJING: Pakistan's Ambassador to China Masood Khalid said here on Friday, that all-weather, time-tested friendship and strategic partnership between the two countries will further deepen in coming years.

We have strong cooperative relations in all dimensions spread over the past sixty years, and it is now up to the youths of both the countries to carry forward this torch of friendship to new heights, said Ambassador Khalid while addressing a large group of students from the China Foreign Affairs University.

The reception was arranged at the Pakistan Embassy to celebrate the Chinese Spring Festival taking place on February 10.

The Ambassador, who arrived in Beijing two weeks ago, to assume his new responsibilities, said he is delighted to meet and welcome the Chinese students at the Pakistan Embassy.

While addressing the students he said "You belong to one of the prestigious higher learning institutions and you are the future of your country to shoulder important responsibilities as country's diplomats."

"Youths are the real asset of both the countries," he said, adding the young generation of both the sides has the responsibility to carry forward the legacy of our friendship.

"In this evergreen and unique relationship we have seen many highs but no lows," he said adding that our most lasting bond is based on the mutual trust that we have between our two countries.

Referring to the performances from the university students and Pakistani diplomats who presented songs, music and skits to mark the occasion, Ambassador Khalid expressed his delight and said he was exceptionally impressed with the Chinese girl who sang popular Pakistani song -- Jeevay jeevay Pakistan.

During the Q&A session, Ambassador Khalid said that people of Pakistan are learning Chinese language with keen interest and there are number of educational institutions including private schools offering the Chinese language courses.

The Confucius institutes, he said, are also a big source for the Pakistanis to learn Chinese language and understand the country's culture. Earlier, Vice-President of Current Affairs Students Association, Ms. Huang Hu thanked the Ambassador for inviting the students to share joy in celebrating the Chinese Spring Festival.

Highlighting the history of the University, she said that it was established in 1955. She mentioned that a number of diplomats from various countries including Pakistan are getting training in this higher learning institution that is affiliated with the Foreign Ministry of China.

Later, the guests were served with Pakistani foods.

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All Day

PSQCA to open office in Gwadar -- APP

PSQCA to open office in Gwadar

KARACHI: Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) would open office in Gwadar, said Mir Changez Khan Jamali, federal minister for science and technology.

Chairing the seventh meeting of the board of directors of PSQCA, he said, there is a dire need to promote quantity standards in the country.

PSQCA director general proposed amendments and inclusion of new clauses in the PSQCA Act-VI of 1996, which were accepted by the board of directors.

The minister said that there must be only one national authority to check quality control, ie, PSQCA. He also said that after approval by the federal cabinet, the capital punishment will be enhanced from Rs50,000 to Rs200,000 and be punishable with imprisonment of either description for terms, which may extend to one year or with both for the manufacturers of counterfeit and unregistered products.

He categorically rejected any compromise on quality control issue in the country, adding that special attention has been given in reference to the improvement for the industrial standardisation.

All Day

SABIC urea import through Gwadar: First shipment to arrive later this month -- THE NEWS

SABIC urea import through Gwadar: First shipment to arrive later this month

KARACHI: Urea import from Saudi Arabia Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) against \$100 million credit facility will be made through Gwadar port and the first shipment will reach Pakistan in the last week of January this year.

Sources told Business Recorder on Friday that a commercial agreement had already been signed between Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) and SABIC for the import of over 200,000 tons of urea against \$100 million credit facility being provided by the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD).

After signing the commercial agreement, SABIC also provided a tentative schedule for the supply of the commodity. As per the schedule, the full quantity of urea will be supplied during the calendar year 2013. According to SABIC, out of the total supply, some 115,000 tons of urea will be supplied during first quarter (Jan-March) of 2013.

Sources said that SABIC authorities had also confirmed first urea shipment would reach Pakistan by the end of this month. "A vessel namely M/s Poavosa Wisdon-VI has been nominated by SABIC. This will load urea from Al-Jubail port of Saudi Arabia on January 27-30, 2013 and accordingly will reach Pakistan on January 31 or February 1, 2013.

The consignment will be offloaded at Gwadar port, as the federal government has already asked TCP that the import under SABIC agreement should be made through Gwadar port, they added.

Sources said that M/s Poavosa Wisdon-VI will carry some 25,000-30,000 tons of urea as first shipment under credit facility. While the second consignment of some 40,000 tons of urea is likely to arrive in February and the third consignment of 45,000 tons of urea in mid March 2013.

After arrival of urea shipments, the distribution, transportation and bagging of commodity would be handled by M/s. National Fertilizer Marketing Limited (NFML) to ensure timely availability of the commodity in the domestic market, they informed. "Current import will be sufficient for the ongoing crop season and there will be no need to importer further during CY13, if regular gas supply restore to the fertilizer sector," they added.

They said that despite the fact that Pakistan's fertilizer industry have urea production capacity of over 6.5 million ton annually as against domestic demand of 6 million tons, the local market is witnessing urea shortage from last two years as fertilizer plants are unable to produce urea due to gas curtailment. Therefore, with an aim to avoid urea shortage, Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet has decided to import urea through open tenders and as well as from SABIC under credit facility.

It may be mentioned here that from the last three years SABIC is providing urea under SFD credit facility and during the last calendar year 2012 some 223,597 tons of urea was supplied by SABIC under SFD credit facility.

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All Day

Pak-China agrees to cultivate medicinal and aromatic plants -- By Business Recorder

Pak-China agrees to cultivate medicinal and aromatic plants

By Business Recorder - Pakistan | Published January 20, 2013

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China has agreed to undertake experimental cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants in appropriate ecological zones in order to get qualitative and quantitative improvement. It would help improve the quality of herbs by genetic and plant breeding methods. In this regard, Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Chinese Academy of Sciences to help Medicinal Botanic Centre, PCSIR Peshawar to acquire the status of a World Health Organization (WHO) recognized Centre for Herbal Medicine. The aims and objectives of centre are to carry out botanical and chemical survey of medicinal plants for various uses, studies on the isolation techniques in order to develop better methods of isolation and indigenous technology. According to official sources, main aim of this center is to set up quality control standards in order to standardize the indigenous herbal pharmaceutical industry, to develop new processes and products based on indigenous raw materials. Plan is to introduce new plants Stevia sp, to undertake any development and promotion on medicinal and aromatic plants, official said. Official said technical training, capacity building and exchange of expert visits component is facing financial constraint.

All Day

Pakistan approves transfer of Gwadar port to China -- APP

Pakistan approves transfer of Gwadar port to China

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan government on Wednesday approved the transfer of the management of the strategic Gwadar deep sea port from Singapore to China, a move that could raise concerns in India.

A meeting of the cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf gave its permission for transferring the concession agreement for Gwadar from the Port of Singapore Authority to China Overseas Port Holdings Limited, information minister Qamar Zaman Kaira said.

The Chinese developer had played a key role in the construction of the facility in the Arabian Sea.

"The cabinet today gave approval to transfer the operation of Gwadar port from Port of Singapore to China Overseas Port Holdings Limited," Kaira told a news conference.

"Both the companies have settled their deal," he said, without giving a timetable for the transfer.

He said the concession agreement and related government notification would be amended accordingly.

China provided about 75 per cent of the initial funding of USD 250 million for building the strategic port in the southwestern province of Baluchistan.

It is currently being operated by Singapore's PSA International but needs further development to become fully operational. Kaira said PSA International could not develop or operate Gwadar "as desired".

The Chinese will make "more investment" to make the port operational, he said.

Kaira hoped the port would soon contribute to Pakistan's economy under the new management.

Earlier this month, PSA International had indicated that it would withdraw from its contract to manage and develop Gwadar port for a period of 40 years.

China, which is Pakistan's closest ally, had for long been a front-runner for taking

over the port.

China recently said it would construct another 20 berths at Gwadar if it was given the rights to operate the port.

Beijing has been working to develop a string of harbours in the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea, a region traditionally considered an Indian backyard.

China has funded ports in Sri Lanka and has been approached to help build a port in Bangladesh.

Pakistan's former defence minister Chaudhry Ahmad Mukhtar had said in 2011 that Islamabad would be "grateful" to the Chinese government if naval base was built at Gwadar.

All Day

افغانستان کے مستقبل سے متعلق پاکستان ، افغانستان اور برطانیہ کی عسکری و سیاسی

Nawa-e-waqat -- قیادت کی لندن میں اہم ملاقات

افغانستان کے مستقبل سے متعلق پاکستان ، افغانستان اور برطانیہ کی عسکری و سیاسی قیادت کی لندن میں اہم ملاقات متوقع

(16:23) جنوری 25 2013

اسلام آباد(مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) افغانستان کے مستقبل سے متعلق پاکستان ، افغانستان اور برطانیہ کی عسکری و سول قیادت لندن میں خصوصی ملاقات کرے گی جس میں افغانستان اور خطے کی سیکورٹی سے متعلق اہم فیصلوں کا امکان ہے۔ نجی چینل کے مطابق تین فروری کو لندن میں ہونیوالی ملاقات میں پاکستان ، افغانستان اور برطانیہ کے فوجی اور خفیہ اداروں کے سربراہان ملاقات کریں گے جس میں پاکستان کی طرف سے چیف آف آرمی سٹاف جنرل اشفاق پرویز کیانی اور لیفٹیننٹ جنرل ظہیر الاسلام شرکت کریں گے۔ ملاقات میں پاکستان کی طرف سے افغانستان کے مستقبل کے روڈ میپ سے متعلق سٹریٹجی پیپر پیش کیا جائے گا جس پر اہم فیصلوں کا امکان ہے۔ ڈان نیوز کے مطابق عسکری سربراہان کی ملاقات کے ایک دن بعد چیکورز میں پاکستان کے صدر آصف علی زرداری، افغان صدر حامد کرزئی اور برطانیہ کے وزیر اعظم ملاقات کریں گے۔

All Day

Pak-China bilateral trade crosses \$12 billion mark for first time -- APP
Pak-China bilateral trade crosses \$12 billion mark for first time

Monday, 28 January 2013 19:25 Posted by Shoaib-ur-Rehman Siddiqui

BEIJING: The overall bilateral trade of Pakistan and China last year crossed the figure of US\$ 12 billion for the first time, according to the latest data released by the China Customs.

This puts us firmly on track to achieve the target of US\$ 15 billion in the next two to three years, said Pakistan Ambassador to China Masood Khalid.

He said the leadership of the two countries has paid special attention to augmenting and cementing trade relations between our two countries and bring them at par with strategic partnership and political relations.

The data shows that Pakistan-China trade increased by 17.6pc to a total of US\$ 12.4 billion in 2012. In a welcome development, Pakistan's exports to China increased by 48.2pc to US\$ 3.14 billion.

Imports from China increased by 9.9pc to US\$ 9.2 billion. The two way trade in 2011 was US\$ 10.6 billion.

The biggest increase in Pakistan exports to China in 2012 has been in textiles and textile articles, vegetable products, ores and mineral products, leather goods and base metals.

Similarly, major imports from China include machinery and mechanical appliances, textiles and textile products, metals, chemical products, mineral ores, plastic scrap and transport equipment. Ambassador Masood Khalid praised the role played by the Ministry of Commerce, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and the Pakistan Federation of Chambers and Commerce in boosting the trade between the two countries.

Pakistan also actively participated in a number of fairs/EXPOs last year such as the Eurasia Expo, Canton Fair and Kunming Fair.

This provided exhibitors from Pakistan to display products and helped boost the exports. Pakistan traders have been especially focusing on textiles, leather, sports goods, precious stones and handicrafts.

The Ambassador said we hope to build on this momentum and further increase our trade in future.

More trade delegations from Pakistan would be encouraged to visit China and participate in the fairs and EXPOs, said the Ambassador.

We have an excellent and broad economic architecture in place between our two countries, Ambassador Masood Khalid said.

In order to exploit it to the full, it is vital to diversify export basket, introduce value addition and provide better quality of goods and services, he added.

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All Day

Gwadar port transfer to China approved -- The News

Gwadar port transfer to China approved

ISLAMABAD: Federal Cabinet on Wednesday approved a deal transferring from Singapore to China the management of the strategically located deep-sea Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea.

China provided about 75 percent of the initial \$250 million in funding for the construction of the port in Pakistan's southwestern province of Balochistan.

It is currently being operated by Singapore's PSA International, but needs further development work to become fully operational.

According to PSA's Gwadar website, there has been no ship in the port since November.

"The cabinet today gave approval to transfer Gwadar port operations from Port of Singapore to Chinese Overseas Port Holdings Limited," Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira told reporters.

"Both the companies have settled their deal," he said, without giving a timetable for the transfer.

Kaira said that Singapore's PSA International could not develop or operate Gwadar "as desired" and said he hoped that under new management the port would soon contribute to Pakistan's flagging economy.

"The Chinese will make more investment to make the project operational," Kaira said.

China, one of Pakistan's closest allies and its main arms supplier, has also funded ports in Sri Lanka and has been approached to help build a port in Bangladesh.

Pakistan's former defence minister Ahmad Mukhtar said in May 2011 that China had agreed to take over port operations at Gwadar.

He also said Islamabad would be "more grateful to the Chinese government if a naval base was being constructed at the site of Gwadar for Pakistan". At the time, China's foreign ministry said it was unaware of any such request.

All Day

Gwadar port transfer to China approved -- Pak Observer

Gwadar port transfer to China approved

Thursday, January 31, 2013 - Islamabad—Cabinet on Wednesday approved a deal transferring from Singapore to China the management of the deep-sea Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea.

China provided about 75 per cent of the initial \$250 million in funding for the construction of the port in Balochistan.

It is currently being operated by Singapore's PSA International, but needs further development work to become fully operational. According to PSA's Gwadar website, there has been no ship in the port since November.

"The cabinet Wednesday gave approval to transfer Gwadar port operations from Port of Singapore to Chinese Overseas Port Holdings Limited," Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira told reporters.

"Both the companies have settled their deal," he said, without giving a timetable for the transfer.

Kaira said that Singapore's PSA International could not develop or operate Gwadar

“as desired” and said he hoped that under new management the port would soon contribute to Pakistan’s flagging economy.

“The Chinese will make more investment to make the project operational,” Kaira said.

The minister said that work on the construction of the Pakistani side of the pipeline will be undertaken soon at a cost of one point five billion dollars.

He said that work is continuing on the proposed Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project.

Qamar Zaman Kaira said that the cabinet also gave approval to Strategic Trade Policy whose details will be announced tomorrow (Thursday). He said that the cabinet was informed that during July-December 2012, inflation remained seven point nine, which is the lowest in recent history of the country.

Information Minister said that the cabinet decided to empower the office of Ombudsman to institutionalize the process of accountability and provide speedy justice to the people.

He said that the cabinet decided to give administrative and financial autonomy to the office of Ombudsman.

He said that previously eleven different departments were carrying out accountability while now all these departments have been streamlined under the office of the Ombudsman. He said that departments will be bound to provide relevant information to the office of the Ombudsman within fifteen days failing which disciplinary action will be taken against them.

The Minister said that the office of the Ombudsman will decide appeals within forty-five days and it will also be authorised to review its decisions.

He said that appeal against the Ombudsman’s decisions can only be made to the President within one hundred and twenty days. Qamar Zaman Kaira said that the tenure of the office of the ombudsman will be four years and the method for his removal will be the same as that of the judges of senior judiciary.

Qamar Zamnan Kaira said that Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf appreciated performance of the present assemblies and said that there is no precedence of what these assemblies have done.

He said that the assemblies have provided a basis for handling any threat to the system.

Answering a question, the Information Minister said that Pakistani exports have double due to the effective steps of the present government. He said that the present government has also increased salaries of government employees upto one hundred and fifty percent.

To another question, Qamar Zamnan Kaira said that democratization process has stepped up and credit for this goes to the democratic forces. The cabinet approved to start talks with Tunisia to establish sister cities relations between Islamabad and Tunis besides signing of MoU with South Korea for cooperation in environmental protection. The cabinet also approved starting talks with Philippines for defence cooperation.

All Day

Cabinet hands over Gwadar Port to China -- Daily Times

Cabinet hands over Gwadar Port to China

By Sajid Chaudhry

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Wednesday approved a deal transferring control of Gwadar Port from Singapore to China.

Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira told newsmen that Singapore's Port Singapore Authority (PSA) International could not develop the Gwadar Port, and expressed the hope that after its transfer to China it would better contribute to Pakistan's deteriorating economy. Singapore's PSA International began running the port five years ago under a contract valid for up to 40 years, but has decided to withdraw from it.

According to detailed reports, the government of Pakistan reached a decision to hand over the Gwadar Port to China when the PSA decided to leave it due to non-handing over of allocated land required by the Authority for making the port fully operational. However, Kaira said that the PSA International could not operate Gwadar port, therefore the government had to transfer it from Singapore to China.

"The Chinese will make more investments to make the project operational," Kaira said, adding that the "cabinet has approved transferring port from PSA to a Chinese company, whereas PSA have decided to leave the port at Gwadar". The minister said that both the companies have settled their deal, but did not give a timetable for the transfer. Gwadar Port, for which China provided about 75 percent of the initial \$250 million, is close to the Pakistan-Iran border and the Strait of Hormuz.

The cabinet also approved government-to-government cooperation agreement with Iran on engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) work along with financing for the Pakistan segment of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline. A committee consisting of ministers for finance, law and justice, petroleum and national resources and State Bank of Pakistan governor was formed to further analyse the project.

The committee would explore possibilities to arrange funding for the project. The information minister said that the cabinet considered, discussed and accorded approval to the Strategic Trade Policy Framework 2012-15 (STPF-2012-15) and the Commerce Ministry would hold a briefing on Thursday (today) about the various aspects of the policy.

The cabinet also approved Ombudsman Institutional Reforms Bill 2013 subject to vetting by the Ministry of Law to provide speedy justice to the people. The law will now be placed before parliament for approval. The tenure of the office of federal ombudsmen would be four years, and all the public sector organisations would be bound to reply to it within fifteen days.

The cabinet granted approval, in principle, to start negotiations on an MoU to establish sister cities relationship between Tunis and Islamabad. It also okayed signing of an MoU on cooperation for environmental protection with the government of Republic of Korea. Negotiations for an MoU between the governments of Philippines and Pakistan for Defence cooperation were also approved. The cabinet sanctioned signing of negotiated draft visa abolition agreement between the governments of Pakistan and Jordan for the holders of diplomatic and official passports. It also accorded its approval, in principle, to start negotiations for visa abolition agreement between the governments of Pakistan and Tanzania for the holders of diplomatic and official passports.

All Day

Gwadar Port to be handed over to China Overseas Holding Ltd -- APP

Gwadar Port to be handed over to China Overseas Holding Ltd

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Qamar Zaman Kaira said that the Federal Cabinet has approved to hand over Gwadar Deep Sea Port to China Overseas Holdings Limited (COHL).

He said this during media briefing after cabinet meeting on Wednesday, the information minister said that earlier the port was handed over to a Singapore company, which could not operationalize it effectively.

He said that previously the contract had been awarded to Singapore Port Authority but there were proposals to change the company.

Kaira said that now the Singaporean company will share the task of operationalizing the port with China Overseas Port Holding Limited and transfer the responsibility to it.

Information Minister has said that the federal cabinet has given final approval to Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline Project as four-member committee has been constituted under Finance Minister to monitor work on the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline project.

The minister said that work on the construction of the Pakistani side of the pipeline will be undertaken soon at a cost of one point five billion dollars. He said that work is continuing on the proposed Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project.

Qamar Zaman Kaira said that the cabinet also gave approval to Strategic Trade Policy whose details will be announced tomorrow (Thursday).

He said that the cabinet was informed that during July-December 2012, inflation remained 7.9, which is the lowest in recent history of the country.

Information Minister said that the cabinet decided to empower the office of Ombudsman to institutionalize the process of accountability and provide speedy justice to the people.

He said that the cabinet decided to give administrative and financial autonomy to the office of Ombudsman.

He said that previously eleven different departments were carrying out accountability while now all these departments have been streamlined under the office of the Ombudsman.

He said that departments will be bound to provide relevant information to the office of the Ombudsman within fifteen days failing which disciplinary action will be taken against them.

The Minister said that the office of the Ombudsman will decide appeals within forty-five days and it will also be authorized to review its decisions. He said that appeal against the Ombudsman's decisions can only be made to the President within one hundred and twenty days.

Qamar Zaman Kaira said that the tenure of the office of the ombudsman will be four years and the method for his removal will be the same as that of the judges of senior judiciary.

He said that Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf appreciated performance of the present assemblies and said that there is no precedence of what these assemblies have done.

The assemblies have provided a basis for handling any threat to the system, he added.

All Day

Pakistan hands strategic Gwadar port's operation to China --

NationalTurk Pakistan News

Pakistan hands strategic Gwadar port's operation to China

31 January, 2013 | 11:53

In a major decision Pakistan, key ally of US, has handed over operations of country's key and strategic Gwadar port on Arabian sea to China.

Islamabad, Jan 31/NationalTurk – In what may be not a good news for United States, Pakistan, its key ally, has handed over operations of country's key and strategic Gwadar port on Arabian sea to its trusted friend and ally China.

"The cabinet gave approval to transfer of Gwadar port operations from Singapore's Port of Singapore International to Chinese Overseas Port Holdings Limited," Pakistan's Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira told reporters.

Referring to Singapore's company, he said Port of Singapore International could not develop or operate Gwadar as was desired.

He said the decision was taken to meet country's soaring energy requirements. "Both the companies have settled their deal," he said.

He, however, did not give any specific date by which the port will be handed over to China.

Gwadar port is strategically very important

Gwadar port lies in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province and is strategically very important. China provided about 75% of initial \$250 million in funding to Pakistan for construction of the port.

Kaira said Pakistan hopes that under the new management, the strategically located deep-sea port would soon contribute to country's flagging economy. "The Chinese will make more investment to make the project operational," he added.

Gwadar Port is located at the apex of the Arabian Sea and at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, approximately 460 km (290 mi) west of Karachi, 75 km (47 mi) east of Pakistan's border with Iran and 380 km (240 mi) km northeast of the nearest point in Oman across the Arabian Sea. It is situated on the eastern bay of a natural hammerhead-shaped peninsula protruding into the Arabian Sea from the coastline.

Gwadar Port is situated near the strategic Strait of Hormuz and its busy trading and oil shipping lanes. The surrounding region is home to around two-thirds of the world's oil reserves. It is also the nearest warm-water seaport to the landlocked, but energy rich, Central Asian Republics and landlocked Afghanistan.

Faiz Ahmad / NationalTurk Pakistan News

All Day

Pakistan to transfer Gwadar Port to China -- Business Recorder

Pakistan to transfer Gwadar Port to China

Thursday, 31 January 2013 18:01 Posted by Fakir Syed Iqtidaruddin

KARACHI: Pakistan will transfer the strategically located deep-sea Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea to China, the media reported on Thursday.

Primary funding has been provided by China with \$250 million for construction of the port in the province of Balochistan.

The port, currently being operated by Singapore's PSA International, is in need of dire developmental work to become fully operational.

In May 2011, former defence minister Ahmad Mukhtar said that China had agreed to take over port operations at Gwadar.

He also said Islamabad wants China to construct a naval base in Gwadar for Pakistan.

However, China said it was unaware of any such request.

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All Day

Pakistan to transfer port of Gwadar's management to China -- China Daily

Pakistan to transfer port of Gwadar's management to China

Pakistan will transfer the management of the strategically located Gwadar port from Singapore to China.

Analysts said the move aims to give a badly needed boost to bilateral trade and regional development and does not target any country.

Because Singapore's PSA International has not developed the deep-sea port on the Arabian Sea "as desired", Pakistan's Cabinet agreed to transfer the port's management to Chinese Overseas Port Holdings Ltd, Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira told reporters in Islamabad on Wednesday.

"We hope that the Chinese company will invest to make the port operations help Pakistan support its economy," said the minister, adding that both companies have finalized the deal and that the transfer will happen soon.

Beijing on Thursday underlined its support to the development of the neighboring country, saying that Chinese companies have been engaging in international programs in many sectors.

"China will actively support any program that benefits China-Pakistan relations and the prosperity of Pakistan," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said at a regular news conference.

China provided about 75 percent of the initial \$250 million in funding for the construction of the port in Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan, a province dogged by security problems.

The port is close to the Pakistan-Iran border and the Strait of Hormuz. About 60 percent of China's energy requirements are shipped through the strait.

Wang Weihua, a researcher on South Asia at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, said the Gwadar project as a port, and not as a naval base, may provide supplies for Chinese merchant ships and escort vessels, as well as serving China's energy interests in the Middle East.

He said that the transfer of the port management does not represent a threat to any country.

Meanwhile, Chinese investment can help Islamabad to better develop the Baluchistan province and help boost Islamabad's influence in the Muslim world, said Wang.

The sparsely populated province is rich in natural resources, but violence, sectarianism and separatist insurgencies have stymied its development and probably the Singaporean company's business, observers said.

According to PSA's Gwadar website, no ship has called on the port since November.

Pakistan expects the port to be a hub for trade and economic activities in the region, to enable high-volume cargo to and from landlocked Central Asian states, and to create jobs for impoverished local people, Indian newspaper Dawn reported.

Liu Xiaoxue, a researcher on South Asia at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said the port can stimulate the development of the bilateral free trade agreement, which was signed in 2006 but has not achieved as much as Islamabad expected.

"Still, it's a little early to talk about the energy corridor as the cost of land energy

transportation and risk of insecurity is still higher than maritime transportation," Liu said.

AFP contributed to this story.

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(China Daily 02/01/2013 page11

All Day

Steps for Gwadar, IP gas projects lauded -- THE NATIONS

Steps for Gwadar, IP gas projects lauded

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Thursday said some recent steps taken by the government including ratification of Iran pipeline agreement by the Federal Cabinet and handing over Gwadar port to a Chinese firm are highly promising.

These steps will go a long way in reviving economy which is in tailspin since some time leaving millions jobless and threatening growth, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President PEW.

He said that Chinese cooperation in the pipeline project will make it a reality in less than expected time which will be a great service to the country and people of Pakistan reeling under energy crisis.

Mughal lauded the patience of Tehran as the project was delayed for long due to uncalled for US pressure on Islamabad to dump the venture essential for our survival.

Allowing transfer of concession agreement for Gwadar Port from the Port of Singapore Authority to the China Overseas Port Holding will attract further investment, provide opportunities to people of Balochistan and bring Islamabad and Beijing closer which are already like a family, he said.

He noted that announcement of long-awaited three-year Strategic Trade Policy Framework in which an export target of \$95 billion has been set backed by steps to support the plan will help improve confidence in the business community.

The government should ensure that the recent Trade Policy does not meet the fate of trade policy framework for 2009-12 which failed due to want of funds. The plan of the Ministry of Water and Power to generate 3,000MW electricity from sugarcane bagasse on fast track basis is equally encouraging, he observed.

He demanded that all the necessary amendments in the existing policies should be ensured in time to attract investments to make plan of using 10 million tonnes of bagasse for power generation a reality as soon as possible.

Lauding the US assistance for water and power projects and her cooperation for optimum use of hydropower resources, Murtaza Mughal said that US should stop opposing Iran gas pipeline project otherwise anti-US feeling will run high among masses braving energy crisis.

February 7, 2013

Thu

All Day

China to continue assist Pakistan's development, prosperity -- APP

Gwadar Port: China to continue assist Pakistan's development, prosperity:

Spokeswoman

BEIJING, FEB 7 (APP): China made it clear on Thursday that it will continue to assist Pakistan for its development and prosperity. The spokeswoman of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hua Chunying expressed these views while responding to a couple of questions here with regard to transfer of operation of Gwadar port to a Chinese company.

She said that China and Pakistan are friendly neighbors and over a long period of time Chinese companies have been actively participating in various projects across Pakistan.

The spokesperson said as these projects are conducive in promoting friendship between the two countries and for Pakistan's development and prosperity, therefore China will actively support Pakistan.

All Day

Chinese co given NOC on Gwadar Port concession lease, SC told -- Pak Tribune

Chinese co given NOC on Gwadar Port concession lease, SC told

ISLAMABAD: Attorney General (AG) of Pakistan Irfan Qadir on Wednesday apprised the Supreme Court the government had given a no objection certificate (NOC) to assigning of concession lease by the Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) to a Chinese company.

ISLAMABAD: Attorney General (AG) of Pakistan Irfan Qadir on Wednesday apprised the Supreme Court the government had given a no objection certificate (NOC) to assigning of concession lease by the Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) to a Chinese company.

Appearing before the three-member bench of Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, Justice Gulzar Ahmed and Justice Sh Azmat Saeed in response to a constitutional plea moved by Barrister Zafrullah of Watan Party, the AG recorded his statement.

The bench disposed of the petition for the time being with the observation that no further action was called for.

The petitioner had sought a directive against awarding of concession lease to a foreign company for a period of 40 years and said the lease might be given to a Pakistani company capable of completing the project.

During the course of proceedings, the Chief Justice inquired from the AG whether the leasing contract with Singapore company was intact to which he replied that it had now been assigned to a Chinese company.

End.

All Day

Gwadar seaport holds key in China's energy search Gwadar seaport holds key in China's energy search Syed Fazl-e-Haider says the Gwadar seaport will play a key role in its joint projects with Pakistan A Pakistani soldier at the newly built Gwadar port. -- Pakistan Affaires Gwadar seaport holds key in China's energy search

China is expected to take operational control of the strategically located Gwadar port on Pakistan's southwestern coast this month. The state-run Chinese Overseas Port Holdings has bought the shares of Singapore's PSA International, the concession holder and operator of the port, under a deal approved by the Pakistan government.

China had contributed US\$220 million to the construction of the seaport.

PSA was initially contracted to manage and develop the port for 40 years but decided to quit it last year after Pakistan failed to transfer 236 hectares of land in the Pakistan navy's hands for development. The port has so far remained a commercial failure, as it still lacks road and rail connectivity to the rest of the country.

Now China has become the builder and operator of an Arabian Sea port, near the Strait of Hormuz. By virtue of its strategic location, the port can become a major outlet for trade between China, Central Asia and the Gulf region.

Furthermore, energy-hungry China can achieve its strategic objectives associated with energy security through its presence in Gwadar. The port is China's favourable choice for oil trade: oil imports from Iran, the Gulf states and Africa can be transported overland to northwestern China through the port.

Previously planned projects, such as the development of a Pakistan-China energy

corridor, may also materialise. China has already proposed to develop a petrochemical city with an oil refinery in Gwadar. In 2007, the Chinese company Great United Petroleum Holdings carried out a feasibility study of the US\$13 billion petrochemical city.

The establishment of a dry port at Sost, near the Pakistan-China border, the oil refinery in Gwadar, the proposed rail and road projects, and the expansion of the Karakoram Highway - these are all moves over the past decade towards building an energy corridor.

Gwadar has the potential to play a major role in serving as a corridor for energy, cargo and services between Central Asia, the Gulf and other surrounding regions. Western China can benefit from the port through the Sost dry port, which will also boost economic activity along the proposed highway linking Gwadar with the Karakoram Highway in the north.

The movement of oil and trade between Pakistan and China will obviously gain momentum when Gwadar is linked with the highway.

The Chinese have already built the railway to Tibet and its extension to Pakistan will lead to a faster movement of cargo between the two countries.

However, despite the progress, China will face a daunting security challenge due to increasing lawlessness in the insurgency-hit Baluchistan province.

Syed Fazl-e-Haider is a development analyst in Pakistan

Gwadar seaport holds key in China's energy search | South China Morning Post

February 15, 2013

Fri

All Day

India should keep its nose out of Gwadar issue: FO -- Pakistan Today
ISLAMABAD - The Foreign Office (FO) has stated that Pakistan and China have not yet reached an agreement on Gwadar Port, and that India's concerns in this regard are unwarranted. While replying to a question during the weekly briefing on Thursday, FO Spokesman Muazzam Khan dismissed Indian concerns regarding Pakistan's decision to transfer the management of Gwadar Port to China, saying a procedure was being considered to hand over the deep sea port to China. He said it was a matter between Pakistan and China, and no other country needed to be involved in it. To another query, he said that Pakistan had released 28 Taliban militants, and it was making sincere efforts to resolve the Afghan problem. He hoped that the Ulema Conference due to be held in Kabul on March 10 would lead to the resolution of all the problems between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The spokesman clarified that the FO had no connection with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leader Fazlur Rehman's recent visit to Qatar, reportedly for a meeting with the Afghan Taliban. Fazlur Rehman travelled to Doha of his own accord, he said.

All Day

Pakistan-China Gwadar Port agreement to be ratified on Feb 18 -- Pak News Desk

KARACHI: The operations of deep sea Gwadar harbor will be handed over to China Overseas Port Holding Authority (COPH) under an agreement set to be ratified on February 18, Dispatch News Desk (DND) reported on Saturday.

The accord signing ceremony will be undertaken at Aiwan-e-Sadr (Presidency), the sources in the Prime Minister House said.

According to sources, the transition of the control from the Port of Singapore Authority International (PSA) to COPH would complete within a week after the pact was inked. On a side note it was also revealed that the terms and conditions of the deal remain unchanged.

Gwadar Port is a warm-water, deep-sea port situated on the Arabian Sea at Gwadar in Balochistan province of Pakistan. It is located at the apex of the Arabian Sea and at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, approximately 460 km west of Karachi, 75km east of Pakistan's border with Iran and 380km northeast of the nearest point in Oman across the Arabian Sea.

It is situated on the eastern bay of a natural hammerhead-shaped peninsula protruding into the Arabian Sea from the coastline. The harbour is owned by the state-run Gwadar Port Authority and operated by PSA (2007-2012). Following the completion of Phase I, the Government of Pakistan on 1 February 2007 signed a 40-year agreement with PSA for the development and operation of the tax-free port and duty-free trade zone. PSA was the highest bidder for the Gwadar port after DP World backed out of the bidding process.

All Day

-- Nawa-i-waqat چین کو گواڈر پورٹ حوالے کرنے کا معاہدہ 18 فروری کو ہوگا

ذرائع وزیراعظم ہاؤس کے مطابق چین کو گواڈر پورٹ حوالے کرنے کا معاہدہ 18 فروری کو ہوگا، ...کراچی معاہدے پر دست خط ایوان صدر میں ہونگے۔ ذرائع کے مطابق پورٹ آف سنگاپور گواڈر کا کنٹرول ایک ہفتے میں چائنہا بر کمپنی کو دیگی، معاہدے کی شرائط میں کوئی تبدیلی نہیں آئے گی

All Day

Gwadar integral to China's maritime expansion -- Daily Times

Gwadar integral to China's maritime expansion

ISLAMABAD: China's acquisition of a strategic port in Pakistan is the latest addition to its drive to secure energy and maritime routes and gives it a potential naval base in the Arabian Sea, unsettling India.

The Pakistani cabinet on January 30 approved the transfer of Gwadar port, a commercial failure cut off from the national road network, from Singapore's PSA International to the state-owned China Overseas Port Holdings Limited.

The Pakistanis pitched the deal as an energy and trade corridor that would connect China to the Arabian Sea and Strait of Hormuz, a gateway for a third of the world's traded oil, overland through an expanded Karakoram Highway.

Experts say it would slash thousands of kilometres off the distance oil and gas imports from Africa and the Middle East have to be transported to reach China, making Gwadar a potentially vital link in its supply chain.

China paid about 75 percent of the initial \$250 million used to build the port, but in 2007 PSA International won a 40-year lease with then-ruler Pervez Musharraf who was reportedly unwilling to upset Washington by giving it to the Chinese.

Although it may take up to a year for the deal to be signed, Gwadar would be the most westerly in a string of Chinese-funded ports encircling its big regional rival, India, which was quick to express concern over the impending transfer.

In Nepal, China is building a \$14 million "dry port" at Larcha, near the Tibet border, along with five other ports and is upgrading transport links with an eye to the huge Indian market.

In Bangladesh, China is one of four countries, including India, Japan and the United States, interested in building a \$5-billion deep-sea port at Sonadia island in the Bay of Bengal, according to the shipping ministry.

Sri Lanka in June 2012 opened a new \$450 million deep-sea port at Hambantota, close to the vital east-west sea route used by around 300 ships a day, built with Chinese loans and construction expertise.

Although China has no equity stake in Hambantota, they have taken up an 85 percent slice of Colombo International Container Terminals Limited, which is building a new container port adjoining the existing Colombo harbour.

Beijing is also a key backer of a port and energy pipeline in Myanmar that will transport gas pumped offshore and oil shipped from Africa and the Middle East to China's Yunnan province, due to be finished by the end of May.

The ports were dubbed China's "string of pearls" — or potential naval bases similar to those of the United States — in a 2004 report for the Pentagon.

But some analysts now pour cold water on suggestions that Beijing is scouting for naval bases in the Indian Ocean.

Andrew Small, an expert on China-Pakistan relations, believes that most of Beijing's concerns can be resolved through cooperation, as seen in anti-piracy exercises in the Gulf of Aden that last year included drills with the US.

"In the near-to-medium term, it appears that China's interests in this part of the world lean far more towards developing capacities to deal with threats to sea lanes of communication, Chinese citizens overseas and so on," he told AFP.

"Plenty of Indian naval strategists are highly sceptical of the likelihood of many of the locations... actually being used as military facilities by China."

But Small does believe that Gwadar is the most mostly likely port to be developed by China for use by the Pakistan Navy, and potentially their own.

"Pakistan is probably the only government where the level of trust between the two militaries is high enough to make that a completely reliable prospect," he said.

When asked about Gwadar, Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Beijing supports "jointly undertaken matters which are conducive to Chinese-Pakistani friendship and to the development and prosperity of Pakistan".

Other Pakistani experts suggest that Islamabad is more likely to give the Chinese navy access to its existing naval bases of Karachi or Qasim.

"China can always use those. So they do not have to build another naval base at this stage," said Hamayoun Khan, who teaches at the National Defence University in Islamabad.

Fazul-ul-Rehman, former director of the China Studies Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, dismisses the prospect of China going to war in the Indian Ocean and calls Indian concern "propaganda".

But he says China has become more cautious about big investment projects in Pakistan due to security concerns. Taliban, sectarian and separatist violence blight Baluchistan, the southwestern province around Gwadar. In 2004, three Chinese engineers helping to build Gwadar were killed in a car bombing. The same year, two Chinese engineers working on a hydroelectric dam project in South Waziristan were kidnapped, and one of them died.

As a result, Rehman says there is a long way to go on China-Pakistan economic cooperation and emphasises that Gwadar will be a long-term project with Beijing looking for future alternatives to shipping routes for its oil and gas imports. afp

All Day

China takes over Pakistan's Gwadar port from Singapore -- APP

China takes over Pakistan's Gwadar port from Singapore

"The award of this contract opens new opportunities for our people... It gives new impetus to Pakistan-China relations," added Zardari. (Pic by AFP)

ISLAMABAD: China took control of Pakistan's Gwadar port on Monday as part of its drive to secure energy and maritime routes that also gives it a potential Arabian Sea naval base, sparking Indian concern.

"The contract of operation of Gwadar port is formally given to China. Today, the agreement is transferred from the Port of Singapore Authority to China Overseas Ports Holding Company Limited," President Asif Ali Zardari announced.

"The award of this contract opens new opportunities for our people... It gives new impetus to Pakistan-China relations," added Zardari in a speech broadcast live on television.

All Day

Gwadar goes to China -- Dunya News

Gwadar goes to China

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) - Pakistan Monday inked agreement to hand over Gwadar Port to Chinese company.

Under the agreement the Chinese company will assume the responsibility of Gwadar Port from immediately. The port will remain property of Pakistan and the Chinese company will share the profit.

Chairman Gwadar Port Authority Dr Syed Pervez Abbas, Major General Asghar Nawaz of National Logistics Cell, Chairman AKD Security Aqeel Karim Dhedi and Leo Fong of China Overseas Port Holdings Limited and Singapore Authority representative Faisal Javed signed on the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations.

According to the agreement China besides establishing a Free Economic Zone will construct a road from Gwadar to Ratho Dhero.

China will use the port for trade with Middle East.

All Day

Gwadar Port handed over to China -- Tribune

Gwadar Port handed over to China

GWADAR: President Asif Ali Zardari and the government have officially transferred administrative control of the Gwadar port to Chinese authorities.

While addressing the official event where the transfer took place, the president remarked that this occasion marked the start of new chapter in the lives of the people of Balochistan and the Pak-China friendship.

He further added that this project was the dream of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. However, it was Benazir Bhutto, under whose leadership work on the project commenced.

"It was Benazir Bhutto's decision to develop Gwadar into a deep sea-port," the president said.

"It was in her second government that an authority was set up to complete the project in two phases," he further added.

The Gwadar port is of great importance to China as it will give the Chinese Navy extra-strategic depth. Presence at the port would also enable China to gain easy access to oil from the Middle East and African countries, which would then be shipped to its northern and western provinces through Pakistan.

Last week, the Indian government claimed that the Chinese would use the Gwadar port for demonstrating political power in the region and would use their influence in Afghanistan. These allegations have been rejected by Pakistani authorities.

All Day

Pak signs deal to handover Gwadar port to Chinese firm -- rediff.com

Pak signs deal to handover Gwadar port to Chinese firm

Pakistan and China on Monday signed an agreement to hand over control of the strategic Gwadar deep sea port to a Chinese company, with President Asif Ali Zardari [Images] saying the move would give new impetus to bilateral relations and economic cooperation.

Under the agreement for transfer of concession rights, the port will remain the property of Pakistan while the Chinese company will share profits from its operation.

China Overseas Port Holdings Limited will fully assume responsibility for Gwadar port in Balochistan province.

Speaking on the occasion, President Zardari said the agreement would give new impetus to Pakistan-China relations and take bilateral political cooperation into the realm of economic cooperation.

The handing over of the operations of Gwadar port to China is a manifestation of growing ties and shows the trust that Pakistan has in the Chinese ability to deliver on infrastructure projects, he said.

The development of a trade corridor linking Xinjiang to the Middle East through Gwadar port will enhance trade between the two countries and in the region, Zardari said.

Gwadar has strategic importance for China as around 60 per cent of its crude oil comes from Gulf countries that are close to Gwadar, he said.

The agreement was signed by Gwadar Port Authority Chairman Syed Pervez Abbas, Major General Asghar Nawaz of the army-run National Logistics Cell, AKD Security chairman Aqeel Karim Dhedi, Leo Fong of China Overseas Port Holdings and Port of Singapore Authority representative Faisal Javed.

Beijing [Images] provided about 75 per cent of the initial funding of USD 250 million for building the port.

On January 30, the Pakistan government had approved the transfer of the management of Gwadar port from Singapore to China, which played a key role in its construction.

It was being operated by Singapore's PSA International and needs further development to become fully operational.

Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira had said last month that PSA International could not develop or operate Gwadar "as desired".

The Chinese will make "more investments" to make the port operational, he said.

PSA International had signed a contract to manage and develop Gwadar for 40 years.

China, which is Pakistan's closest ally, had for long been a front-runner for taking over the port.

Beijing has been working to develop a string of harbours in the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea.

It has funded ports in Sri Lanka [Images] and has been approached to help build a port in Bangladesh.

Pakistan's former defence minister Chaudhry Ahmad Mukhtar had said in 2011 that Islamabad [Images] would be "grateful" to the Chinese government if a naval base

was built at Gwadar.

All Day

Pakistan hands over Gwadar Port operation to China -- By: APP

Pakistan hands over Gwadar Port operation to China

Pakistan formally awarded the contract for the operation of Gawadar Deep Seaport to China at an impressive ceremony here in Islamabad on Monday.

An impressive signing ceremony was held in this connection at Presidency that was witnessed by President Asif Ali Zardari, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Liu Jian, Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar, some federal ministers, members of parliament and senior government officials.

Spokesperson to the President Senator Farhatullah Babar said that the ceremony actually marked the transfer of Concession Agreement from the Port of Singapore Authority to the China Overseas Port Holding Company.

President Asif Ali Zardari while addressing this signing ceremony said it is an auspicious development in Pak-China relations as well as for the people of Pakistan particularly Balochistan and it will open an era of "new opportunities".

The President said Gawadar will soon be a hub of trade and commerce in the region and it holds the key to bring together the countries of Central Asia and lending a new impetus to Pak-China relations.

The President traced the history of development of Gawadar and how it was envisioned by the PPP leaders Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and the obstacles created in its way.

President Zardari also highlighted the strategic significance of the port for China and Central Asian Republics and its potential of integrating the economies of the countries in the region.

He said the Chinese provinces of Xinjiang and Tibet are closer to Pakistani ports as compared to the ports in China adding that the development of a trade corridor linking Xinjiang to the Middle East via Gwadar Port held "huge promise".

President Asif Ali Zardari said the Gwadar project had very significant and strategic importance for China adding that nearly 60% of China's crude oil was imported from the Gulf countries which would increase in the next decade.

He said because of the proximity of the Gulf countries to Gwadar the oil flow from the Gulf to China would be greatly facilitated by the operation of this port.

The President said, "Handing over of the operation of Gwadar Port to China is manifestation of our growing ties and also shows the trust Pakistan has in the Chinese ability to deliver on our infrastructure projects."

He said development of a trade corridor linking Xinjiang to the Middle East through Gwadar Port will enhance trade and commerce not only between the two countries but also in the region.

He said it is an auspicious day in Pakistan-China relations and also an auspicious day for the people of Gawadar and Balochistan.

The President said the Gwadar Port will take another leap forward in Pak-China relations.

He said during the PPP government, a Fish Harbor cum Mini Port was built at Gawadar and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto visited Gawadar on December 14, 1989 to lay the foundation stone of Fish Harbor Project.

He said this became the stepping stone for the Gawadar Deep Sea Port.

He said Pakistan enjoys very cordial and brotherly relations with China adding that it has made extraordinary progress over the past decades.

He said China has remarkable rise in the region which is a testimony to the wisdom of its leaders.

The President said China is a source of inspiration for the peoples of developing countries around the world.

Referring to strong Pak-China ties, the President said, "Our friendship has stood the test of time and it is a relationship that is without parallel."

He said the foundations of this relationship were laid by visionary leaders of the time of the two countries and these leaders were Chairman Mao Zedong, Premier Zhou Enlai and Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. He said since then the friendship between Pakistan and China has been growing.

The President said Pak-china friendship has been growing from strength to strength adding that in recent years, "our two governments have injected new energy into our relationship."

He said, "I have personally visited China nine times in the past four years and these visits have helped deepen the strategic cooperation."

The President said his frequent visit to China demonstrates two countries' commitment to forging even stronger ties.

"We are seeking to expand our existing areas of cooperation and exploring new avenues for fruitful collaboration," he added.

The President said the handing over of the operation of Gwadar Port to China is a manifestation of growing ties adding that it shows the trust in the Chinese ability to deliver on infrastructure projects in Pakistan.

President Zardari said, "We also need to build infrastructure around the Gwadar Port to promote regional trade and commerce."

The President also appreciated the Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping Babar Khan Ghorī, who could not attend the ceremony, for efforts in finalizing the arrangements for this signing ceremony.

The President, however, lauded Babar Ghorī's efforts in facilitating the transfer of port operations to China.

Earlier, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Liu Jian speaking on the occasion said the transfer of Gwadar Port to China will bring tangible benefits to the two countries and contribute to peace, stability and development of the region.

He said Gwadar Port is part of greater framework of economic cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Four agreements were signed on this occasion to finally hand over all the operations of Gwadar Deep Seaport to China Overseas Port Holding Company.

Managing Director China Overseas Port Holding Company signed the agreements on behalf of his company with Syed Parvez Abbas Chairman Gwadar Port Authority, Aqeel Karim Dhedhi Chairman AKD Securities, representatives of National Logistics Cell and Singapore Port Authority which were the share holders when the Gwadar Port was handed over to Singapore Authority.

All Day

Gwadar Port Management Part of China-Pakistan Cooperation:**Spokesman -- CRL English**

Gwadar Port Management Part of China-Pakistan Cooperation: Spokesman

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said Tuesday that a Chinese company's takeover of the management of the Gwadar Port in Pakistan is part of the two countries' cooperative efforts.

Hong said the transfer of the managing rights is a business project that falls under trade and economic cooperation conducted between China and Pakistan.

According to reports, the two sides officially signed an agreement on transferring the management rights of the Gwadar Port to a Chinese company at a ceremony held in the presidential residence in Islamabad on Monday.

When asked to comment on the strategic significance of the deal, Hong said boosting China-Pakistan cooperation is not only in the interests of both countries, but also conducive to maintaining regional stability and development.

"Chinese companies have long been actively cooperating with Pakistan in multiple areas," Hong said.

Operating the Gwadar Port, a deep-water port located in southwest Pakistan and in the Arabian Sea, is regarded by international observers as a strategic move for China to attain energy security and expand sea channels.

All Day

پاکستان نے بلوچستان میں واقع گوادر کی بندرگاہ کا انتظام پڑوسی دوست ملک چین کو**سونپ دیا ہے۔ -- واشنگٹن**

پاکستان نے بلوچستان میں واقع گوادر کی بندرگاہ کا انتظام پڑوسی دوست ملک چین کو سونپ دیا ہے۔

پاکستان نے اپنے صوبے بلوچستان میں واقع گوادر کی بندرگاہ کا انتظام پڑوسی دوست ملک چین — واشنگٹن کو سونپ دیا ہے۔

گزشتہ ماہ وفاقی کابینہ نے گوادر پورٹ کا انتظام سنگاپور کی 'پی ایس اے انٹرنیشنل' سے لے کر چین کی 'اورسیز پورٹس ہولڈنگ کمپنی لمیٹڈ' کو دینے کی منظوری دی تھی۔

کابینہ کی جانب سے منظوری کے بعد پیر کو اسلام آباد میں ہونے والی ایک تقریب میں بندرگاہ کے نظم و نسق کی چینی کی سرکاری کمپنی کو منتقلی کے معاہدے پر دستخط کیے گئے۔

بحیرہ عرب پر واقع 2007ء میں مکمل ہونے والی اس بندرگاہ پر ڈھائی سو ملین ڈالر لاگت آئی تھی جس میں سے 80 فی صد سرمایہ کاری چین نے کی تھی۔

اس سرمایہ کاری کا مقصد پاکستان کے راستے مغربی چین اور خلیجی عرب ریاستوں کے درمیان تجارت اور ایندھن کی سپلائی لائن قائم کرنا تھا۔

پیر کو معاہدے پر دستخطوں کی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے پاکستان کے صدر آصف علی زرداری نے امید ظاہر کی کہ گوادر کا انتظام چین کو منتقل کیے جانے کے بعد یہ علاقہ جلد ہی تجارت اور معاشی سرگرمیوں کا مرکز بن جائے گا۔

صدر کا کہنا تھا کہ چین کے مغربی صوبے تبت اور سنکیانگ مشرقی چین میں واقع بندرگاہوں کے مقابلے میں پاکستانی بندرگاہوں سے زیادہ نزدیک ہیں اور ان علاقوں کی خلیجی ریاستوں کے ساتھ تجارت میں گوادر پورٹ اہم کردار ادا کرسکتی ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ چین اپنی ضرورت کا 60 فی صد خام تیل خلیجی عرب ممالک سے درآمد کرتا ہے جو گوادر سے بہت نزدیک ہیں۔ صدر زرداری کا کہنا تھا کہ یہ بندرگاہ خلیجی ریاستوں سے نکلنے والے تیل کی چین کو ترسیل میں بھی اہم کردار ادا کرے گی۔

All Day

چینی سفیر کا گوادر پورٹ کی تعمیر کے معاملہ میں بھارت سمیت کسی بھی ملک کیلئے**nawa-i-waqt -- پریشان نہ ہونے کا مشورہ**

چینی سفیر کا گوادر پورٹ کی تعمیر کے معاملہ میں بھارت سمیت کسی بھی ملک کیلئے پریشان نہ ہونے کا مشورہ

بہ منصوبہ ہماری اقتصادی ترقی کے علاوہ دفاعی استحکام کی بھی ضمانت ہے پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر لیوجیان نے کہا ہے کہ گوادر پورٹ چین کے حوالے کرنے پر کسی کو پریشانی یا سے خصوصی گفتگو کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے "توانے وقت" تکلیف نہیں ہونی چاہیے۔ گزشتہ روز اسلام آباد میں کسی تیسرے ملک کو اس پر 'کہا کہ گوادر پورٹ کو چین کے حوالے کرنا پاکستان اور چین کا باہمی فیصلہ پریشان ہونے کی قطعاً ضرورت نہیں۔ یہ منصوبہ پاکستان اور چین دونوں ممالک کے عوام کے مفاد میں ہے۔ انہوں نے اس تصور کو محض مفروضہ اور بے بنیاد قرار دیا کہ چین اس بندرگاہ کو عسکری مقاصد کیلئے استعمال کریگا۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ اس منصوبے کیلئے سکیورٹی کی ذمہ داری پاکستان کی ہے۔ چین پاکستان میں 120 منصوبوں پر کام کر رہا ہے اور پاکستان ہمیں ان تمام منصوبوں کیلئے سکیورٹی فراہم کر رہا ہے اس لئے ہم سکیورٹی کے معاملہ میں فکرمند نہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے مابین دوستی وقت کی ہر وہ پاکستان کی 'سلامتی اور اقتصادی ترقی کا خواباں ہے' آزمائش پر پوری اتری ہے۔ چین پاکستان کی آزادی مدد کرتا رہے گا۔ انہوں نے پاکستان کو مشورہ دیا کہ اسے اپنی اقتصادی ترقی پر زیادہ توجہ دینی چاہیے جبکہ گوادر پورٹ پاکستان کی اقتصادی ترقی میں اہم کردار ادا کر سکتا ہے۔ گوادر پورٹ کی تعمیر کیلئے پاکستان اور چین کے مابین طے پانے والے معاہدے پر گزشتہ روز ایوان صدر اسلام آباد میں دستخط ہو گئے چنانچہ اب گوادر پورٹ سنگاپور سے واپس لے کر باضابطہ طور پر چین کے حوالے کیا جا چکا ہے جس کی اور سیز پورٹ ہولڈنگ لمیٹڈ کمپنی نے اب گوادر کا انتظام سنبھال لیا ہے۔ گوادر پورٹ کی تعمیر مکمل ہونے کے بعد یہ بنگلہ دیش اور افغانستان کا تجارتی حب بن جائیگا جس سے بالخصوص بلوچستان کے 'بھارت' 'ایران' 'ترکی' 'چین' عوام کی زندگیوں میں انقلاب برپا ہو جائیگا جبکہ پاکستان کو ٹرانزٹ پورٹ کی وجہ سے کروڑوں ڈالر سالانہ منافع ملے گا اور روزگار کے بے پناہ مواقع پیدا ہونگے۔ اے ایف پی کی رپورٹ کے مطابق چین کا پاکستان میں ایک سٹریٹجک پورٹ حاصل کرنا اپنے توانائی اور سمندری تجارتی راستے محفوظ بنانے کی مہم کے سلسلہ میں ایک نیا قدم ہے۔ اس پورٹ کے حصول سے چین کو افریقہ اور مشرق وسطیٰ سے تیل اور گیس کی درآمد میں ہزاروں کلو میٹر کے فاصلہ میں کمی کی سہولت ملے گی۔ اس پورٹ کی تعمیر کیلئے چین نے پاکستان کو 25 کروڑ ڈالر بھی فراہم کئے ہیں جبکہ گوادر پورٹ کی تعمیر کے بعد چین پاکستان بحریہ کی ترقی کیلئے بھی معاونت کریگا۔ یہ منصوبہ 25 جنوری 2015ء تک پایہ تکمیل کو پہنچنا ہے جس کے بعد یقیناً اس خطہ میں ترقی کا نیا سفر شروع ہو گا جبکہ اس پورٹ کی تعمیر سے علاقائی امن و سلامتی کی بھی ضمانت فراہم ہو سکے گی۔ یہ خوش آئند صورتحال ہے کہ حکومت پاکستان نے ملک کی ترقی اور سلامتی کے تقاضوں کو پیش نظر رکھ کر چین کے ساتھ گوادر پورٹ کی تعمیر کا معاہدہ کیا ہے تو برادر پڑوسی ملک ایران کے ساتھ گیس پائپ لائن منصوبے کو بھی حتمی شکل دے دی ہے جبکہ ان دونوں منصوبوں کے بارے میں پاکستان پر سخت تھا۔ ایران کے ساتھ گیس پائپ لائن کے معاہدے کو رکوانے کیلئے تو امریکہ کی جانب سے پاکستان و امریکی دبا کو اقتصادی پابندیوں کی دھمکیاں بھی دی گئیں جبکہ گوادر پورٹ کے معاملہ میں امریکہ سے زیادہ بھارت کو پریشانی ہے جو گزشتہ ماہ وفاقی کابینہ میں گوادر پورٹ معاہدے کی منظوری کے وقت سے ہی پاکستان کے ساتھ احتجاج کا سلسلہ جاری رکھے ہوئے ہے اور اس سے علاقائی سلامتی کو خطرہ لاحق ہونے کا پروپیگنڈہ کیا جا رہا ہے۔ پہلی بات تو یہ کہ گوادر پورٹ خالصتاً اقتصادی ترقی کا منصوبہ ہے جس میں پاکستان اور چین دونوں کا مفاد وابستہ ہے جبکہ یہ معاہدہ بھی پاکستان چین اقتصادی تعاون کے معاہدوں کی ہی ایک کڑی ہے۔ اگر یہ منصوبہ پاکستان کی دفاعی صلاحیتوں میں اضافہ کیلئے بھی مدمعاون ہو سکتا ہے تو بھی سٹریٹجک حکمت عملی کے تحت ہمیں اسکی سخت ضرورت ہے۔ ہماری سلامتی کیخلاف بھارتی عزائم تو کبھی ڈھکے چھپے نہیں رہے جبکہ ہمیں اب افغان جنگ کی وجہ سے بھی اپنی سلامتی کو چاروں جانب سے خطرات لاحق ہیں اور اس دفاعی تعاون کے معاہدے کرنا بھی 'تناظر میں چین جیسے قابل بھروسہ پڑوسی ملک کے ساتھ اقتصادی ہی نہیں ہماری ضرورت ہے۔ بعینہ چین کو بھی اپنی سلامتی کے تحفظ کو یقینی بنانے کیلئے اپنا دفاع مضبوط بنانے کی ضرورت ہے کیونکہ 60 کی دہائی میں اروناچل پردیش کے تنازعہ میں چین بھارت کی جانب سے اپنی سلامتی کیلئے خطرات محسوس کر چکا ہے اگرچہ اس وقت بھی چین کے ساتھ سرحدی جھڑپوں میں بھارت کو منہ کی کھائی پڑی تھی پھر بھی اپنے دفاع کیلئے مستعد رہنا چین کا بنیادی استحقاق ہے اور اسی طرح پاکستان کو بھی اپنے دفاع و سلامتی کی خاطر چین کے ساتھ دفاعی تعاون کے معاہدے کرنے کا حق حاصل ہے کیونکہ امریکہ افغان جنگ میں ہمیں اپنا فرنٹ لائن اتحادی بنانے کے باوجود علاقائی اور ہماری اپنی سلامتی کیلئے سنگین دفاعی تعاون کے معاہدے کر کے اسے علاقے کا تھانیدار 'خطرات کا باعث بننے والے بھارت کے ساتھ ایٹمی بنانے کی کوششوں میں مصروف ہے۔ اس تناظر میں گوادر پورٹ کی وجہ سے ہمیں اقتصادی ترقی کے علاوہ دفاعی استحکام کی بھی ضمانت ملے گی تو پاکستان چین لازوال دوستی کو مزید مستحکم بناتا ہوا یہ منصوبہ ہمارے لئے انتہائی سودمند ثابت ہو گا۔ دوسری جانب ایران بھی اپنے ایٹمی ٹیکنالوجی کے منصوبے کے باعث امریکہ سے اپنی سلامتی کو لاحق ہونے والے خطرات کا توڑ کرنے کیلئے پاکستانی سرحد کے قریب خلیج عمان میں نئے بحری فوجی اڈے کے قیام کی منصوبہ بندی کر رہا ہے تو اسکے پیش نظر بھی ہمیں ایران بلوچستان سرحد پر ملک کی سالمیت کو لاحق ممکنہ خطرات پر کڑی نظر رکھنے کی ضرورت ہے جو گوادر پورٹ سے ہی ممکن ہے اس لئے ہماری دفاعی حکمت عملی میں گوادر پورٹ کی اہمیت کو قطعاً نظر انداز نہیں کیا جا سکتا۔ اگر کل کو امریکہ یا اس کا کوئی نیٹو اتحادی ایران کی ایٹمی تنصیبات کو نقصان پہنچانے کیلئے اس کیخلاف جارحیت کا ارتکاب کرتا ہے تو یقیناً اس سے پاکستان کی سالمیت بھی خطرات کی زد میں آئیگی۔ چنانچہ گوادر پاکستان کا دفاعی حصار بھی بن 'پورٹ جو ہماری بحریہ کی ترقی و مضبوطی کیلئے بھی مدمعاون ہو گا جائیگا۔ اگر بھارت کو پاکستان چین گوادر پورٹ کے منصوبہ پر تکلیف اور پریشانی ہو رہی ہے تو اس کا یہی پس منظر ہے کہ اس منصوبے کی تکمیل کے بعد بھارت کیلئے پاکستان کو نرم چارہ سمجھ کر بڑپ کرنا آسان نہیں ہو گا جبکہ بحرہند میں اسکی اجارہ داری بھی ختم ہو جائیگی۔ اگر ہم گوادر پورٹ اور پاکستان ایران گیس پائپ لائن کے منصوبوں سے اپنی اقتصادی ترقی کی صورت میں خود انحصاری کو مستحکم بنانے کی پوزیشن میں آتے ہیں اور اسکے ساتھ ساتھ یہ منصوبے ہماری سلامتی کے تحفظ کی بھی ضمانت بنتے ہیں تو اس سے بے باوجود ان 'زیادہ ہمیں آج اور کس چیز کی ضرورت ہے۔ یقیناً اسی تناظر میں حکومت سخت بیرونی دباؤوں منصوبوں کی تکمیل کیلئے پر عزم ہے۔ توقع کی جانی چاہیے کہ ملکی و قومی ترقی کے ضامن یہ دونوں منصوبے اب ہلاکسی رکاوٹ تکمیل کے تمام مراحل طے کر لیں گے۔ تاہم اسکے ساتھ ساتھ پاکستان کی سرحد کے قریب نئے بحری فوجی اڈے تعمیر کرنے کی منصوبہ بندی پر ہمیں ایران کو اپنے تحفظات سے بھی ضرور آگاہ کرنا چاہیے۔

All Day

گواہر بندرگاہ چین کے حوالے کرنیکا معاہدہ، بلوچستان میں نئے دور کا آغاز ہو گا: صدر --

نوائے وقت رپورٹ + اے پی اے

بلوچستان میں نئے دور کا آغاز ہو گا: صدر، گواہر بندرگاہ چین کے حوالے کرنیکا معاہدہ

کراچی + اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ + اے پی اے) پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان گواہر پورٹ کا نظام چین کے سپرد کرنے کا معاہدہ طے پا گیا ہے۔ معاہدے پر دستخط کی تقریب ایوان صدر میں منعقد ہوئی۔ چیئرمین گواہر پورٹ اتھارٹی ڈاکٹر پرویز عباس، نیشنل لاجسٹک سیل کے میجر جنرل اصغر نواز، چیئرمین اے کے ڈی سکیورٹی عقیل کریم ڈھیڈی، چائنا اوورسیز پورٹ بولڈنگ لمیٹڈ کے لیوفونگ اور سنگاپور اتھارٹی کے نمائندے فیصل جاوید نے معاہدے پر دستخط کئے۔ معاہدے کے بعد سنگاپور گواہر پورٹ خالی کردے گا اور چین کی اور ٹرمینل ”کوسکو شینگ“ باربر کمپنی فوری طور پر نظام سنبھال لے گی۔ دنیا کی بہت بڑی شینگ لائن دونوں مل کر گواہر پورٹ کو چلائیں گی۔ اس موقع پر صدر زرداری نے اپنے خطاب میں ”چائنا مرچنٹ“ اپریٹر کہا معاہدے سے بلوچستان میں ترقی کا نیا دور شروع ہوگا، گواہر پورٹ سے نہ صرف پاکستان اور چین بلکہ پورے خطے میں تجارتی سرگرمیاں بڑھیں گی۔ انہوں نے کہا پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان اس معاہدے سے نہ صرف دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعلقات کی نئی جہت کا آغاز ہو رہا ہے بلکہ یہ معاہدہ گواہر اور مکران سمیت بلوچستان بھر کی تاریخ کا نیا باب ثابت ہوگا۔ انہوں نے کہا گواہر کی بندرگاہ کو خطے میں اس کے جغرافیائی محل وقوع کے لحاظ سے انتہائی اہمیت حاصل ہے۔ انہیں امید ہے اس بندرگاہ سے ملک میں ترقی کے نئے باب کا اضافہ ہوگا۔ اس اہم سنگ میل میں وہ وفاقی وزیر پورٹ اینڈ شینگ باہر غوری کی کوششوں کا تہ دل سے شکریہ ادا کرتے ہیں لیکن بدقسمتی سے وہ آج ہمارے ساتھ اس اہم موقع پر موجود نہیں۔ صدر زرداری کا کہنا تھا چین کے کئی علاقوں سے گواہر ان کی اپنی بندرگاہوں سے زیادہ قریب ہے جبکہ وسط ایشیائی ممالک کے لئے بھی گواہر کی بندرگاہ انتہائی اہم ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا گو ملک کے مختلف علاقوں میں امن و امان کی صورتحال کو مثالی قرار نہیں جاسکتا لیکن جلد ہی اس پر بھی قابو پالیا جائے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا چین کی ترقی پوری ترقی پذیر دنیا کے لیے مشعل راہ ہے، پاک چین دوستی وقت گزرنے کے ساتھ مضبوط سے مضبوط تر ہو رہی ہے گزشتہ چند برسوں میں دونوں ملکوں کے تعلقات مزید مستحکم ہوئے اور یہ دوستی ہر آزمائش پر پوری اتری ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا بلوچستان میں بندرگاہ اور باربر پورٹ کا ویژن ذوالفقار علی بھٹو اور محترمہ بے نظیر شہید کا ویژن تھا اور بے نظیر شہید کے پہلے دور حکومت میں باربر پورٹ قائم کی گئی تھی۔ معاہدے کے تحت گواہر کی بندرگاہ کا مکمل انتظام چین کی کمپنی سنبھالے گی تاہم اس کی ملکیت پاکستان ہی کے پاس رہے گی، معاہدے کی رو سے چین کی کمپنی گواہر میں فری اکنامک زون اور بندرگاہ سے رتو ڈیرو تک دو روہ سڑک تعمیر کرے گی۔ گواہر کی بندرگاہ چین کے حوالے کرنے پر بھارت نے شدید اعتراض اٹھایا تھا تاہم پاکستان نے اسے داخلی معاملہ قرار دے کر مسترد کر دیا تھا۔ مزید برآں ڈی جی پورٹس اینڈ شینگ اظہر شمیم نے کہا ہے گواہر پورٹ کے شیئرز چائنا پورٹ بولڈنگ کو منتقل ہو گئے، ذرائع کے مطابق شیئرز کی مالیت 3 کروڑ 50 لاکھ ڈالر ہے۔ اے پی پی کے مطابق صدر نے کوئٹہ میں دھماکہ پر افسوس کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا ہم عسکریت پسندی کی لعنت کے خلاف لڑ رہے ہیں اور ترقی کیلئے ہمارا سفر جاری رہے گا۔ این این اے کے مطابق انہوں نے کہا پاک چین تعلقات میں ایک اہم پیشرفت ہے، اس سے نئے مواقع کا دور شروع ہو گا، گواہر جلد ہی خطہ میں تجارت کا مرکز بن جائے گا، عسکریت پسندی کی لعنت کے خلاف لڑ رہے ہیں اور ترقی کیلئے ہمارا سفر جاری رہے گا۔ معاہدے کے متن کے مطابق چین کی کمپنی اب مکمل طور پر گواہر پورٹ کا انتظام سنبھالے گی۔ تاہم بندرگاہ پاکستان کی ملکیت رہے گی، معاہدے میں طے پایا چین کی کمپنی سڑک تعمیر کرے گی۔

All Day

Iran agrees to build oil refinery at Gwadar -- The news

Iran agrees to build oil refinery at Gwadar

After offering funds for gas pipeline Iran has now agreed to build an oil refinery at Gwadar.

Iranian Oil Minister Rostam Ghasemi has positively replied Pakistan's request for constructing oil refinery in Gwadar.

Iranian Oil Minister President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf separately on Wednesday.

PM Ashraf has called the Pak-Iran Gas Pipeline agreement an important development and he also thanked Iran for supplying power to Gwadar.

Iranian Oil Minister said that Iran has completed its share of the work on the gas pipeline and that Iran wants to enhance cooperation with Pakistan in the economic sector.

Iranian Minister has completed his one-day visit to Pakistan and the next round of talk over Pak-Iran gas pipeline and LPG import would be held in Tehran.

All Day

Iran to set^[1] up oil refinery in Gwadar -- Khaleej Times

Iran to set
up oil refinery in Gwadar

(Our Correspondent) / 25 February 2013

ISLAMABAD -President Asif Ali Zardari will visit Iran from February 27 to clinch the much delayed and controversial Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline agreement. Adviser to Prime Minister on Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Asim Hussain has said Iran has indicated to extend credit facility of \$500 million for completion of Pakistani part of the pipeline. Pakistan will raise another \$1 billion from its own resources.

No international financial institution is ready to provide credit for fear of American sanctions. Last week Pakistan said the signing of the agreement was delayed because of differences over pricing which have yet not been resolved.

Asim said that Iran, in cooperation with Pakistan State Oil (PSO) will also set up an oil refinery in Gwadar.

Talking to reporters after holding a meeting with Rostam Qassemi, Iran's Minister of Oil, he said that the refinery would refine 400,000 barrels of oil per day.

All Day

Spain eager to invest in Pakistan's energy sector -- The News

Spain eager to invest in Pakistan's energy sector

Rawalpindi: Ambassador of Spain Javier Carbajosa Sanchez has said his country is keen to invest in energy sector in Pakistan, as the country is facing immense energy crisis.

He stated this while exchanging views with the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Manzar Khurshid Sheikh during his visit to the RCCI here on Tuesday.

Group Leader Najamul Haq Malik, Senior Vice President Pervaiz Ahmed Warriach, Vice President Nadeem Rauf, member executive committee and other member of the chamber were also present on the occasion.

The Spanish ambassador said that his country will focus to enhance import from Pakistan to uplift the economic situation of the country. He said that both countries

are enjoying good political relations with each other and it is need of the hour to promote bilateral trade relations as well. He stressed that trade volume between Pakistan and Spain will be enhanced and every possible step will be taken in this regard.

All Day

Iran to build oil refinery in Gwadar: Dr Asim -- APP

Iran to build oil refinery in Gwadar: Dr Asim

ISLAMABAD: Iran in cooperation with Pakistan state oil (PSO) will build an oil refinery at Gwadar, Petroleum Advisor Dr Asim Hussain.

Talking to mediapersons after holding a meeting with Iran's Minister of Oil Rostam Qassemi, Dr Asim said that the refinery would refine 400,000 barrels of oil per day. He added that President Asif Ali Zardari would soon visit Iran to finalize the agreement in this regard.

To a question he said that a Pakistani delegation would visit Iran to finalize Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) agreement on Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project.

Earlier Dr. Asim Hussain held a meeting with Iranian delegation led by Iran's Petroleum Minister Rostam Qassemi at a local hotel. During the meeting various expert groups were set up to discuss bilateral cooperation in energy sector.

All Day

Sino-Pakistani ties endure despite challenges -- Global Times

Sino-Pakistani ties endure despite challenges

China and Pakistan have established a diplomatic relationship for more than 60 years, and the river of their friendship has run a long course. However, there are increasingly doubts toward the friendship between China and Pakistan.

In 2010, the US provided Pakistan \$690 million aid after the devastating floods in Pakistan, 28 percent of all the aid it received, while China's contribution was less. Western media made an issue of this, and criticized that China should take more responsibilities.

In 2011, The Economist published an article questioned the China-Pakistan friendship under the headline, "Pakistan and China: Sweet as Can Be?"

Also when China Overseas Holdings Limited took over operations of the Gwadar Port, Indian media said the takeover would face many challenges from within Pakistan.

So, is the relationship between China and Pakistan really as sweet as can be? The book A Model of State-to-State Relations: Retrospects and Prospects of the China-Pakistan Ties since 1951, edited by Du Youkang, a professor of the Center for Pakistan Studies at Fudan University, believes that the relationship between the two countries is at a new starting point with broad prospects for future development.

Du analyzes the two countries' mutual links to each other. Geopolitically, Pakistan is China's closest friend in South Asia. Diplomatically, China constantly supports Pakistan's efforts to promote regional peace and stability and combat terrorism. Pakistan has also always supported the one-China policy.

The relationship between China and Pakistan has been tested by many incidents, such as the sanctions on China imposed by Western countries in the 1980s and the sanctions on Pakistan by the US in 1990s.

Du also gives detailed analyses of the great strategic meaning of the relationship between the two countries.

China is the second largest global economy, while Pakistan is one of the cradles of the Islamic Revival Movement and the only Muslim country with nuclear weapons.

On the regional and international level, cooperation between China and Pakistan is

no longer a mere bilateral relationship, it also exerts influence on the economy, politics and security of the whole region.

China and Pakistan view each other as "all-weather strategic partner." After efforts by many generations of leaders, exchanges at all levels between the two are all developing rapidly.

The international situation is in a transitional period, and South Asian dynamics are undergoing many deep structural changes.

However, the relationship between China and Pakistan is established on the foundation of deep-rooted public opinion. Although there are some factors that may influence bilateral relations, for instance, the development of political relations lagging behind economic exchanges and Indian factors, there are no major differences or irreconcilable conflicts between the two.

China-Pakistan relationship will remain a model for countries with different social systems to communicate and interact with each other in the future.

All Day

Gwadar port a gateway for trade with Central Asia: Harvest Tradings -- RECORDER REPORT

Gwadar port a gateway for trade with Central Asia: Harvest Tradings

February 22, 2013 RECORDER REPORT 0 Comments

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Harvest Tradings Ahmad Jawad has said Gwadar Port could give the country an economic fillip. It could facilitate trade among at least two dozen countries, including those in the Persian Gulf, the Central Asian States, Iran, East Africa and so on.

Talking to INP on Thursday, Ahmed Jawad said that Gwadar port has the potential of becoming a very trade-friendly facility. He said under the new arrangement the Gwadar port would get a new status in the world and it would help remove the sense of deprivation among the people of Balochistan. He said that it would encourage local and foreign investment there. "We may create a business plan in detail that 'How to utilise Gwadar in future'. Ministry of Commerce may assign the task in this regard to TDAP and PHDEC accordingly." Jawad said that this port should be termed as an energy port. The gas and oil deposits of CARs will find their new storage destination at Gwadar, because of its natural flow direction. Even Iran can benefit from Gwadar by securing an opening to the world market for gas and oil.

Gwadar, one of the deepest ports, would promote massive economic activity in the region which would not only benefit local people but also cast positive impact on overall economy of the province and the country, he maintained. Ahmed Jawad said that it would help bring Balochistan's coastal areas into socio-economic mainstream and serve as a catalyst for fast-track development of the province. Recently the fishery industry is one of the most important economic activities in Gwadar district. About one-fourth of the total catch of different varieties in Pakistan is produced in Gwadar.

On an annual basis there is potential for an additional catch of at least 70,000 tonnes. Fish processing at Gwadar is providing employment to many of the local educated and uneducated unemployed youth. "In case fish farming and shrimp farming are encouraged, it can double the quantity, besides improving the quality."

All Day

Iran to build \$4 billion refinery in Pakistan -- Economic Desk

Iran to build \$4 billion refinery in Pakistan

Economic Desk

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TEHRAN - Iran has agreed to build an oil refinery in Pakistan at an estimated value of 4 billion dollars, a senior Pakistani official says.

Asim Hussain, an adviser to the Pakistani prime minister, said that the refinery will be constructed in the port city of Gwadar.

The plant will be able to refine 400,000 barrels a day.

The agreement was reached during a meeting between an Iranian delegation led by Oil Minister Rostam Qasemi and Pakistani Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf.

"We had very good meetings and we had a lot of bilateral talks especially on Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project and setting up oil refinery at Gwadar with PSO (Pakistan State Oil)," IRNA quoted Asim Hussain as saying.

According to a Pakistani official, it is expected that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) be signed for building the refinery during President Asif Ali Zardari's visit to Tehran on February 27.

Oil Minister Qasemi visited Pakistan on Tuesday to discuss the gas pipeline project with officials in Islamabad.

Iran has agreed to complete Pakistan's part of the gas pipeline project.

All Day

KESC to invest \$500m in coal plants -- Reuters

KESC to invest \$500m in coal plants

ISLAMABAD: KESC would invest about \$500 million for setting up of coal-based power plants, improvement in transmission and distribution systems in Karachi during the next five years, said Tabish Gohar, chairman, KESC board of directors here on Thursday.

A five-member KESC delegation briefed the Minister for Water and Power, Chaudhry Ahmad Mukhtar, on plans to improve power supply situation in Karachi.

Mr Gohar said that the Bin Qasim power plant would be converted on imported and local coal to generate 400MW cheaper electricity with an investment of \$300 million.

The conversion plan would take almost 20 months to complete.

The KESC would spend \$80 million on conversion of gas-based plants on combined cycle, while \$80 million would be spent on smart grid station that would help improvement and transmission system.

The KESC chairman said that due to investment plan, the power system in Karachi would improve, and power thefts and line losses would be checked.

He also briefed the minister on outsourcing of some of its feeders and future plans to meet the electricity requirements.

All Day

Pakistan hails German cooperation in various sectors -- Daily Times

Pakistan hails German cooperation in various sectors

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has always welcomed the cooperation extended by Germany in various sectors of the economy said adviser to the Prime Minister on Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Asim Hussain.

Meeting with Dr Cyrill Nunn Ambassador of Germany to Pakistan he apprised him about the ongoing projects of the oil and gas sector in Pakistan and informed the government was providing incentives to companies intending to invest in oil and gas sector of Pakistan.

Recent policy initiatives have made Pakistan an investment friendly country particularly for the petroleum sector.

He welcomed the interest of German companies in providing state of the art electronic equipment that could possibly be made useful in the oil exploration in Pakistan.

All Day

Pakistan seeks more Chinese investment -- Daily Times

Pakistan seeks more Chinese investment

Engineering entrepreneur Almas Hyder said the developed economies around the world shifted or outsourced their labor intensive industries to their low income neighbors. The United States, he added, targeted Latin American economies for bulk of its investment, Japanese promoted technology and skills in Far East Asia with its investment; and the Eastern European countries became target of investments from developed European Union economies.

He said China is one Pakistani neighbour that has almost achieved the status of a developed nation. The country is now opting out of many low value labor intensive industries. Currently, China's share in total FDI of Pakistan is small, he added. It peaked in \$700 million in 2006-7 but like general trend in FDI from other countries it was reduced to \$47 million by 2010-11, he said.

He said official statics 2009-10 showed that total Chinese FDI in Pakistan amounted to \$1.37 billion, which was very low compared with the investments made by China in rest of Asia.

"Pakistan actually needs Chinese investment in textiles particularly garment industry and in light engineering and car industry where Pakistan enjoys comparative advantage but lacks skills, technology and finances," said S M Tanveer, chairman of Punjab Industrial Estates Management and Development Company. He said Chinese are well aware of this potential.

He said a number of Chinese companies approached the Punjab government in late 2009 for establishing exclusive industrial estates for Chinese manufacturers and companies. He said one company asked permission for an exclusive zone for Chinese industries, spreading over 100,000 acres of land.

He said the Chinese were offered to establish in first phase a special industrial zone on 20,000 acres. In fact, he added in the presence Punjab chief minister a memorandum of understanding between the Chinese investors and the Punjab government was signed on February 20, 2010.

He said the only hitch was that provinces were not authorised to allow special industrial estates to foreigners. Now, the federal government, he added, has through an act of parliament given this authority to the provinces.

He said special industrial zone authority is being formed in Punjab after which it is hoped a number of special industrial zones will be established by the Chinese. He said the Chinese company that offered to establish Chinese industrial zone in Punjab is already operating an industrial estate in China spread over an area of 20,000 acres under the banner of the Asian International Development Ltd.

February 23, 2013

Sat

All Day

Coal power in Pakistan gets \$700 million investment -- Mining.com

Coal power in Pakistan gets \$700 million investment

Michael Allan McCrae | February 23, 2013

China and the United Arab Emirates will help Pakistan boost its electricity output by expanding coal power in the country.

Burj Power, a development and advisory firm out of the UAE, inked an agreement with China's Harbin Electric International Co Ltd., which will be the technical lead. The project's price tag will range somewhere between \$650 million and \$700 million.

The group is building four coal-based power plants all at the Port Qasim capable of 125 megawatts (MW) each. The power could be online as soon as 2016.

Pakistan's state-controlled power producer, Karachi Electric Supply Co, will purchase power from the plants. The purchase agreements are still being negotiated.

Burj Power is also developing some wind power projects in Pakistan.

Harbin has an established base of over 30,000 MWs of thermal power plants and was also the EPC contractor of recently completed Bin Qasim CCPP that is producing 560 MWs for KESC.-PR

The agreement was formalized during a signing ceremony at Karachi's Marriot Hotel. Photos are on Burj Power's Facebook page.

All Day

Gwadar - a port full of possibilities -- The News

Gwadar - a port full of possibilities

By: Imran Malik

As the US/Nato/Isaf combine prepares to egress the AfPak Region (APR), we find Pakistan and China manoeuvring decisively into strategically advantageous positions in the region. Their strategic interests are converging on a grand scale at Gwadar - the centre of gravity and future strategic and economic hub of the South-Central Asian Region (SCAR)-Greater Middle East Region (GMER) complex. Gwadar sits literally at the mouth of the strategically vital Straits of Hormuz. The leverage it provides is priceless. Its strategic location makes it ideal for any power intending to secure its energy sources in the region or to dominate the SCAR-GMER complex, including all Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs) to and from the Persian Gulf.

Furthermore, naval forces stationed at Gwadar or other Makran Coast ports could potentially foray deep into the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean too, even impacting east-west trade.

A sea-land trade route to and from western or southern Europe to Russia via the Mediterranean, Suez Canal, (North Africa and the Middle East), Red and Arabian seas, Gwadar (Pakistan), Afghanistan and the CARs could integrate regional economies and create mutually-beneficial interdependencies. From Gwadar, another link could be created with the Xinjiang province in western China, thus cutting by thousands the kilometres Chinese ships would have to travel to and from China through the Malacca Straits. India also could be accommodated at some appropriate stage. Gwadar could provide trans-shipment facilities for the entire region. An exhaustive network of roads and railways, therefore, needs to be developed in the Gwadar hinterland connecting it with Xinjiang, Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan, CARs and Russia.

It as a matter of fact could be a more cost effective, all-weather alternative to the New Silk Route Project (NSRP).

Thus, China's imperatives to get to Gwadar are manifold.

The US is shifting pivot to the Asia Pacific as a part of its well known policy to manage China's rise and to contain it. Sixty percent of its naval assets are likely to be deployed to the Asia Pacific by 2020. This would impact China's ability to foray out of its geographical confines to play a proactive role in world politics and trade. It will contest being hemmed in or circumscribed by the US and its allies.

Further, China's greatest vulnerability lies at the Malacca Straits, which is the biggest chokepoint in the SLOCs to and from the Asia Pacific region. Thus, any power (ostensibly, the US and its allies) controlling the Malacca Straits could use this leverage to devastating strategic effect on any country in Asia Pacific. By bringing the Straits of Hormuz within its strategic reach, China would acquire a corresponding and competing leverage.

India is expected to play a very important role in the manifestation of this US grand strategic design.

Pakistan and China will do well to operationalise a north-south trade corridor, emanating from the Xinjiang province and going down south to Port Qasim, Karachi and Gwadar. This trade corridor must comprise an expanded and improved KKH with a railway line running parallel to it.

Since New Delhi has opted out of the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project under US pressure, therefore, it must now be converted into an Iran-Pakistan-China (IPC) gas pipeline. China could further secure its oil supplies (60 percent of its crude comes from Iran) by having an oil pipeline from Iran running parallel to the IPC gas pipeline.

India stands to lose enormously if it blindly follows the US lead in containing China. It has already soiled its relations with Iran, to a great extent, by siding with the US on its nuclear programme issue and opting out of the IPI gas pipeline project. (Ironically, it has not opted out of the TAPI project.) The Indian SLOCs to and from the Persian Gulf and CARs (via Chabahar-Herat) would lie within constant Chinese oversight and strategic reach. The Indians are already wary of the Chinese, who they feel are encircling them through a series of ports - a consequence of its 'String of Pearls' strategy.

By establishing the north-south trade corridor, the Chinese would literally outflank the Indo-US design of containing it to a great extent.

Pakistan has done well to develop Gwadar into a meaningful port. Its strategic implications are quite apparent. China is making a massive investment in the Gwadar area, adding 20 more berths there and will also develop the road infrastructure in its hinterland (Road Gwadar-Ratodero). It also intends to create an Economic Zone in Gwadar, which should go a long way in boosting the local, national and regional economy.

Furthermore, Iran has shown readiness to establish a \$4 billion oil refinery there. The IP gas pipeline too would have an enormous economic impact in the region. Pakistan and China must also develop a road-railways network from Port Qasim-Karachi along the west bank of the River Indus and take it right up to Torkham and beyond.

India, on the other hand, must understand the leverage that Pakistan is developing. Good relations with Pakistan could ensure the provision of gas and oil through land routes from Iran and the CARs. India could possibly open land trade routes to the West and get access to Iran and Turkey, on the one hand, and Afghanistan, CARs, Russia and Europe, on the other, NSRP.

Its energy needs could be met expeditiously and at much lower transportation costs. In return, it could make all-out efforts to genuinely resolve all outstanding issues with Pakistan. Kashmir and the water disputes rank the highest these days. Pakistan, in return, could ensure that Indian energy requirements could be met through the fossil fuel pipelines from Iran and the CARs. More so, the NSRP could become a reality. However, if it turns into a gas and oil versus water war, then both sides are likely to suffer. We must seek a win-win solution.

Gwadar is truly a port of immense possibilities and will be the hub of most political, strategic and economic developments in the region for a very long time to come.

All Day

Sweden for cooperation in energy, agriculture, waste management -- Online

Sweden for cooperation in energy, agriculture, waste management

LAHORE: A five member Swedish delegation, lead by Lars-Hjalmar Wide, Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan, visited the Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT).

The delegation including Ms Charlotte Kalin, CEO, Chamber Trade Sweden, Yawar Mian, Capital Business Sweden/CSR Pakistan, Jonas Rottorp, Swedish Environmental Research Institute (IVL) and Johan Bergkvist, Second Secretary, Embassy of Sweden held talks with PBIT team lead by Javed Akbar, Chief Executive Office, regarding cooperation in various sectors especially energy, agriculture and waste management.

The Swedish delegates are in Pakistan to conduct seminars in Lahore and Sialkot chambers of commerce & industry to present Case Studies of key Swedish Greentech expertise areas, successful Greentech solutions in Sweden and how Swedish technologies have benefited other countries.

Charlotte Kalin, CEO, Chamber Trade Sweden, who is in Pakistan as a Follow up visit of her earlier 2010 visit, to oversee forward cooperation in energy sector between Pakistan & Sweden, shared the fact that most global renewable companies are focusing on investing in India and China; while it was her organization's effort to divert similar Swedish companies to invest in Pakistan.

Javed Akbar, CEO, (PBIT) also highlighted the massive existent investment opportunities in the energy sector including renewable resources especially waste to energy and solar.

He also briefed the Swedish delegation about the initiatives taken by the Punjab Government to promote foreign investment in the province. Mr Jonas Rottorp representing the Swedish Environmental Research Institute (IVL) offered to solicit interest of Swedish energy companies for investment in the renewable energy sector.

All Day**Two-day Pakistan-Iran talks start -- (Source: nation.com.pk)**

Two-day Pakistan-Iran talks start

ISLAMABAD - Ahead of President Asif Ali Zardari's visit to Iran, a two-day long bilateral talk on the import of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) from Iran to Pakistan and construction of oil refinery at Gwadar started Monday.

High-ups from both sides of the petroleum ministries participate in the said important talks with an aim to step forward to finalise strategically important deals which in result would reduce energy woes in energy-starved Pakistan, a senior official of Pakistan's petroleum ministry said.

He said last week Iran had offered Pakistan to sell LPG at a discount of 30 dollars per ton during the visit of Iranian Petroleum Minister Rostam Ghasemi to Pakistan. Rostam Ghasemi during his visit called off President, Prime Minister of Pakistan and Adviser to Prime Minister on petroleum & natural resources Dr Asim Hussain.

Initially, both sides agreed that at first stage Iran would provide 10,000 tonnes each day LPG to Pakistan at a rate of \$30 per ton while the quantity will go up with the passage of time. Iranian LPG will be imported to Pakistan via road, the official added.

A Pakistani delegation, comprising official of petroleum ministry led by DG Gas Sher Khan, reached Tehran to materialise the deal and it is also likely that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) would be signed on February 27 during the expected visit of President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari to Iran. "Different MoUs including installation of oil refinery at Gwadar having refining capacity of 4-lac barrel per day, import of LPG and furnace oil etc are expected to be signed during Zardari's Iran visit", official sources said, adding, "Talks on Peace Pipeline (Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project) are near to bore fruits."

So far both sides withstood tremendous pressure from U.S. but did not get deterred to back off from their stance. The two sides finally agreed to sign what many duly believe is a monumental agreement. The agreement between both brethren states would be functional for 20 years and there would be a five-year extension. Tadbir Energy has already shown its agreement to construct pipeline inside Pakistan. The IP gasline project that will be completed by December 2014 will first bring 750 million cubic feet gas per day through 781-kilometer-long pipeline with a diameter of 42 inches, and later on, the gas flow will increase to 1 billion cubic feet per day.

It merits mentioning here that two states (Iran-Pakistan) are determined to make the pipe dream a reality as both have expressed their affirmation with regard to bringing Iranian gas to Pakistan despite persistent U.S. pressure to stop the project. Both sides have already settled all technical issues while price of Iranian gas including few other legal points of the agreement pertaining laying of 781 km long gasline on Pakistani side are yet to be resolved. However, both Iran and Pakistan are so far determined to proceed with the implementation of a pipeline project carrying Iranian gas to Pakistan by December 2014 and a break through is possible during President Asif Ali Zardari's visit to Iran.

Earlier, crucial talks between Iranian Tadbir Energy and Pakistan Inter State Gas System (ISGS) on \$1.5 billion IP gasline was deferred due to Pakistan's demand to reduce gas price for Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline to bring it at par with the rates finalised in Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline project. Besides, the Inter-State Gas Systems and the Iranian firm had already reached on a unanimous consensus that state-owned SSGCL and SNGPL would initiate mechanical works while the FWO, a subsidiary of the armed forces, would carry out civil works of the project while laying the pipeline from Gabd to Nawabshah inside Pakistan. Cost of installing gas pipeline on a single kilometer and the interest rate have already been settled on fourth day of last week's talks. The cost would stand at Rs190 million and the interest rate 3 percent on \$500 million loan. Iran had demanded four percent interest rate on \$500 million loan and Pakistan had bargained for three percent interest rate over the committed loan.

All Day

President leaves for Iran today to ink gasoline accord -- By: Online

President leaves for Iran today to ink gasoline accord

ISLAMABAD - President Asif Ali Zardari will leave for Iran on Tuesday (today) to sign Pak-Iran Gas Pipeline Project (PIGPP) agreement.

As per media reports, President Zardari will proceed to Tehran to sign the accord related to PIGPP despite mounting pressure from US against entering into such agreement with Iran.

In line with the agreement, Iran will extend loan amounting to 500 million dollars to Pakistan for laying pipeline within its boundaries. Availability of investors has also emerged a major issue with regard to this project for fear of imposition of economic restrictions by US.

The Foreign Office (FO) spokesman during his weekly press briefing on Thursday had brushed aside US pressure saying that PIGPP was very critical to Pakistan. Country was facing energy crisis at present and taking forward PIGPP was in the national interest, he added. President Asif Ali Zardari will not only sign agreement but Iran will also build an oil refinery in Gwadar. Refinery will refine 400000 barrel oil daily.

Both the countries will ink the formal agreement in regard to this project during this proposed visit of President Zardari to Iran.

US is likely to mount its pressure further on Pakistan in the face of growing ties between US and Iran. US state department said on Saturday Pakistan was having better option than PIGPP to meet its energy needs. However Pakistan has put up resistance to US pressure so far.

During last week Iranian oil minister had visited Islamabad and announced his country would start supplying gas to Pakistan from December, 2014. Sources said President Zardari prospective visit to Iran would play a crucial role in determining Iran role in meeting energy requirements of Pakistan.

As per minister for petroleum Dr Asim Hussain, President Zardari will ink gas pipeline project on February, 27. Besides it Pakistan will import Liquidated Petroleum Gas (LPG) and hold talks with Iran for building oil refinery in Gwadar. Iran has hinted at providing 10000 ton LPG daily initially to Pakistan and the quantum of supply would increase in the days to come.

This development is taking place at such junction of time when US is reiterating its reservations and possible stern reaction on PIGPP. India has already pulled out of this project under US pressure. It seems as if assistance from Iran can offer partly solution to the energy problem facing Pakistan.

The existing energy landscape is not only a perpetual source of embarrassment for Pakistanis but also the US recipes designed for addressing energy crisis for Pakistan are time consuming and expensive.

US insist Pakistan to import gas from Turkmenistan and Qatar instead of Iran. US is extending cooperation to Pakistan in hydropower projects but it would take several years to generate power from these projects.

Economic advisor to previous government Dr Ashfaq Hassan says energy crisis is leaving negative impact on GDP growth rate of the country which remains on the lower side by 3 to 4 percent.

Analysts said lack of growth in GDP rate has led to proliferate unemployment rate and poverty incidence. Investment has come to stand still and the industries have either been closed down or they are operating below their capacity. Riots and demonstrations have become a common phenomenon due to prevailing energy crisis in the country.

Gas shortfall has touched the mark of 2 billion cubic feet daily at present and the country will be able to secure 750 to one billion cubic feet gas daily from Iran under this project. The gas will be utilized for generation of electricity ranging between 4000 to 5000 megawatt daily. As soon as this project completes the supply-demand gap might have been widened.

Dr Ashfaq says the energy crisis is so deep that Pakistan should meet its requirements no matter it gets energy from anywhere. The PIGPP is viable and workable project at present.

All Day

پاکستان، ایران گیس پائپ لائن منصوبے پر دستخط کل ہونگے، زرداری آج تہران جائینگے -- نوائے وقت

زرداری آج تہران جائینگے 'ایران گیس پائپ لائن منصوبے پر دستخط کل ہونگے' پاکستان

اسلام آباد (سپیشل رپورٹ) صدر آصف علی زرداری 26 اور 27 فروری کو ایران کا دو روزہ کریں گے۔ اس دورے میں پاک ایران گیس پائپ لائن کے سلسلے میں حتمی مذاکرات ہوں گے۔ معتبر ذرائع کے مطابق صدر کے ساتھ پٹرولیم کے وزیر اعظم کے مشیر ڈاکٹر عاصم ایران جا رہے ہیں۔ تہران میں صدر زرداری اپنے ایرانی ہم منصب سے افغانستان کی صورتحال اور پاک ایران تعاون کے مختلف پہلوؤں پر صلاح مشورہ کریں گے۔ اے پی اے کے مطابق منصوبے پر حتمی دستخط کل 27 فروری کو کئے جائیں گے۔ ایران پی ایس او کے تعاون سے بلوچستان میں آئل ریفائنری قائم کرے گا۔ ذرائع کے مطابق معاہدے کے تحت ایران پاکستان کو اپنی حدود کے اندر پائپ لائن بچھانے کیلئے 50 کروڑ ڈالر کا قرضہ بھی دے گا۔ آن لائن کے مطابق امریکہ کی طرف سے اقتصادی پابندیاں لگنے کے خوف سے اس منصوبے کیلئے سرمایہ کاروں کی دستیابی کا مسئلہ درپیش ہے۔ کو مسترد و واضح رہے کہ جمعرات کو ہفتہ وار پریس بریفنگ میں ترجمان دفتر خارجہ نے بھی امریکی دبا کرتے ہوئے کہا تھا کہ پاک ایران گیس منصوبہ پاکستان کیلئے انتہائی اہم ہے۔ 4 ارب ڈالر سے گواہ میں تعمیر ہونے والی ریفائنری سے یومیہ 4 لاکھ بیرل تیل صاف کیا جا سکے گا۔ تہران اور اسلام آباد کے درمیان تعاون میں اضافہ ہونے کا امکان ہے۔ جبکہ ایرانی وزیر تیل کا کہنا ہے کہ ایران و بڑھنے پر امریکہ کی طرف سے دبا دسمبر 2014ء سے پاکستان کو گیس کی فراہمی شروع کر دے گا۔

All Day

گیس منصوبہ فیصلہ کن مرحلہ میں داخل نظریں صدر کے دورہ تہران پر لگی ہیں -- نوائے وقت

گیس منصوبہ فیصلہ کن مرحلہ میں داخل نظریں صدر کے دورہ تہران پر لگی ہیں

اسلام آباد (سپیشل رپورٹ) گواہ بندرگاہ کی دیکھ بھال کا بندوبست چین کے سپرد کرنے کے پاکستانی فیصلے کو امریکہ کی رضامندی حاصل ہے لیکن ایران سے گیس خریدنے کے فیصلے کی سخت مخالفت بدستور جاری ہے۔ دفتر خارجہ کے ایک ذریعے کے مطابق پاک ایران گیس پائپ لائن کا معاملہ فیصلہ کن مرحلہ میں داخل ہو چکا ہے کیونکہ اگلے ماہ موجودہ حکومت کی مدت پوری ہو جائے گی، نگران حکومت کو اتنے اہم معاملہ پر فیصلہ کرنے کا مینڈیٹ حاصل نہیں ہو گا جبکہ عام انتخابات کے بعد معرض وجود میں آنے والی حکومت کے بارے میں وثوق سے نہیں کہا جا سکتا کہ پاک ایران گیس پائپ لائن معاملہ پر اس کا کیا رویہ ہو گا؟ اس سلسلہ میں تمام نظریں صدر زرداری کے دورہ ایران پر جمی ہیں۔ مذکورہ ذریعے کے مطابق گواہ بندرگاہ اور گیس پائپ لائن محض تجارتی امور نہیں، ان کے نتیجے میں بالترتیب چین و ایران کا اس خطہ میں سیاسی و سفارتی اثر بھی بڑھے گا۔ بحیرہ عرب کے اس خطہ میں چین کی موجودگی سردست امریکہ کیلئے باعث تشویش نہیں، اس کی تمام تر توجہ ایشیاء بحر الکاہل کے خطہ پر مرکوز ہے تاہم پاک ایران گیس پائپ لائن کے معاملہ پر نہ صرف امریکہ بلکہ پاکستان کی دوست خلیجی ریاستوں کے بھی تحفظات ہیں لیکن اصل مسئلہ یہ ہے کہ ایران سے گیس نہ خریدنے کی صورت میں پاکستان کو توانائی بحران کے گرداب سے کون نکالے گا؟ امریکہ کے پاس پاکستان کے مسائل کا کوئی فوری حل نہیں۔ گواہ بندرگاہ کا آپریشن چین کے سپرد کرنے پر عالمی ردعمل آبنائے "ابھی تک سامنے آ رہا ہے جس کی وجہ یہ ہے کہ یہ بندرگاہ تیل کی سب سے مصروف بحری گزرگاہ سے صرف چار سو کلومیٹر پر واقع ہے۔ قراقرم ہائی وے کی تعمیر کے بعد گواہ بندرگاہ کا آپریشنل "پرمز کنٹرول سنبھالنے کو پاکستان میں چین کی دوسری بڑی سرمایہ کاری قرار دیا جا رہا ہے۔ غیر ملکی ماہرین کے مطابق گواہ میں چین کا انتظام، پاکستان کیلئے مفید ہونے کے علاوہ چین کی توانائی سیکورٹی کا بھی ضامن ہو گا۔ چین اسے گہرے سمندر کی بندرگاہ بنائے گا جو معاشی اعتبار سے پاکستان کیلئے حقیقی طور پر فائدہ مند ہو گی۔ طویل المیعاد منصوبے کے تحت پاکستان اس بندرگاہ کے ساحل پر تیل کی پائپ لائن تعمیر کرنے کا ارادہ رکھتا ہے جو مغربی چین تک کی ضرورت پوری کر سکے گی۔ گہرے سمندر کی بندرگاہ سے وسط ایشیائی ریاستیں بھرپور انداز میں مستفید ہو سکیں گی۔ سلامتی کا بہتر ماحول ہونے کی صورت میں معاشی سرگرمیوں کو مزید فروغ ملے گا

All Day

IP gas line project: Zardari heads to Iran to seal deal today -- The News
IP gas line project: Zardari heads to Iran to seal deal today

Despite mounting US pressure, President Asif Ali Zardari is leaving on Wednesday for Iran to seal a \$1.5 billion gas pipeline deal, it is learnt. The President would meet his counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on February 27 and sign the agreement of multibillion dollar Pak-Iran gas pipeline project. Both the leaders would also discuss investment prospects in Gwadar Port, which is recently handed over to a Chinese company.

According to presidential spokesman Senator Farhatullah Babar, Asif Ali Zardari would undertake a two-day official visit to Islamic Republic of Iran on February 27, 2013. He said during the visit, the President will hold talks with Iranian leadership on a host of bilateral issues and the regional situation. He said the President has been urging for further strengthening of the bilateral relations and for early completion of the mega projects between the two countries and expressed the hope that the visit would lend further impetus to the efforts aimed at early completion of the bilateral projects. The President would return on Thursday, he said.

Under the agreement of Pak-Iran gas pipeline project, Iran would extend a loan of \$500 million to Pakistan for laying the pipeline within its boundaries. Availability of investors for the project has also emerged as a major issue due to fear of economic restrictions by the US. Iran will also build an oil refinery in Gwadar. The installation will refine 400,000 barrels of oil per day.

All Day

IP gas line project: Zardari heads to Iran to seal deal today -- Business Recorder
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The sources said the President would also discuss the issue of LPG import from Iran and on building the oil refinery in Gwadar. Iran has hinted at providing 10,000 tons of LPG daily to Pakistan, with a pledge to increase the supply in future.

All Day

ایران دسمبر 2014 سے پاکستان کو گیس کی فراہمی شروع کر دے گا -- پاک ایران
ایران دسمبر 2014 سے پاکستان کو گیس کی فراہمی شروع کر دے گا

پاکستان اور ایران کے درمیان دیرینہ برادرانہ تعلقات میں مزید گرمجوشی پیدا ہو رہی ہے۔ پاک ایران تعلقات کی تاریخ رقم کرنے صدر زرداری آج ایران جا رہے ہیں

معاهدے کے تحت ایران پاکستان کو اپنی حدود کے اندر پائپ لائن بچھانے کے لیے پچاس کروڑ ڈالر کا قرضہ بھی دے گا۔ امریکا کی طرف سے اقتصادی پابندیاں لگنے کے خوف سے اس منصوبے کے لیے سرمایہ کاروں کی دستیابی کا مسئلہ درپیش ہے۔ منصوبے کے تحت ایران گواڈر میں ایک انٹر ریفرنری بھی قائم کرے گا۔ چار ارب ڈالر لاگت سے تعمیر ہونے والی ریفرنری سے یومیہ چار لاکھ بیرل تیل صاف کیا جا سکے گا۔ پائپ لائن کی وقت پر تکمیل کے بعد سے ایران دسمبر دو ہزار چودہ سے پاکستان کو گیس کی فراہمی شروع کر دے گا۔ ایران پاکستان گیس پائپ لائن منصوبے کو آئی پی یا پیس پائپ لائن منصوبہ بھی کہا جاتا ہے۔ پاکستان کو

ایرانی گیس کی فراہمی کے لینے مذاکرات کا آغاز انیس سو چورائیس میں ہوا اور انیس سو پچانوے میں ہی ایک ابتدائی معاہدہ طے پا گیا۔ انیس سو ننانوے میں پائپ لائن کو پاکستان سے بھارت تک توسیع دینے پر بھی اتفاق کر لیا گیا اور بھارت اور ایران کے درمیان معاہدہ بھی طے پا گیا۔ دو ہزار آٹھ میں پائپ لائن منصوبے میں مالی معاونت کے لینے چین کو بھی شامل کر لیا گیا، ایران نے اگست دو ہزار دس میں بنگلہ دیش کو بھی منصوبے میں شرکت کی دعوت دے دی۔ دو ہزار نو میں سیکیورٹی اور قیمتوں کے تعین کی وجہ سے بھارت منصوبے سے علیحدہ ہو گیا۔ تیس جنوری دو ہزار تیرہ کو حکومت نے پاکستان کے حصے میں بچھائی جانے والی پائپ لائن کے لینے ایران کے ساتھ معاہدہ طے کر لیا

All Day

-- گواد کی حوالگی، ایران گیس منصوبہ: پیپلز پارٹی کا پنجاب اسمبلی کے احاطہ میں جشن Nawa-e-waqat

گواد کی حوالگی، ایران گیس منصوبہ: پیپلز پارٹی کا پنجاب اسمبلی کے احاطہ میں جشن

لاہور (خصوصی نامہ نگار + لیڈی رپورٹر) ایران کے ساتھ گیس معاہدے اور گواد بندرگاہ کا نظم و نسق چین کو دینے پر اظہار تشکر کے طور پر پیپلز پارٹی نے پنجاب اسمبلی کے احاطہ میں جشن منایا، مٹھائیاں تقسیم کیں اور صدر آصف علی زرداری کو خراج تحسین پیش کیا۔ راجہ ریاض، شوکت بسرا، حسن مرتضیٰ، ساجد میر، فائزہ ملک، فوزیہ بہرام و دیگر ارکان اسمبلی اور کارکنوں اور خواتین نے بھنگڑے ڈالے۔ راجہ ریاض نے میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ صدر آصف علی زرداری نے گواد کا جو ٹھیکہ چین کو دیا ہے اور ایران کے ساتھ جو معاہدہ کرنے جا رہے ہیں یہ تاریخی کارنامے ہیں، قوم اس پر جشن منا رہی ہے۔ دونوں معاہدوں سے گیس کی کمی پوری ہو گی اور گواد کے معاہدہ سے ملک میں معاشی انقلاب آنے کا۔ صدر زرداری نے بے نظیر بھٹو اور ذوالفقار علی بھٹو کا صحیح جانشین ہونے کا ثبوت دیا ہے۔

All Day

Radio Pakistan -- گواد بندرگاہ کا منصوبہ قواعد و ضوابط کے تحت چین کے حوالے

گواد بندرگاہ کا منصوبہ قواعد و ضوابط کے تحت چین کے حوالے

مذہبی امور کے وزیر سید خورشید شاہ نے وقفہ سوالات کے دوران ایوان کو بتایا کہ یہ منصوبہ 25 کروڑ 90 لاکھ روپے کی بجٹ سے جون 2009 میں مکمل کر لیا گیا تھا۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ گواد اور جیوانی کے درمیان لنک 2 کروڑ 60 لاکھ روپے کی لاگت سے مکمل کر لیا گیا ہے۔

قومی اسمبلی کو آج بتایا گیا ہے کہ کپٹی بندر، پورٹ قاسم کراچی سے جیوانی تک آپٹیکل فائبر ٹرانسمیشن لنک مکمل کر لیا گیا ہے جس پر چھتیس کروڑ اسی لاکھ روپے لاگت آئے گی جبکہ باسٹھ کروڑ ستر لاکھ روپے کا تخمینہ تھا۔

مذہبی امور کے وزیر سید خورشید شاہ نے وقفہ سوالات کے دوران ایوان کو بتایا کہ یہ منصوبہ 25 کروڑ 90 لاکھ روپے کی بجٹ سے جون 2009 میں مکمل کر لیا گیا تھا۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ گواد اور جیوانی کے درمیان لنک 2 کروڑ 60 لاکھ روپے کی لاگت سے مکمل کر لیا گیا ہے۔

ایک ضمنی سوال پر وفاقی وزیر نے بتایا کہ گواد کی بندرگاہ کا منصوبہ قواعد و ضوابط کے تحت چین کے حوالے کر دیا گیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس منصوبے سے ملک خصوصاً بلوچستان کی ترقی اور خوشحالی میں مدد ملے گی۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ اس بندرگاہ سے ہم دنیا خصوصاً وسط ایشیائی ملکوں تک اپنی تجارت کو فروغ دینے کے قابل ہوں گے۔

ایک سوال پر وزیر اطلاعات و نشریات قمر زمان کائرہ نے ایوان کو بتایا کہ ملک کو چائے کے معاملے میں خودکفیل بنانے کیلئے کوششیں کی جا رہی ہیں کیونکہ چائے کی درآمد پر کثیر زرمبادلہ خرچ ہو جاتا ہے

All Day

NESPAK wins \$500m Afghan dam project -- DAILY TIMES

NESPAK wins \$500m Afghan dam project

LAHORE: NESPAK a state organisation of consulting engineers has achieved a breakthrough by securing a dam project in Afghanistan. According to a press release on Wednesday, NESPAK is the first Pakistani firm, which would design the dam on the Farah River in Bakhshabad. The representatives of the Ministry of Water and Energy government of Afghanistan and NESPAK signed the contract agreement of the project. The \$500 million Bakhshabad (Farah Rud) Dam Project consists of a dam, a powerhouse, appurtenant structures, a barrage 60 kilometers downstream of the Dam, left and right main irrigation canals and irrigation command area. NESPAK will provide services for detailed design, tender drawings and preparation of bidding documents. The Ministry of Water and Energy Afghanistan has termed the project as the first of its kind by a Pakistani company in Afghanistan. The dam will be financed by the Afghan government funds, once completed the project is expected to meet all the irrigation and energy needs of Farah province. The Dam's storage capacity will be more than one billion cubic meters. At the same time, it can irrigate more than 68,000 acres of agricultural land and produce about 27 megawatts of electricity, which can meet the electricity needs of Farah province, said Muhammad Ismail Khan Minister of Energy and Water Afghanistan. It is a great honour for Pakistan NESPAK has won this mega project through an international open competition, which shows Company's recognition as a world-class consultant, not only in Pakistan but abroad as well. About 545 large, medium and small dams will be built or refurbished across Afghanistan. About 111 of these dams are a priority for the Ministry. staff report

All Day

Russia, Pakistan to boost cooperation in diverse fields -- OBSERVER

Russia, Pakistan to boost cooperation in diverse fields

Thursday, February 28, 2013 - Islamabad—The Acting President and Chairman Senate Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, Wednesday, said that Pakistan gave high importance to relations with Russia.

He also said that visit of Russian Parliamentary Delegation was a commendable gesture of good will and friendship, heralding a new dawn in our bilateral and inter-parliamentary relations.

"It will certainly go a long way towards strengthening people to people contacts and bringing our two countries closer for the common good of our people" Bokhari said while expressing his views in meeting with Russian parliamentary delegation headed by Valentina Matvienko, Chairperson of the Council of the Federal Assembly of Russian Federation here at Parliament House.

The Chairman said that Russian Federation is an important country particularly in our region and at the world stage. Russia can play crucial role in peace, stability and economic uplift of the region. We share our common objectives and have shared interests and we look forward for enhanced cooperation between the two countries in various fields like increasing our trade, economic, parliamentary and cultural relations. The Chairman said that we want to collaborate in technological fields particularly in the field of energy. The Chairman said that we understand the importance of Russian Parliamentary delegation's visit to Pakistan.

Reciprocating similar sentiments the Russian counterpart Valentina said that Pakistan ranks among priority of Russian foreign policy as Pakistan plays an important role in region and Muslim world. Pakistan is also non-permanent member of UN Security Council and we definitely want increased engagement at international level as well. We look forward to enhance cooperation between the two countries in diversity of fields.

The Russian counterpart said that we are cognizant of Pakistan's requirements regarding development of infrastructure like dams and power plants to meet their energy needs.

She offered her all out assistance in this sector. She told the Chairman that Russian companies have huge experience in developing power plants and hydropower projects and increasing energy cooperation between the two sides can help Pakistan to address energy crisis.

She told the Chairman that we support signing of agreement between National Assembly of Pakistan and State Duma of Russia and we look forward to establish the similar mechanism between Senate of Pakistan and Council of Federal Assembly (upper house of Russian parliament).

She said that Pakistan Russian friendship group must also play proactive role in boosting our ties.

Talking about enhancing trade and economic ties she said that strong potential exists between the two countries to boost our cooperation in this capacity. She told the Chairman that there has been increase in trade volume but we must double our efforts and include wide range of goods for boosting our trade volume.

Valentina emphasized the need for enhancing people to people contacts and exchange of delegations at various levels. She said that enhancing cultural cooperation and also in the education sphere can help in strengthening our ties.

She told the Chairman that lots of Pakistani students are studying in Russia in various higher education institutes and we are providing grants and scholarships to them.—Online

All Day

Swiss delegation to visit Pakistan to explore investment avenues: Envoy -- APP

Swiss delegation to visit Pakistan to explore investment avenues: Envoy

HYDERABAD: The Ambassador of Switzerland at Islamabad Christophe Bubb has informed that a high level trade delegation of his country will soon visit Pakistan to review the possibility of investment in different sectors.

While addressing the members of Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry here at the Chamber's Secretariat on Wednesday evening, he said that relations between the two countries were being strengthened with the passage of time and the Swiss investors had made investments in different projects of Pakistan.

He however, said that industrial sector of Pakistan is being affected due to energy crisis and without energy, the industrial production could not be possible. The agro-based industry of the country is suitable for investment, he said.

President HCCI Goharullah in his welcome address said that due to satisfactory law and order situation, Hyderabad is the ideal city for foreign investment.

He said that trade relations between the two countries are being improved at a rapid pace and the trade quantum could be improved on a large scale if Pakistani products could receive relief in taxes in Switzerland.

He invited the trade delegation to visit Hyderabad where investment opportunities are available in different sectors including agro-based and power generation.

Among others, Senior Vice President HCCI Turab Ali Khoja, former vice-president Ziauddin, former president Emmad Siddiqui, members Maqsood Ahmed Khan, Syed Yawer Ali Shah, Masroor Iqbal Jaferi, Sikandar Dhandhuri, Zulfiqar Chohan, Dr. Zulfiqar Yousfani, Muhammad Shahid, Rehan Ahmed, Abdul Sattar Khan, Iqbal Baig, Dr. Farid, Haji Ikhtiar Ahmed, Yousuf Dada, Nawab Ahmed Khanzada, Salim A. Shaikh, Abdul Qayoom Nusrat and Zia Masroor were also present on the occasion.

All Day

Tajik envoy announces completion of Pakistan-Tajikistan road link -- PAKISTAN TODAY

Tajik envoy announces completion of Pakistan-Tajikistan road link

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ISLAMABAD - Newly appointed Tajik envoy to Islamabad Sherali Jononov on Wednesday said that Tajikistan was interested in Pakistan's Gawadar port, adding

that Tajikistan government had completed Pakistan-Tajikistan road link work of their side.

Talking to journalists at the Tajikistan embassy, he urged the international community to establish peace in post-US Afghanistan through dialogue.

The newly appointed Tajik ambassador Sherali Jononov said that Tajikistan had always supported the option of dialogue to resolve the problems in Afghanistan and to maintain peace in the region.

Jononov said that the issue could not be redressed by use of force from any side and ultimate solution of the issue was possible only through dialogue.

To a question, the Tajik envoy said that Tajikistan was interested in the completion of the Pakistani port of Gawadar as it would prove the shortest way to trade with the international community. Responding a query, he said the Pakistan-Tajikistan road link development work had been completed. He expressed the hope that Pakistan would complete their side of the road as well.

Earlier, the ambassador of Tajikistan told journalists that his country took an initiative in December 2010, in support of other countries, following which United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring the current year as the International Year of Water Cooperation.

Elaborating further, Sherali Jononov was of the view that for the implementation of water-related internationally agreed development goals, and sharing of best practices on cooperation among various water users, the Tajik government was hosting a high-level international conference on water cooperation under auspices of the UN in Dushanbe by August this year.

He said that the conference would be a two-day event in which the high-level representatives from the member countries would participate.

The ambassador maintained that during the international conference two high-level plenary sessions and four round table discussions would be made amid promoting water cooperation as well as resettling the water issues.

He said that the construction of hydropower plants and the creation of reservoirs in narrow mountain valleys would have minimal impact on the climate, environment and would save water from evaporation, which was critical in account of global warming challenges.

All Day

Trade corridor: Exports from Pakistan to Turkey -- The Express Tribune

Trade corridor: Exports from Pakistan to Turkey

By APP

Published: February 27, 2013

ISLAMABAD: The planned Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul trade corridor will help Pakistan export its trade goods to Turkey without any hindrance. The trade corridor, known as Economic Corporation Organization (ECO) trade corridor, will later be expanded to the European countries. This decision was taken in the fifth meeting of the ECO. At the Transit Transport Coordination Council meeting, held in Islamabad last year, a source in the Ministry of Communications said that ECO provided an opportunity of trade development as its member state borders are stretched from Europe to South Asia and from the shores of Arabian Sea to the Russian frontiers. He also said that Pakistan has extended transit trade facilities to land-locked member states of ECO through its warm water seaports. The benefits of this facility can not be optimised without an efficient road and rail network, he said. The Ministry of Communications said that the National Trade Corridor would provide an efficient and economical road network for inter-regional connectivity, particularly an effective access to Pakistan's seaports to ECO member states.

Published in The Express Tribune, February 28th, 2013.

March 1, 2013

Fri

All Day

China's takeover of Gwadar Port mutually beneficial -- The Nation

China's takeover of Gwadar Port mutually beneficial

Beijing - China's takeover of the Gwadar Port represents an economic manoeuvre that is in line with the interests of the two countries, a military spokesman said Thursday, reported Xinhua. The handover led foreign media to speculate that the port could be used by the Chinese military. "These comments have distorted the facts and disturbed relations with surrounding countries," Defence Ministry spokesman Geng Yansheng said.

March 4, 2013

Mon

All Day

Gas pipeline, Gwadar port mega projects praised -- APP

Gas pipeline, Gwadar port mega projects praised

Lahore—People from all walks of life have hailed the PPP-led government decision to inaugurate Pak-Iran gas pipeline and develop Gwadar port, which will make the country self-sufficient in energy and strengthen its economy.

PPP MPA from Southern Punjab Iftikhar Ahmed Babur Khetran, talking to APP here Sunday, said that the revolutionary decision by President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf will help the country in mitigating the gas and energy besides strengthening country's economy for the coming generations.

Eulogizing the vision and policy of the PPP, the MPA said that the recent foreign policy initiatives namely Pak- Iran gas pipeline and entrusting the Gwadar Port to China are true proof of PPP's struggle for the glory of the masses and the country.

Vice President SAARC CCI and veteran businessman leader Iftikhar Ali Malik hailed the government decision of signing the historic agreement of laying the Pak-Iran gas pipeline, adding that the gas pipeline would help overcome energy problems faced by the industry sector of the country.

He said the Gwadar port project was of great economic value for the country to become a hub of trade and commerce activities in the region and beyond and bring progress and prosperity to the people of Balochistan.

Dr Sohail, a liberty market businessman, said that the decision to get gas from Iran despite US opposition had been a historic decision of the present PPP government, adding that the laying of the Pak-Iran gas pipeline would help overcome the energy crisis and boost businesses in the country.

He said the Gwadar port project would attract more foreign investment in the country and make Pakistan a business friendly country.

Mansab Ali, a rickshaw driver, said the PPP government has always worked for the betterment of the common man and the Pak-Iran gas pipeline would help improve their financial lot. He thanked President Asif Ali Zardari for helping the people earn their livelihood in a better way by resolving the energy crisis.

Prof Riaz Hanjra, of Dayal Singh College, said the recent decisions have been a great victory of the PPP government on the foreign policy as well as economic front and both projects would bring about a qualitative change in people's quality of life.—APP

All Day

A step forward: Pakistan, Iran to sign MoU for oil refinery on March 11 -- The Express Tribune

A step forward: Pakistan, Iran to sign MoU for oil refinery on March 11

400,000 bpd will be the capacity of the refinery to be set up by Iran. ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran are preparing to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for setting up the country's largest oil refinery costing \$4 billion at the Gwadar Port on March 11, a project that will not only meet Pakistan's refining needs but will also open avenues for China to get oil supplies. Iran will set up an oil complex at the Gwadar Port, which will have the oil refinery. According to the original plan, Tehran will also lay an oil pipeline from its territory to Gwadar to transport crude oil for processing. "If Pakistan and Iran succeed in completing the oil refinery and the pipeline, it may prompt China to revive its projects of establishing an oil refinery in Gwadar and laying an oil pipeline from Gwadar to western China to get oil supplies", an official told The Express Tribune.

All Day

Nadra installs new checking system at Pak-Iran border -- The News

Nadra installs new checking system at Pak-Iran border

The National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) successfully implemented the Integrated Border Management System (IBMS) at Gwadar International Airport and a new land border, Gabadt, a Nadra official said on Monday.

"Securing Pakistan begins with securing international borders and this means all borders including international airports, land, rail and sea borders," the chairman of Nadra Tariq Malik said on this occasion.

"We have built capacity of Federal Immigration Authority (FIA) and helped them so that they can help themselves by making use of state-of-the-art technology to do their core job – combating human trafficking and international terrorism," he said.

The system is designed and tailored specifically as per immigration laws of Pakistan, which helps prevent illegal entry, use of counterfeit documents, human smuggling, and other travel fraud, the official of Nadra said.

The IBMS is now operational at the Pak-Iran border for the management of passengers of all entries/exits through these stations and effective from Tuesday (today) all passengers will be processed through the system, she added.

According to her, Nadra is the partner for the implementation of IBMS for FIA to replace the existing PISCES system at all the entry and exit points in Pakistan including the airport, railway stations and land routes.

Moreover, the IBMS is already operational on all major international airports including the Benazir International Airport Islamabad, Quaid-e-Azam International Airport Karachi, Allama Iqbal International Airport Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta, she mentioned.

"Nadra also implemented IBMS and land border between the Pak-Afghan border at Torkham, and rail route between Pakistan and India at Khokrapar, Sindh." Highlighting the IBMS features, she claimed that it has been designed to document and store the entire process starting from visa issuance till departure and arrivals from the country thus preventing illegal human trafficking as well as illegal immigrants to flee from the country. IBMS has been equipped with the latest technologies like advance fingerprint matching, digital facial recognition system, specialised handling for different categories of travellers, she said.

All Day

Rs13,527m spent on construction of Gwadar port link roads -- Observer
Rs13,527m spent on construction of Gwadar port link roads

Wednesday, March 06, 2013 - Islamabad—The Government has spent a total of Rs 13527 million on the construction of link roads to Gwadar Port in last five years, Minister for Communication Dr Arbab Alamgir told Senate on Tuesday.

In a written reply to the question of Ms Nuzhat Sadiq, he said Rs 3854 million had been spent on the construction of N-10, N-85, and M-8 linking Gwadar with rest of the country in 2008-9, Rs 3738 million in 2009-10, Rs 1946 million in 2010-11, Rs 1630 million during 2011-12 and 2359 million during 2012-13. He said Rs 1 billion has been allocated for providing comprehensive foolproof security and creation of dedicated wing of Frontier Constabulary for providing security to contractors and labour.

National Highway Authority (NHA) has planned the construction of another 110 km long Baisma-Khuzdar road (N-30) for providing connectivity to Gwadar port. NHA has planned the construction of seven roads for providing connectivity to Gwadar Port, he said.

Three roads have already been completed including 653 km Lyari- Ormara- Gwadar-Gabd road (N-10). Another 35 km M-8 from Khuzdar- Khorī road has also been completed. Another 61 km (M-8) Quba Saeed Khan-Ratodero road. While 73 percent Khorī-Quba Saeed Khan road has been completed.

Prime Minister has approved mobilization of Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) on Gwadar-Turbat-Hoshab. 22 percent of 459 km long Hoshab-Basima-Sorab (N-85) has also been completed. 196 km long Gwadar-Turbat-Hoshab has been completed 68 percent.

All Day

Islamabad and Tehran are set to sign a deal for the refinery, -- APP

Islamabad and Tehran are set to sign a deal for the refinery, which will have a 400,000 barrels per day capacity, on March 11 [2013], the day two sides have announced they will begin the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project on their border.

Under the deal, Tehran will lay an oil pipeline from its territory to Gwadar to transport crude oil for processing. Visiting Iranian oil minister Rostam Ghasemi last month agreed in Islamabad to set up an oil complex with an oil refinery at the Gwadar Port in Balochistan. The proposed refinery in Gwadar is expected to give China an impetus to restart work on its Gwadar oil refinery after it was halted in 2009.

"If Pakistan and Iran succeed in completing the oil refinery and the pipeline, it may prompt China to revive its projects of establishing an oil refinery in Gwadar and laying an oil pipeline from Gwadar to western China to get oil supplies," The Express Tribune reported an unnamed Pakistani official as saying. "The coastal oil refinery project may also create scores of employment opportunities for the local people."

Iran's plan to lay an oil pipeline and establish an oil refinery in Gwadar is likely to raise eyebrows in Washington, which is already opposed to the IP (Iran-Pakistan) gas pipeline. The addition of oil to the pipeline mix being planned by the authorities in Tehran and Islamabad comes at a time when the US is trying to block the Iran's oil exports to the world and pressing Islamabad to abandon the IP project because of Tehran's nuclear program. Gwadar is strategically located as a hub for South Asia, Central Asia and West Asia, and is likely to emerge as a free oil port serving as petro-chemical center for the region.

China last month took over operational control of Gwadar Port and agreed to put funding in place that will make it the biggest investor in the port city after simultaneously becoming the builder, financier and operator of the Arabian Sea port, which is located near the Strait of Hormuz, through which most of its oil imports transit. A major oil refinery could turn Gwadar into a transit terminal for Iranian and African crude oil imports.

The proposed oil complex project will be completed by Iran in a joint venture with Pakistan State Oil (PSO), the country's oil marketing giant. The Gwadar refinery plan will replace those for UAE-assisted Khalifa refinery, a plan that has been in doldrums since 2007 and saw the UAE's state-run International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC) finally suspending the work on the project. A China-funded refinery project in Gwadar failed to make any headway due to financial constraints and concerns over the security situation in Balochistan.

The plan to lay an oil pipeline from Iran to Gwadar was discussed between Pakistan and Iran during the visit to Tehran of petroleum adviser Dr Asim Hussain in December 2012. Iran also offered 100,000 barrels per day of long-term crude supply to Pakistan on deferred payment.

China is expected to revive its earlier planned projects including establishment of an oil city in Gwadar. A petrochemical city and a major refinery along with petrochemical logistics and storage complexes were planned to be set up in the proposed Gwadar oil city.

Under a deal signed between Pakistan and the China in 2006, Great United Petroleum Holdings Company Limited (GUPC) of China agreed to conduct the feasibility study and preparation work for the petrochemical city project in Gwadar involving an initial investment of \$12.5 billion. China had expressed interest in constructing an oil refinery in Gwadar with an output of refining 60,000 barrels crude oil per day, during former president Pervez Musharraf's visit to China in February 2006. The refinery and the oil pipeline projects have been the part of the proposed Pakistan-China energy corridor.

An oil pipeline from Gwadar to western China will reduce the time and distance for oil transport from the Gulf to China and a major oil refinery at Gwadar would further facilitate China's oil imports.

Pakistan could function as an energy corridor linking the oil fields of Iran, and possibly even Iraq, with the Chinese market by means of a pipeline that would cross the Himalayas above Kashmir. Gwadar has greater scope as a free oil port in the Asian region and it can serve as a future petroleum hub, meeting oil transshipment requirements - not only of different countries, but of China in particular.

Imports of crude oil from Iran through the proposed pipeline would allow energy-deficient Pakistan to meet its furnace oil requirements, which stand at nine million tons per year, and will also save on transportation costs.

Pakistan will import 750 million cubic feet of gas per day (mmcf) through the proposed IP gas pipeline. The country however faces pressure in securing sufficient funding for the project from foreign countries and financial entities due to the US sanctions imposed against Iran because of its nuclear ambitions.

Tehran however agreed to provide \$500 million loan to the country for laying the pipeline in its territory after seeking assurance from Islamabad that it will not back out under US pressure and complete the project on time. Construction of the pipeline is estimated to cost Islamabad \$1.5 billion.

Last month, the US State Department issued Islamabad a fresh warning on the IP pipeline project after Pakistan's federal cabinet on January 30 [2013] gave its final approval for building a pipeline in its territory with financial and technical assistance from Iran.

"The Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline is an important example of Tehran-Islamabad cooperation, and despite hostilities towards the expansion of ties we must overcome this opposition decisively," AFP reported Khamenei as saying to Zardari. "Accessing safe energy source is the first priority for any country including Pakistan. In this region, the Islamic republic is the only nation that has safe energy resources and we are ready to provide Pakistan its energy needs."

All Day

**Another shipment of 26,000 tons of urea arrives at Gwadar --
RECORDER**

Another shipment of 26,000 tons of urea arrives at Gwadar

Another urea shipment of some 26,000 tons imported from Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) has arrived at Gwadar Port. This is the second urea consignment against \$100 million credit facility being provided by the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD). Under this facility, first shipment of some 27,500 tons of urea was arrived on February 12, 2013.

A ship, MV KRONOS ISLAND, carrying some 26,154 metric tons of urea has reached Gwadar port on Thursday. The ship was loaded and sailed from "Al-Jubail" port of Saudi Arabia few days back and urea offloading has been initiated at Gwadar port. As per initial tentative schedule provided by SABIC, some 115,000 metric tons of urea will be supplied during first quarter (January-March) of 2013, out of which two shipments of cumulatively some 53,654 has already arrived while the third shipment of 30,000 tons is also due during this month.

An official of TCP has also confirmed that urea consignment import from Saudi Arabia under credit facility has arrived on Thursday. He said that another consignment of imported urea is also schedule to reach Gwadar port in the second week of March 2013. In January this year, a commercial agreement was signed between Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) and SABIC for the supply of urea against \$100 million credit facility being provided by SFD.

As per the agreement, SABIC will supply approximately over 200,000 to 240,000 metric tons of urea to Pakistan under this facility. However, the total quantity depends on the international price as if the prices will be on higher side Pakistan will get less quantity and in case of lower prices, the country will get more supply from SABIC. While, total delivery of imported urea is expected to complete till December 2013, however, TCP is making efforts for early supply of commodity.

All Day

China mulls Gwadar-Rato Dero highway funding -- The News

ISLAMABAD: With fully prepared to take charge of strategic deep water Gwadar port formally this month or next, People's Republic of China, Pakistan's time-tested ally and all-weather friend, now plans to extend financial aid to Islamabad for the construction of Gwadar-Rato Dero highway.

Sources told Geo News that Beijing would grant \$700 million aid to Pakistan, which has long been facing scarcity of funds with its economy marred by precarious law and order situation, for construction of Gwadar's East Bay Road and other infrastructure.

The sources said that Beijing is determined to make the port successful.

All Day

Pakistan, China trade to reach \$15b by 2015 -- APP

Pakistan, China trade to reach \$15b by 2015

Friday, March 08, 2013 - Islamabad—Pakistan and China are committed to take volume of bilateral trade to \$15 billion by 2015. China is Pakistan's largest trading partner and Pakistan is China's second largest trading partner in South Asia. Tariq Sayeed Patron in-chief Pak-China Business Council talking to Wang Xiaoguang Deputy Director of Sichuan Bureau of Expo Affairs Chingdu and Chinese delegation at Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) said Pakistan and China enjoy a commercial relationship with the volume of trade standing at \$12 billion.

He informed Pakistan-China trade increased by 17.6 percent to a total of \$12.4 billion in 2012. Pakistan's exports to China increased by 48.2 percent to \$3.14 billion. Imports from China increased by 9.9 percent to \$9.2 billion. The two-way trade in 2011 was \$10.6 billion. China has helped the business community of Pakistan by providing maximum facilitation to FPCCI's participation in various events, such as Kunming and Chengdu Fairs, as well as helping us establish two

FPCCI international offices in the cities of Chengdu and Kunming and a display centre in Kunming.

Chinese delegation is visiting Pakistan to introduce 14th Western China International Fair (WCIF), which will be held on October 23-27 2013. WCIF is an opportunities for Pakistani exporters to introduce their products. Wang Xiaoguang said Chinese people like Pakistani very much and we wanted to achieve good results of our historic friendship.

Pakistan, China trade to reach \$15b by 2015

All Day

26 ہزار ٹن یوریا گوادر پورٹ پہنچ گئی -- نوائے وقت

مارچ 10 2013
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کراچی (کامرس رپورٹر) سعودی عرب سے 26 ہزار ٹن یوریا کی کھیپ گوادر پورٹ پہنچ گئی۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق سعودی فنڈ فار ڈیولپمنٹ کے تحت 10 کروڑ ڈالر کی کریڈٹ سہولت کے بعد، یوریا کی دوسری کھیپ پاکستان پہنچی ہے۔ اس سے قبل 27 ہزار 500 ٹن یوریا کی شپمنٹ، 12 فروری کو گوادر پہنچی تھی۔ طے شدہ پروگرام کے تحت سعودی بیسک انڈسٹریز کارپوریشن جنوری سے مارچ 2013 کے درمیان، ایک لاکھ 15 ہزار میٹرک ٹن یوریا فراہم کریگا۔ جس میں 53 ہزار 600 چون میٹرک ٹن یوریا درآمد کی جاچکی ہے۔ جبکہ 30 ہزار میٹرک ٹن یوریا کی تیسری شپمنٹ بھی اسی ماہ متوقع ہے

All Day

China will be given access to Pak coal: President -- HYDERABAD (Online)

China will be given access to Pak coal: President

HYDERABAD (Online) - President Asif Ali Zardari has said that first priority of the government is to provide protection to the lives and properties of the people at every cost.

He was addressing the inauguration and ground breaking ceremony of a number of mega-development projects worth billions of rupees in Hyderabad on Saturday.

He said in the ongoing global debate on the issue of security and terrorism, Pakistan will also present its point of view at all forums.

The President said that Pakistan will provide its coal reservoirs to China for producing energy to overcome the existing shortage of electricity in the country.

He said the development projects taken by the government including Thar coal project will bring prosperity in the country and provide enormous job opportunities to the youth.

Meanwhile President Zardari inaugurated Behan Benazir Basti housing scheme for the homeless people in Hyderabad,

Under the Behan Benazir Basti housing scheme, 65 thousand housing units will be constructed for poor people in 23 districts of Sindh.

The project will be completed at a cost of 1.6 billion rupees.

The president also laid the foundation stone of Karachi-Hyderabad M-9 Motorway in Hyderabad.

The president also inaugurated 48 kilometer long Hyderabad-Badin Road, which has been completed at a cost of 184 million rupees.

All Day

Gas pipeline, Gwadar Port decisions to boost economy -- THE NEWS

Gas pipeline, Gwadar Port decisions to boost economy

KARACHI: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) hailed the decision of Asif Ali Zardari regarding Iran Pakistan Gas Pipeline and handing over the Gwadar Port to China.

Iqbal Dawood Pakwala Vice President of FPCCI said these decisions would help the country in mitigating the gas and energy demand besides strengthening country's economy for the coming generations.

Pakistan continues to suffer from huge energy deficiency and this directly affects our industry and GDP growth. Currently gas is the cheapest commodity for Pakistan to generate electricity and this gas pipeline will meet 50 percent of our energy demand.

He said these two decisions (Iran Pakistan gas pipeline and Gwadar Port) taken without the any external pressure, which would further stable the economy of Pakistan not only in its region but also in the entire world.

Gwadar Port project was of great economic valuse for the country to become a hub of trade and commerce activities in the region and would bring progress and prosperity to the people of Balochistan. staff report

All Day

گواڈر پورٹ، گیس پائپ لائن اچھے اقدامات ہیں: جہانگیر اشرف وینس -- نوائے وقت
 گواڈر پورٹ، گیس پائپ لائن اچھے اقدامات ہیں: جہانگیر اشرف وینس

لاہور (خبر نگار) تحریک انصاف کے رہنما جہانگیر اشرف وینس نے پاک ایران گیس پائپ لائن منصوبے کے افتتاح کو قوم و ملک کے لئے خوش آئند قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ گواڈر پورٹ کو چین کے حوالے کرنا اور ایران کے ساتھ گیس پائپ لائن کا معاہدہ حکومت کے بڑے اقدام ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا چونکہ اب الیکشن کا مرحلہ انتہائی قریب ہے اس لئے حکومت کو منصفانہ انتخابات کے انعقاد کے تمام انتظامات مکمل کر کے اقتدار سے الگ ہو جانا چاہئے۔ جہانگیر اشرف وینس نے کہا کہ عمران خان برسر اقتدار آ کر گواڈر اور ایران گیس منصوبے سے بھی بڑے منصوبے لائیں گے جس سے قوم خوشحال ہو گی

All Day

چین نے گوادرتو ڈیرو روڈ مکمل کرنے کیلئے پاکستان کی مالی امداد پر سنجیدگی سے ... غور شروع کر دیا -- جنگ

چین نے گوادرتو ڈیرو روڈ مکمل کرنے کیلئے پاکستان کی مالی امداد پر سنجیدگی سے غور ... اسلام آباد شروع کر دیا ہے۔ ذرائع کے مطابق 450 کلومیٹر طویل سڑک کی تعمیر کئی سال سے فنڈز کی کمی اور امن و امان کی صورتحال کے باعث تعطل کا شکار ہے، چین کی جانب سے گوادرتو پورٹ لینے کے بعد منصوبہ بنایا گیا ہے کہ اس اہم ترین سڑک کی تکمیل کیلئے 70 کروڑ ڈالر پاکستان کو دینے جائیں گے، امکان ہے کہ اس رقم سے گوادرتو ایسٹ بے روڈ کی تعمیر سمیت دیگر انفراسٹرکچر منصوبوں پر کام کیا جائے گا۔ ذرائع کے مطابق چین کی جانب سے گوادرتو پورٹ کام یاب بنانے کیلئے منصوبہ بندی کی جارہی ہے جبکہ چین گوادرتو پورٹ کا باقاعدہ کنٹرول رواں یا اگلے ماہ تک سنبھال سکتا ہے۔

All Day

ایران پاکستان گیس پائپ لائن منصوبے کا افتتاح -- ایکپریس

ایران پاکستان گیس پائپ لائن منصوبے کا افتتاح

لاہور: صدر آصف علی زرداری اور ایرانی صدر محمود احمدی نژاد نے ایران پاکستان گیس پائپ لائن کے دوسرے فیز کا افتتاح کر دیا ہے اور دونوں سربراہان مملکت نے ایران کے سرحدی علاقے چابہار میں گنبد کے مقام پر خصوصی تقریب میں اس منصوبے کی نقاب کشائی کی۔ راقم بھی دیگر صحافیوں کے ہمراہ اس تاریخی موقع پر موجود تھا۔ اس منصوبے کے تحت پاکستان کو ایران کے جنوب میں واقع پارس گیس فیلڈ سے 56 انچ کی پائپ لائن کے ذریعے گیس فراہم کی جائے گی اور جنوری 2015 تک ایران سے گیس کی باقاعدہ سپلائی شروع ہو جائے گی جس کی تعمیر کا کنٹریکٹ ایک ایرانی کمپنی کو دیا گیا ہے۔ یہ کمپنی پاکستان کی حدود میں نواب شاہ تک 781 کلو میٹر لائن بچھائے گی۔ سابق وزیراعظم بے نظیر بھٹو نے 1994ء میں ایران پاکستان گیس پائپ لائن منصوبے کا خواب دیکھا اور اب ان کے اس خواب کو حقیقت میں بدلنے کے لئے صدر آصف علی زرداری نے پاک ایران سرحد کے ساتھ اس منصوبے کی تعمیر کا آغاز کیا ہے۔

امریکا کے شدیدترین دباؤ کے باوجود صدر آصف علی زرداری نے پاکستانی مفادات کو مدنظر رکھتے ہوئے اس منصوبے پر عمل درآمد کا آغاز کر دیا ہے۔ کئی حکومتوں نے اس منصوبے پر مذاکرات کئے مگر اس کا کوئی حل نہ نکل سکا۔ پیپلز پارٹی کی حکومت نے پانچ سال بڑی نیچی پرواز سے بظاہر یہ تاثر دیا کہ وہ پر و امریکا اور پرو اسٹیبلشمنٹ پارٹی بن گئی ہے۔ صدر زرداری اس دوران اپنا ورک کرتے رہے اور بطور صدر جتنے دورے انہوں نے چین کے کئے پاکستان کے کسی صدر نے نہیں کئے، صدرپانچ سال کے دوران آٹھ بار ایران بھی گئے، پھر اچانک جس طرح ذوالفقار علی بھٹو نے ایٹمی پروگرام اور بے نظیر بھٹو نے میزائل ٹیکنالوجی دی، اس طرح صدر زرداری نے بھی امریکی دباؤ مسترد کرتے ہوئے ایران پاکستان گیس پائپ لائن منصوبے کو عملی جامہ پہنایا۔

گوادرتو پورٹ سے چین کو بحیرہ عرب تک رسائی مل جائے گی اور اس سے چین بحیرہ عرب میں بھی اہم ملک بن جائے گا، گوادرتو پورٹ چین کی بڑی خواہش تھی، سابق صدر پرویز مشرف نے گوادرتو پورٹ کو سنگا پور کے حوالے کر دیا تھا۔ سینئر صحافیوں سے ایک ملاقات کے دوران صدر زرداری سے پوچھا گیا کہ آپ نے اپنی حکومت کے آخری ماہ ہی کیوں اتنے بڑے فیصلے کئے جس پر صدر کا کہنا تھا کہ گوادرتو پورٹ کا معاملہ عدالت میں تھا اب عدالتی فیصلے کے بعد گوادرتو پورٹ چین کے حوالے کر دیا گیا ہے۔ گوادرتو کی بڑی سٹریٹجک اہمیت ہے اور یہ بحیرہ عرب میں گہرے پانی کی بہترین بندر گاہ ہے اور یہ پورٹ کئی خلیجی ممالک سے بہتر پرفارم کر سکتی ہے اور گوادرتو کو دینی کی طرز پر مستقبل کا بڑا تجارتی مرکز بھی قرار دیا جا رہا ہے۔ صدر زرداری نے گوادرتو پورٹ اور پاک ایران گیس پائپ لائن کے اہم فیصلے کر کے پیپلز پارٹی کی تاریخ بنائی ہے اور پاکستان کے عوام میں اپنی حب الوطنی ثابت کی ہے، یہ دونوں منصوبے آئندہ انتخابات میں پیپلز پارٹی کے انتخابی سلوگن ہونگے اور الیکشن پر اس کے اثرات مرتب ہوں گے۔ یہ دونوں منصوبے علاقائی سطح پر تعاون میں بڑی پیش رفت ہیں۔ اس سے روزانہ 750 ملین کیوبک فٹ گیس پاکستان کو ملے گی اور یہ اس وقت پاکستان میں گیس کی مجموعی پیداوار کا 25 فیصد بنتا ہے اس سے پاکستان کو سالانہ تیل کی درآمد میں 2 ارب چالیس کروڑ ڈالر کا فائدہ ہوگا۔ ایران پاکستان گیس پائپ لائن منصوبہ پاکستان کے لئے بہت کچھ لے کر آ رہا ہے، اس سے پاکستان کو امریکی دباؤ سے نکلنے کا راستہ ملے گا، پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری بھی آنے لگی اور انڈسٹری پاؤں پر کھڑی ہوگی، پاکستان کو اشیاء کے بدلے ایران سے سستا تیل اور بجلی بھی مل سکے گی۔ اور بحیرہ عرب میں انڈیا کا اثر و رسوخ بھی کم ہوگا۔ انڈیا بھی اس منصوبے میں شامل تھا تاہم 2009ء میں انڈیا اس پراجیکٹ سے الگ ہو گیا اور امریکا کے ساتھ سول نیوکلیئر منصوبے کا معاہدہ کر لیا۔ ایران پاکستان گیس پائپ لائن کی تعمیر ایک اہم پیش رفت ہے اس سے پاکستان میں توانائی کے بحران پر قابو پانے میں مدد ملے گی۔ اس منصوبے کو ناکام بنانے کیلئے عالمی سطح پر دباؤ اور امریکی دھمکیوں کے ذریعے بھی پاکستان کو ڈرانے کی کوشش کی گئی، امریکا نے پاکستان کو اس منصوبے کی تکمیل کے نتیجے میں پابندیوں کی کھلی دھمکی دے دی تھی مگر پیپلز پارٹی کی حکومت نے عالمی سطح پر دباؤ برداشت کیا اور امریکا کو بھی سفارتی ذرائع سے واضح کر دیا کہ یہ منصوبہ پاکستان کی توانائی کی ضروریات پوری کرنے کیلئے انتہائی ضروری ہے اور اس پر کسی قسم کا دباؤ برداشت نہیں کیا جائے گا۔

اس منصوبے کے بعد گوادرتو پورٹ پر ایران کے تعاون سے پاکستان کی سب سے بڑی ایل ریفائنری بھی تعمیر کی جائے گی۔ ایران پاک گیس منصوبہ پاکستان میں تعمیر و ترقی کے نئے دور کا آغاز ثابت ہوگا۔ صدر زرداری حیران کردینے والے فیصلے کرتے چلے آ رہے ہیں۔ ان کے سیاسی مخالفین کیا کچھ نہیں کہتے رہے لیکن وہ اپنی ترجیحات طے کر کے کام کرتے رہے۔ ایران پاک گیس پائپ لائن منصوبہ بھی ان کے ذہن میں موجود تھا، کچھ عرصہ پہلے تک کسی کو یقین نہیں تھا کہ اس پر عمل ہوگا لیکن صدر زرداری نے ایک بار پھر سب کو حیران کر دیا، اس بار ان کے سیاسی مخالفین ہی نہیں بلکہ امریکا اور بھارت بھی حیران رہ گئے۔ صدر زرداری نے ثابت کر دیا کہ ان کے لیے پاکستان کا مفاد سب سے اہم ہے، اس راہ میں امریکا بھی سامنے آئے تو اس کی بھی کوئی پروا نہیں ہے، پیپلز پارٹی کا ورثہ بھی یہی ہے۔

All Day

China defends Gwadar Port deal at UN forum -- The News

China defends Gwadar Port deal at UN forum

GENEVA: China has asserted that Gwadar Port project is not only in the best interest of Pakistan and China but also in the best interest of the region's development.

The Chinese representative spoke in favour of Pakistan-China friendship after nationalist leader Mehran Baloch, the Baloch Representative to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), used his speech to the United Nation's 22nd general debate session of HRC to allege that Balochistan's natural resources are being exploited by Pakistan with help from China.

China took over management of the port on the Arabian Sea last week to finance more than 80 percent of the \$248 million development cost of the port. This agreement is part of a plan to open up an energy and trade corridor from the Gulf, across Pakistan to western China but the deal has not been liked by India, America and Baloch nationalists who see it as the consolidation of Pakistani power in the trouble-hit province.

China rarely replies to the criticism levelled against it at the UN forums but as if anticipating that the issue of Gwadar port would be discussed, the Chinese delegation had come prepared.

Mehran Baloch said that Saindak copper mines were being already "milked" by China and "now Gwadar port has been handed" to China and it will be soon that China will build a military base there too as former Defence Minister Ahmad Mukhtar had publicly requested China to do so.

The Chinese representative, answering Mehran Baloch's charges, told the delegates that China and Pakistan are friendly neighbours and for a long time the Chinese enterprises have taken an "active part in the development and construction in all sections of Pakistan".

He told that the Chinese enterprises are engaged in the Gwadar development project as a joint co-operation project between the two countries. "It's part of the friendly cooperation between the two countries" and nothing more should be read in it.

Mehran Baloch said that with militarisation of Gwadar Port not only Baloch will suffer but also the region and the world peace will face threats too. "It is not the port alone. The planned airport there is 6,000 acres which is twice the size of Heathrow London. A country which has its foreign exchange reserves less than second string billionaires certainly cannot build the airport on its own."

The Chinese representative replied that Gwadar port is not only in the "best interest of the two countries and both people but also in the best interest of the region's development".

Mehran Baloch said that Balochistan is used as drug conduit as the UN office on drugs and crime (UNODC) has reported that drugs worth \$30 billion pass through Pakistan. He told the delegates that the data released by state banks implicitly proves that this passes through Quetta and Peshawar.

He alleged that "the illegal money finances the war of terror in Afghanistan and the death squads in Balochistan. Illegal money multiplies in turmoil and it means people are deprived of their share".

All Day

APP -- ایران پاکستان گیس پائپ لائن کے ٹینڈر جاری

ایران پاکستان گیس پائپ لائن کے ٹینڈر جاری

کہا جا رہا ہے کہ پائپ لائن کا منصوبہ سنہ دو ہزار چودہ تک مکمل ہو جائے گا
پاکستان کے پیٹرولیم کے وفاقی وزیر ڈاکٹر عاصم حسین نے قومی اسمبلی کو بتایا ہے کہ ایران - پاکستان گیس

پائپ لائن بچھانے کے لیے ٹینڈر جاری کر دیے گئے ہیں اور ایک ماہ میں اس پر پیش رفت ہوگی۔
یہ بات انہوں نے جمعرات کو قومی اسمبلی میں وقفہ سوالات کے دوران بتائی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ منصوبہ
پاکستان سے توانائی کا بحران کم کرنے میں مدد دے گا۔ ان کے بقول یہ منصوبہ سنہ دو ہزار چودہ میں مکمل
ہو جائے گا۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ پاکستان میں گیس کی پیداوار چار اعشاریہ دو بلین کیوبک فٹ ہے جبکہ ضرورت
آٹھ بلین کیوبک فٹ کی ہے۔

March 15, 2013

Fri

All Day

Gwadar handover to China: Army on board -- APP

Gwadar handover to China: Army on board

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Army has refuted rumours and some reports that the Army was not on board the handing over of Gwadar Port to China. A top ISPR official said there was no truth in these reports as the whole country was united and supportive of the fact that the friendly Chinese had been given the port for development. "It does have a strategic and defence aspect as it is part of the coastal defence and is close to Chabahar. There can be no eventuality that the defence people are not on board," the official said. He said even the shares of NLC were disposed of along with some other share holders who sold their shares to make it possible for the Chinese to take over the port development.

All Day

‘China can assist Pakistan in building regional railway hub’ -- Dawn
‘China can assist Pakistan in building regional railway hub’

PESHAWAR, March 15: China can provide financial and technical support in construction of a regional railway hub for Pakistan.

The construction of the railway project will connect Pakistan with Xinjiang in China and enhance the capacity of transportation between the two countries, which would also add to a new outbound transportation line for western China, said director Pakistan Study Centre, Sichuan University Chengdu, China, Dr Chen Jidong while speaking as a keynote speaker at a seminar on Pak-China relations at the University of Peshawar on Friday.

The seminar was arranged by the Department of International Relations in collaboration with Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad.

He said that the project would build trade and transport corridors by connecting South Asia, West Asia, Central Asia and Western China, owing to the country's geographical advantages.

Dr Chen said that Pakistan had a railway network not younger than the year 1861, aging by the day and needed arduous upgrading. The project, if pursued, would transform Pakistan's internal railway system and bring economic revival in the country.

On this occasion, Chinese strategic analyst Prof Zhon Rong said that certain external powers had been creating serious law and order situation in Balochistan with the evil design to halt development of the area through Gwadar port operations. He said that taking over of operations of Gwadar Port by a Chinese company to go with the railway project, could transform Pakistan into economic giant of the 21st century.

"Gwadar Port is first for the development of Pakistan and then any other country," he said and added the American withdrawal by end of 2014 would start the beginning of golden period for Balochistan.

Responding to a question, Prof Zhon said that the Pakistani government had handed Gwadar Port over to a Chinese company because the Singapore company could not deliver the desired results.

He said that that now when Americans were planning exit from Afghanistan it was hoped that unrest in Balochistan would decrease and Gwadar operations would eventually succeed.

Department of International Relations chairman Dr Adnan Sarwar said that the old slogans of deeper than sea and higher than sky for Pak-China relations must be transformed into something tangible by boosting economic ties.

All Day

Pak-China ties: ‘Railway hub to promote bilateral relations’ -- The Express Tribune

Pak-China ties: ‘Railway hub to promote bilateral relations’

The railway project will connect Pakistan with Xinjiang region in China and enhance the capacity of transportation between the two countries, says Dr Jidong. PHOTO: FILE

PESHAWAR: China will provide all kind of financial and technical support in the construction of a regional railway hub for Pakistan.

The railway project will connect Pakistan with Xinjiang region in China and enhance the capacity of transportation between the two countries, said Sichuan University Chengdu China Pakistan Study Centre Director Dr Chen Jidong, while speaking as a key note speaker at a one-day seminar on prospects of Pak-China Relations at the University of Peshawar on Friday.

The seminar was arranged by the Department of International Relations (IR),

University of Peshawar, in collaboration with Institute of Policy Studies Islamabad.

Jidong claimed the project is in the greatest advantage of Pakistan, and will build trade and transport corridors by connecting South Asia, West Asia, Central Asia and Western China.

According to a report published in The Hindu on September 1, 2012, a portion of the railway track from Kashgar to Hotan in southern Xinjiang began in June last year, whereas work has not yet started beyond that.

The line is planned to run from Kashgar, the Old Silk Road town, to Xinjiang region, the report said.

Chinese strategic analyst Professor Zhong Rong said the taking over of Gwadar port by a Chinese company along with this new project can transform Pakistan into an economic giant of the 21st century.

"Let me tell Pakistani people that Gwadar Port is first for the development of Pakistan and then for any other country. The US withdrawal by end of 2014 (from Afghanistan) would start the beginning of a golden period for Balochistan," he said. "Gwadar port will always belong to Pakistan. The Pakistani government has handed it over to a Chinese company because the Singaporean Company who was in charge of port operations in 2007 could not deliver the desired results," added Rong.

When a student inquired about the role of China post-2014, Jidong said China prefers participation of the Afghan people in the peace process.

"We have no favours or opinion to offer on talks of the Afghan government with the Afghan Taliban, but China does want to play a moderate and neutral role in Afghanistan," he said.

Department of International Relations Chairman Professor Dr Adnan Sarwar Khan said the old slogan 'deeper than the sea and higher than the sky' for Pak-China relations must be transformed into something tangible by boosting economic ties.

"If other regional countries can have alliances and organisations like Nato, why can't we have IPC (India Pakistan China) or APC (Afghanistan Pakistan China) cooperation to boost regional peace and economy," he said.

Institute of Policy Studies Director General Khalid Rehman, Pak China Friendship Secretary General Syed Ali Nawaz Gillani and a large number of students attended the seminar.

Published in The Express Tribune, March 16th, 2013.

All Day

Pakistan's Gwadar Port Project: Shielding Facts -- Eurasia Review

Pakistan's Gwadar Port Project: Shielding Facts –

By Eurasia Review -- (March 16, 2013)

By Umm-e-Habiba

The Gwadar port is one of the major sea ports in the western Indian Ocean region. It lies in the south-western coast of Pakistan and is only 180 nautical miles from the Strait of Hormuz, the global energy conduit. Gwadar accordingly serves as a gateway to the Strait which hosts oil worth 17 million barrels per day for the international markets. The port's strategic value is further magnified as it lies at the confluence of three geopolitically significant regions of the world, i.e., Central Asia, Middle East and South Asia.

It is, nonetheless, unfortunate that a project of such tremendous national significance could not lift from the ground beyond the initial phase and despite passage of more than a decade. The statement of Minister of Port and Shipping before the Senate Standing Committee in August 2012 attributing the failure to Pakistan Navy's hesitancy in parting with the land for the project was quite a misrepresentation of facts. At best, it was a poor attempt to shift the burden of responsibility for lack of progress in making the port functional from political domain to the navy.

The port was handed over to Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) in February 2007 for a period of 40 years. According to settled terms and conditions of the agreement between PSA and Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), PSA had to invest \$3 billion in the

project, out of which \$550 millionⁱⁱⁱ were to be invested in the first five years. Several concessions were provided to PSA in the form of Free Trade Zone, exemption from corporate tax etc. A tax-free umbrella was also extended to the construction material and equipment as well as operation of the port. Moreover the bunker oil used in the port or sold to visiting ships was also declared as duty free. These privileges were declared valid throughout the concession period which was for 20 years from the date of the agreement.

Of a total of 2200 acres of land at Gwadar earmarked for PSA's operational activities, also included was about 584 acres at Shamba Ismail (Gwadar) exclusively belonging to Pakistan Navy. Interestingly the land at Shamba Ismail had been under the legal ownership of Pakistan Navy (PN) since 1980. It was procured by Pakistan Navy from the government of Balochistan purely for assembling defensive, logistics and operational needs which made it the official owner much before the GPA-PSA deal was even dreamed up.

Much against above, the land at Shamba Ismail was made part of Gwadar Port Development plan in 2004-5, without following even the rudimentary legal procedure or involvement of Pakistan Navy. The case was presented to the then Prime Minister of Pakistan through Ministry of Port and Shipping in 2008. Subsequent scrutiny of the records and facts revealed PN's claim to be just and legal. Considering the land in possession of PN to be vital for national maritime defense, the Prime Minister directed PN to spare only 30 acres of the land for development of rail/road link essential for operations of PSA.

In the larger national interest however, it was agreed to hand over the fully developed land to Ministry of Ports and Shipping/ GPA on the proviso that an equal and appropriate allotment be made at Gwadar; development funds be provided by Ministry of Ports and Shipping and PN be allowed to retain 84 acres at Shamba Ismail for operational errands. Consequently, Government of Balochistan offered two pieces of land to Pakistan Navy. Feasibility studies for both were conducted, and land proposed at North Bay of Phishukan was found appropriate and indicated to all concerned accordingly.

The August 2012 statement by the Minister for Ports and Shipping thus belies his claim that Government's failure to transfer 584 acres of land in ownership of PN had been the major obstacle towards meeting contractual terms with PSA. The claim is contradictory to actual facts. PN has communicated its willingness to part with land at Shamba Ismail subject to conditions identified.

It is common knowledge that contract with PSA was the result of political expediency and was executed in haste in a non-transparent, non professional manner. It contained numerous clauses that at best made the agreement 'suspect'. Instead of protecting the mutual interests of the contracting parties, the agreement terms overwhelmingly favored PSA. It would be in the fitness of matter if the nature of checks or oversight mechanism between 2007-12 is made public. It is believed and, not without substance that PSA did not fulfill even the conditions of the 'Concession Agreement'. For the said reason alone, the port which was once deemed to provide an economic windfall opportunity for the country was rendered a white elephant.

The recent handing over of the operational rights of Gwadar port to China though late is indeed a welcome step. One only hopes that the project becomes a profitable national enterprise sooner rather than later.

About the author:

Umm-e-Habiba is M.Sc in International Relations from Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad and a research Analyst of Pakistan and International Politics.

March 17, 2013

Sun

All Day

China to provide support in constructing a regional railway hub -- APP

China to provide support in constructing a regional railway hub

Sunday, 17 March 2013 02:36 Posted by Imaduddin

PESHAWAR: China is to provide all kind of financial and technical support in the construction of a regional railway hub for Pakistan, said Director Pakistan Study Centre Sichuan University Chengdu China Dr Chen Jidong.

Speaking as a key note speaker at the one day seminar on prospects of Pak China Relations at University of Peshawar (UoP), Dr Chen Jidong said the active promotion of construction of the railway project will connect Pakistan with Xinjiang region in China and will enhance the capacity of transportation between two countries not only by land but also add to a new outbound transportation line for western China.

He said that the project is the greatest advantage of Pakistan, and will build trade and transport corridors by connecting South Asia, West Asia, Central Asia and Western China owing to the country's geographical advantages.

Dr Chen said that Pakistan has a railway network not younger than the year 1861, aging by the day and needs arduous upgrading.

Some external powers are creating serious law and order situation in Balochistan, with the evil design to halt the expected development of the area through Gwadar port operations, said the Chinese strategic analyst Prof. Zhon Rong.

He added the taking over of operations of Gwadar Port by a Chinese company in the recent past to go with the railway project, can transform Pakistan into economic giant of the 21st Century.

Let me tell the Pakistani people that Gwadar Port is first for the development of Pakistan and then any other country, he added.

Responding to a question of IR student, he said let us not dispute something for the sack of personal disagreement, let's do work than making noise, said Prof. Zhon Rong. Gwadar port will always belong to Pakistan. The Pakistani government has handed it over to a Chinese company because the Singapore Company who was in charge of the port operations in 2007 could not deliver the desired results, he added.

When a student inquired about role of China in the post 2014 scenario, Dr Chen Jidong said China prefers participation of the Afghan people into the peace process. We have no favors or opinion to offer on talk of the Afghan government with the Afghan Taliban. The Chinese government wants to play a moderate and neutral role in Afghanistan.

Chairman Department of International Relations Dr Adnan Sarwar said the old slogans of deeper than sea and higher than sky for Pak-China relations must be transformed into something tangible by boosting economic ties. If other regional countries can have alliances and organizations like NATO etc, why can't we have IPC (India Pakistan China) or APC (Afghanistan Pakistan China) cooperation's to boost regional peace and economy.

Director General Institute of Policy Studies Khalid Rehman, Secretary General Pak China Friendship Syed Ali Nawaz Gillani and good number of students attended the seminar.

All Day

Chinese control of Gwadar Port: Challenges & opportunities -- Frontier Post

Chinese control of Gwadar Port: Challenges & opportunities

Dr. Raja Muhammad Khan

Owing to its strategic location and God gifted natural resources, the Balochistan Province of Pakistan has always been at the centre stage of regional and global politics. The famous writer and geographer, Robert D. Kaplan describes the province of Balochistan as, "One key to its fate is the future of Gwadar, a strategic port whose development will either unlock the riches of Central Asia, or plunge Pakistan into a savage, and potentially terminal civil war."

Unfortunately, Pakistan could not unlock the riches of the Central Asia and Caspian yet. However, it is experiencing the wide spread instability and law and order situation in the province of Balochistan, ever since the developmental work on the Gwadar port started in 2002.

Located at the mouth of Persian Gulf, right at the proximity of the Straits of Hormuz, the Gwadar port of Pakistan has a strategic significance.

Since the major shipping route connecting three main continents; Asia, Africa, and Europe are passing through the vicinity of this port, therefore, it has attained the status of a key strategic and commercial port. Over sixty percent of global trade and transportation of oil tankers takes place through the neighbouring waters of the Gwadar Port, the Straits of Hormuz. In connection with the global trade, Gwadar port presents itself as the best alternative and the storage port, as it can handle the major ships and oil tankers. "The 14.5-meter draft of the port will be able to accommodate up to "fifth-generation" ships, including Panamax and mother vessels."

The idea of building a commercial port at Gwadar was initially conceived in 1964. However, owing to the lack of requisite finances and expertise, the project remained unimplemented for these long years. In 2001, China agreed to invest in the development of Gwadar Port. The port was developed with the basic concept of stimulating the economic growth in the northern and western parts of Pakistan. Besides, the port was also aimed at providing the shortest possible approach to Arabian Sea to the landlocked Central Asian Republics and Afghanistan for their transshipment facilities. By virtue of its strategic location, the Gwadar port is a place of great strategic value, giving tremendous boost to Pakistan's importance in the whole region. It allows Pakistan to extend an influence from the Persian Gulf through the Indian Ocean to Southeast Asia. The Gwadar deep-sea port has the potential to remain operative throughout the year and can handle large ships. Being a hub between energy efficient and energy deficient countries, it can facilitate both China and India in connecting them with energy rich Middle East and Central Asia. China developed the port in a record period with an initial investment of \$248 million. Upon completion of its development, in March 2007, the port was handed over to the Port of Singapore Authority (PSA), through an open bidding for a period of forty years. As a concession, the PSA was given corporate tax exemption by Pakistan for the entire period of forty years.

The otherwise concessional agreement, delimited PSA to invest \$3 billion on the project. PSA was to invest \$550 million in the first five years, which it had not done, until 2012. Besides, the Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) was to receive revenue from PSA, which was not insight. Whatever be the reasons, PSA could not operationalize the Gwadar port, as agreed in the bi-lateral agreement. Moreover, it failed to invest the agreed amount in five years even. Additionally, the efficiency of this globally known port authority has remained much below the expectations.

This could be imagined from the fact that, not a single commercial vessel could reach the Gwadar port in last five. Indeed, "The port has so far remained a commercial failure, and is operating at about 15% of its capacity. So much so the machinery originally installed by China started rusting for lack of use.

Over the last few years, there was realization among the strategic community of Pakistan that, the port is not being utilized as envisaged; rather, it is rapidly becoming a white elephant. At the level of Pakistan Government, it was felt that, "the Gwadar port project is a disaster, as the 40-year concession agreement with the PSA has not yielded any results in its first five years."

Thus, it was clear that, the Government and the PSA are in default of

commitments,” yet, this national asset could not be left at lurch for a long. It was in the same milieu that, Pakistan finally reached to the conclusion that, port is not serving the purpose for which it was built; therefore, the agreement with PSA should be reviewed and given to someone who could really administer and operationalize it.

On February 18, 2013, the Government of Pakistan finally signed an agreement with Chinese government-owned China Overseas Port Holdings Ltd for the administration and operationalization of the Gwadar Port. It is a well deliberated and indeed the long awaited decision by the Government in the best national interest of Pakistan. The decision has invited lot of direct speculative criticism from India and indirect criticism from Pakistani ally and Indian strategic partner; United States. In its first official reaction, the Indian Defence Minister called the deal as a, matter of “serious concern” for India, which in fact is beyond perception and amount to interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan. The Indian and western media hurriedly propagated that, “China harbours the intention to build naval bases there.” Indeed, a recommencement of the old jargon, ‘String of Pearls concept’ that China rejected times and again. It indeed is a concept jointly crafted by Indian and US strategists’ way back in late 1990s.

China however maintains that, neither it has any plan to encircling India nor heading for a string of pearls strategy. Rather, Chinese policy is a peaceful rise in a low profile with economic cooperation and interdependence; a win-win situation for all. Whereas the strategically located Gwadar port is primarily meant for the economic and socio-political needs of Pakistan, would also provide an easy excess to China for the overland transportation of its energy resources from Gulf and Central Asia. It would give Chinese western autonomous region; Xinjiang an easy excess to the Arabian Sea, thus opening new vistas for the development and economic prosperity.

“If a pipeline connecting the port to western China is built, the shortest route for oil imports from the Middle East can be realised.

It is worth mentioning that, Sino-Pakistan relationships are not limited to the development and operationalization of the Gwadar deep-sea port. Indeed, Chinese companies have been (and still) working for the development of a number of socio-economic projects in Pakistan. Indeed, “China and Pakistan are friendly neighbours.

Over the years, Chinese companies have been actively participating in the cooperation projects across the board. As long as these things are conducive to China-Pakistan friendship and for the development and prosperity of the country, the Chinese side will actively support them.” In an interview, the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan clarified that, “This bilateral arrangement is in the economic interest of the peoples of China and Pakistan.” It has no military motives, thus, Indian propaganda is baseless. “China’s intentions in taking over Gwadar Port have been interpreted through a military perspective.”

Besides India and United States, over the years, there have been many speculations among regional states that, once Gwadar Port is fully operationalized, ports of neighbouring countries would lose their significance. International actors, opposing the port have directly or indirectly contributed towards the destabilization of the province of Balochistan. Local Baloch population was provoked in the name of Baloch sub-nationalism that their rights over their own land are being compromised by the Federal Government. Upon heavy funding by rivals of the port and particularly India, some mislead elements of the Pro

All Day

Pak-Iran gas pipeline a landmark achievement: Raja -- APP

LAHORE (APP): Opposition Leader in Punjab Assembly Raja Riaz Ahmed on Thursday paid tribute to President Asif Ali Zardari for keeping the democratic system intact besides foiling a lot of conspiracies.

Addressing a luncheon hosted by President's Coordinator Muhammad Naveed Chaudhry for journalists and on completion of five year tenure of the democratic government at a local hotel, Raja said five years back there was a dictator's rule in the country and the media was not independent during that time period.

He said President Asif Ali Zardari had always welcomed positive criticism and said that it was a right of the media to criticise. It was the biggest achievement of the PPP-led government that it let the media to flourish during its tenure, and now it would be a challenge for the upcoming government to maintain it, he added. He said Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto gave the Constitution of 1973 and President Asif Ali Zardari had restored it in its real form.

The federal government had given billion of rupees to the provinces under the NFC Award, adding that the president had handed over his powers to parliament and the prime minister, he added. Raja said salaries of government employees had been increased by 135 percent and 7.5 million families were getting benefit from the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) initiated to provide financial help to the poor.

He said the federal government had added 3600 mega watt electricity to the national grid, on the other hand, the Punjab government had not even added a single mega watt to the national grid.

He said the Iran-Pak gas pipeline was one of the biggest achievement of the PPP government while Gwadar port would bring about revolutionary changes as it was auspicious development in the Pak-China relations as well as for the people of Pakistan, opening for them "new opportunities".

He said Gwadar would soon be a hub of trade and commerce in the region. He said the Punjab government had failed to deliver good as it started various projects like Sasti Roti, Dannish School, Metro Bus Service but wasted hefty amount on these ill planned schemes. He said the Food Support Programme started by the Punjab government just collapsed in six months and one could imagine their poor planning in the province. He said the Punjab government had just given Rs 40 billion for developmental work of south Punjab out of Rs 600 billion and rest was utilized on all mega projects just in Lahore.

He said due to poor governance of the Punjab government different departments, including health, education and others were awfully suffering. Presidents Coordinator Naveed Chaudhry said with the grace of Almighty Allah, the PPP would form the next government in Punjab on the basis of its performance.

He said the PPP was the party of the poor and it would remain work for the uplift of the deprived ones. Criticizing the Punjab government, he said ownership certificates were being distributed to residents of Katchi Abadis, adding that it was nothing just a political gimmick. In Ring Road phase-XI, the Punjab government had obliged their favourites, he added. He said the Punjab government claimed that the metro bus project was completed with an amount of Rs 30 billion but reality was different. He said Joseph Colony incident had also exposed the poor governance of the Punjab government.

March 21, 2013

Thu

All Day

Pak, China enjoying excellent trade, bilateral relations -- Pak Observer
Pak, China enjoying excellent trade, bilateral relations

Thursday, March 21, 2013 - Rawalpindi—The Chinese ambassador Liu Jian has said that Pakistan and China are enjoying best mutual, trade, bilateral, cultural and social relations and newly elected government of Peoples Republic of China will enhance relations with Pakistan at all levels. Embassy will invite the Chinese business community to invest in Pakistan to further boost bilateral trade ties. Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) is playing a significant role to strengthen trade relation between two best friend countries. He said that embassy appreciates RCCI step of organizing CHINA WEEK in the Chamber and will cooperate with Chamber in arranging said programs. He was exchanging these with the traders and industrialists of Rawalpindi Chamber during his visit to the RCCI to inaugurate CHINA WEEK here on Wednesday. Senior Vice President Pervaiz Ahmed Warriach, Vice President Nadeem Rauf, Group Leader Najamul Haq Malik, former presidents, members' Executive Committee and renowned businessmen of twin cities were also present on the occasion.

Ambassador said that Pakistan is the second largest trading partner of China in South Asia and both countries are enjoying best relations of time.

All Day

Zardari urges use of Gwadar port for trade -- APP

Zardari urges use of Gwadar port for trade

ASHGABAT: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday called for greater regional cooperation in areas of counter-terrorism and energy and urged the Central Asian Republics to use Gwadar port for trade.

Speaking at the opening session of the International Conference on Nauroz here at the Rukhyat Palace, the president said the region was of great geostrategic importance and underlined the need for robust road and rail links to enable its countries to fully exploit their natural resources.

He said Pakistan was ready to play its role in this regard. "We are willing to facilitate transportation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Central Asia to South East Asia and other world markets. The latest and modern seaport of Pakistan at Gwadar is the shortest route for Central Asian states to the Arabian Sea," Mr Zardari said.

He said that Gwadar port offered excellent facilities for export of LNG and other products. "We are also ready to provide safe transit of piped gas to neighbouring countries."

Pakistan was keen to implement the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (Tapi) and the Iran-Pakistan (IP) pipeline projects, Mr Zardari said. He pointed out that work on the IP project was inaugurated recently.

He also underlined the need for strengthening regional cooperation in the areas of security and counter-terrorism. Pakistan firmly believed that peace and stability was a prerequisite for economic progress and development.

"We are keen to promote friendly relations with all, especially our neighbours and other regional countries. We are ready to work together with them for peace, progress and prosperity in the region," he remarked.

President Zardari said that Pakistan and the Central Asian states were members of the Economic Cooperation Organisation whose main objective was to build infrastructure in the region.

He said that "connectivity through rail, road and air links was important not only within the region but also beyond".

The president said the presence of leaders of regional countries or their representatives at the conference reflected the underlying strength of their common cultural and religious values and traditions.

"Our common traditions are deep-rooted in history," he said and termed Nauroz a symbol of the common heritage. "We particularly need closer cooperation in trade, communications, transportation, energy and infrastructure," President Zardari said.

He congratulated Turkmen President Gurbanguli Berdimuhammedov for the excellent arrangements made for the festival and thanked the people of Turkmenistan for their warmth and hospitality.

The conference was also addressed by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Tajik President Emomali Rehmanov and Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

On the occasion, President Berdimuhammedov thanked the delegations for visiting his country and celebrating with him Nauroz that he said symbolised a new dawn.

He said Turkmenistan had always worked for good neighbourly relations and that neutrality was the cornerstone of its foreign policy.

He said that national, regional and global development could only take place in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity.—APP

All Day

Balochistan development top priority: Caretaker Prime Minister -- Global Post

Caretaker Prime Minister Hazar Khan Khoso has directed for accelerating pace of work on all ongoing development projects in Balochistan. He also directed the Planning Division and Ministry of Finance to remove procedural obstacles in consultation with the provincial authorities for timely completion of these projects.

Prime Minister was speaking at a briefing on various development projects in the province during his visit here Wednesday.

These included Gwadar Port, Gwadar Development Authority, Kachhi Canal Project, Ratodero-Khuzdar Road Project, Naulang and Mirani dams' projects here. Balochistan Governor Nawab Zulfiqar Magsi, Chief Minister Nawab Ghaus Bakhsh Barozai, caretaker Federal Minister for Communications Asad Mandokhel, Secretary Planning Commission, Chairman NHA, Chairman WAPDA, Balochistan Chief Secretary and other officials were present at the briefing.

Government accords top priority to the speedy completion of ongoing development projects in the province and will utilize all available resources in the this regard, Khosa said adding physical progress on these projects would not be delayed either because of shortage of funds or any procedural impediment.

Earlier, the Chairman WAPDA briefed the prime minister that the Kachhi Canal Project will be completed by June 30 this year and irrigation water will be available to lands on either side of the canal.

He said that Kachhi canal project management has already sought the services of National Engineering Services Pakistan NESPAK for efficient implementation of the project.

About Naulang Dam, he said the progress on the dam was delayed due to unavailability of funds. However, the project will soon be completed as sufficient funds have been released for it.

Referring to Gwadar Port, the Prime Minister highlighted the importance of ongoing Ratodero-Khuzdar Highway project for connecting the port to rest of the country and directed the Ministry of Communications for its earlier completion.

"Gwadar port will not only play a significant role in progress and prosperity of the province, but also usher entire nation in an era of development," prime minister remarked. Federal government will also look into the proposal for appointment of Chief Minister Balochistan as chairman Gwadar Port Authority.

About expansion of Gwadar Port, the prime minister was briefed that the project would cost Rs 25 billion, which also included establishing a Free Trade Zone while sufficient land in this regard had been acquired.

Chairman National Transmission and Dispatch Corporation NTDC informed the prime minister that Balochistan province had been given representation in the board of members of the NTDC for the first time.

All Day

Gwadar Port Pak-China matter, says FO -- The Nation

Addressing a weekly press briefing on Thursday, Foreign Office spokesperson said Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry said Pakistan and China enjoy all weather relationship. He said that no one needs to be worried about Pak-China relations.

He said that there is no need to comment on Indian Defense Minister Statement regarding the Gwadar port adding that it was a matter of bilateral interest for Pakistan and China, and no one needs to get furious over this subject.

He said we have shown a great degree of responsibility and restraint on incidents of violations of Line of Control and hostile statements by India.

Replying to a question about travel advisory issued by the US State Department for its citizens, the spokesman said Pakistan security situation has improved to a great deal and a number of visitors and investors are travelling to the country.

Regarding European Union Election Observers decision to not to travel to FATA and Balochistan, he said it is their own decision. He said after getting accreditation from the Election Commission all observers are issued a travel advisory by the Interior Ministry. He said so far they have received requests from National Democratic Institute, Commonwealth, United Kingdom, Turkey, Malaysia, Australia, Mauritius and Maldives for sending their election observers and their case is under process.

He said Pakistan welcomes foreign election observers because our leadership is committed to hold free, fair and transparent elections in the country. He said this exercise will help improve our credibility.

About threatening statements by North Korea, the Foreign Office Spokesman said Pakistan shares the concern of international community on the recent tension and deteriorating situation in Korean Peninsula. He said Pakistan always supports nuclear free Korea Peninsula. He said we monitoring the evolving situation in Korean Peninsula and take necessary measures to ensure the safety of our diplomats and staff there.

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary said dialogue on strategic issues is going to be held on 25th of this month between Pakistan and Russia as part of the ongoing consultative rounds of meetings. He said issues relating to disarmament, non-proliferation, strategic stability in South Asia and cooperation in Science and Technology would be discussed during the meeting.

All Day

Pakistan to benefit from Gwadar Port development -- APP

Pakistan to benefit from Gwadar Port development

We have witnessed two strategic decisions being implemented in recent days. Both will have far reaching impact on the region and beyond. The nature of Pakistan's external relations is undergoing a sea-change. Geographical realities and economic compulsions have taken Pakistan closer to China and Iran. The management of Gwadar Port has been given to a Chinese company. Since Gwadar has strategic location, close to the Strait of Hormuz, this decision has evoked unusual international interest. On the other hand, work has started on the Pakistani portion of gas pipeline coming from Iran. It is expected that the pipeline will be completed by the middle of next year.

Pakistan has disregarded the US pressure against engaging with Iran. Appreciating the dire situation of energy starved Pakistan, Iran has decided to build a big oil refinery at Gwadar and supply 1,000 megawatts of electricity. While the United States has minced no words in showing its displeasure for Pak-Iran cooperation, it is the US policies that have obliged Pakistan to get closer to China and Iran.

Despite all the loud talk, the US did precious little to assuage Pakistan's energy woes. All it has done is build a very small dam at Satpara near Hunza and upgrade a portion of the Tarbela Dam.

Had it built the Bhasha dam in last decade, it could easily persuade Pakistan to wait for the gas pipeline to come from Turkmenistan.

Pakistan has crippling gas and electricity shortages right now. No CNG is available for the vehicles three days a week in Islamabad. There is no electricity in the rural side for hours.

Faisalabad, the major textile city, has an unemployment rate of 40 per cent as against the national figure of 20 per cent. The industry and exports have suffered a huge blow due to energy shortages. And this is happening in a country which has a potential to produce 60,000 MW of hydel power. This is happening in a nation that is rich in coal reserves.

It is nothing but mismanagement and lack of proper planning. The leadership has let the people down. While dams take years to build, the Iranian gas is a quick-fix for Pakistani energy woes.

Both these decisions will revive the moribund Pakistani economy in a big way. Gwadar Port management was awarded by the last government to a company from Singapore. But apparently it was a wrong decision as Singapore had no national stakes in this port. The decision to give it to the Chinese company is a win-win situation for both nations.

Some speculative reports in international media have suggested that Gwadar would have a Chinese naval base. These reports are wrong and motivated.

This port will reduce the transport distance and time of cargo coming from the GCC countries, Africa and Europe and destined for China.

This benefit will also accrue to the goods being transported from China to these nations and continents. China has a big shipping fleet and shall be able to use this port to the optimum.

What benefits can Gwadar Port bring for Pakistan in general and Balochistan in particular? Pakistan has two ports right now, Karachi and Bin Qasim. Both are extension of each other. While Karachi handles commercial cargo, Bin Qasim is meant for industrial goods.

Gwadar is about 500 kilometers west of Karachi. It is closer to the GCC countries and Iran. One major benefit to accrue to Pakistan would be the savings in freight

charges for its oil imports and these will be substantial. Right now Pakistan navy ships invariably escort the oil tankers up to Karachi.

That may not be required now as Gwadar is a short hop from Hormuz. This will release Pakistan Navy ships for other duties. In not too distant future Makran coast will be linked to western China by road, railways and pipelines.

This will be one of the busiest trade and energy corridors in the world.

However, implementation of these two decisions would require much determination. Pakistan may not face sanctions right now but could face international isolation later.

But the leadership and people must stay the course. I see a prosperous Pakistan with an even richer Balochistan in not too distant future.

All Day

Gwadar port's significance -- Observer

Sunday, April 14, 2013 - After a botched attempt to poise the Gwadar port as among the region's most valuable ones, mainly due to an oversight of details, incompetence, lack of interest and an outright clash on who owes what, by the government and Port of Singapore Authority (PSA), who was given the contract to exploit its maximum potential, the government of Pakistan has handed over the port's operational control to China, much to the chagrin of quite a few international powers. The port that was supposed to change Pakistan's commercial activities has remained virtually inactive due to non-fulfillment of commitment by the PSA and a lack of road infrastructure to connect it with county's major commercial and industrial cities.

However, Islamabad hopes that this would change as a multi-billion dollar deal with China expected to see port's development work sped up and a healthy increase in country's trade and commerce activities. Situated at the cross-junction of international sea shipping and oil lines between the Middle East and the rest of the world, including China, Gwadar can play a crucial role not only in Pakistan's development but also as a hub for international trade activities, the fruits of which could catapult Balochistan into a hyperdrive on the road to success.

What Pakistan should be careful about, though, is that it should make sure there were no let-ups in the deal between the two neighbouring countries, and that even minute details would be looked into to avoid repeat of what happened to the deal between the PSA and the government of Pakistan. The Supreme Court has already taken suo motu notice of PSA's failure to deliver, and a second such failure might just push the project over the edge and dash down the hopes that the people of this country have from this project.

All Day

PM orders prioritization of Gwadar roads -- APP

PM orders prioritization of Gwadar roads

Sunday, April 14, 2013 - Islamabad—Prime Minister Justice (R) Mir Hazar Khan Khoso Saturday directed the Ministry of Communication to prioritize the ongoing road projects and make an effort to complete those nearing completion.

The Prime Minister gave this directive in a high level meeting held at the Prime Minister's House to review the projects initiated by the Ministry of Communication for the construction of highways and roads in the country.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Communication Asad Ullah Mandokhel, Chairman National Highway Authority, senior officials of Prime Minister's Secretariat, ministries of Planning and Finance. The Prime Minister was told that the ministry was presently carrying out work on 79 projects of which 12 related to Balochistan.

All Day

Pak-China nuclear JVs under IAEA regulation --

www.thefinancialdaily.com

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has emphasized that civil nuclear cooperation with China is in full compliance of the regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency and no one should object to it.

Responding to questions by newsmen at the weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday, Foreign Office spokesman Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry said Pakistan and China have normal cooperation in civil nuclear matters.

He also pointed out that this civil nuclear cooperation between the two countries is in full compliance of the regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency and no country should have any objection to it.

Responding to questions by newsmen he said Pakistan firmly believed that the issue of nuclear disarmament should be taken up in the Conference of Disarmament in Geneva in a comprehensive manner.

He said talks should be held on all the four elements of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, arms race in outer space and negative security assurances.

To another question he said Pakistan and India are engaged in different ways and channels and composite dialogue was centre piece of that process.

He told a question that Foreign Ministry is in contact with Interior Ministry and Punjab Government in connection with autopsy report of an Indian prisoner who died in Lahore.

The report, when received, would be shared with Indian High Commission and made public.

He said no dates have yet been announced for the next round of Pakistan-US strategic dialogue.

About current status of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, the spokesman said Pakistan maintains a positive approach and is engaged with Kabul at all required levels.

He said Pakistan remains committed to supporting all efforts aimed at promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Asked about the role that SCO can play in promoting peace in Afghanistan, he said SCO is a regional organization and Pakistan supports any role that it can play for the purpose as there have been demands for regional solutions to regional problems.

Replying questions, the spokesman said so far requests from European Union and National Democratic Institute have been received for monitoring of elections.

Advance and core teams of EU observer mission are already in Pakistan while NDI wants to send 57 observers for the purpose.

Regarding appointments made by Hina Rabbani Khar in the FO in complete disregard to rules the Spokesman said we are gathering information in this regard and media would be apprised of any developments.-Agencies

All Day

Pipelineistan Geopolitics at Work: Iran, Pakistan, Syria, Qatar. -- Global Research

Construction is nearing completion on a natural gas pipeline linking Iran and Pakistan, a project that portends a huge geopolitical shift. As regional powers strengthen ties in this key energy market, they're looking to China, and away from the West.

Since the early 2000s, analysts and diplomats across Asia have been dreaming of a future Asian Energy Security Grid.

This – among other developments – is what it's all about, the conclusion of the final stretch of the \$7.5 billion, 1,100-mile natural gas Iran-Pakistan (IP) pipeline, starting from Iran's giant South Pars field in the Persian Gulf, and expected to be online by the end of 2014.

Nobody lost money betting on Washington's reaction; IP would put Islamabad in "violation of United Nations sanctions over [Iran's] nuclear program." Yet this has nothing to do with the UN, but with US sanctions made up by Congress and the Treasury Department.

Sanctions? What sanctions? Islamabad badly needs energy. China badly needs energy. And India will be extremely tempted to follow, especially when IP reaches Lahore, which is only 100 km from the Indian border. India, by the way, already imports Iranian oil and is not sanctioned for it.

All Day

Rattodero-Gwadar M-8 completion within 3 months -- APP

Monday, April 15, 2013 - Islamabad—National Highway Authority (NHA) will complete the under-construction sections of Rattodero-Gwadar Motorway (M-8) within three months. The decision has been made following the directives of the Prime Minister Mir Hazar Khan Khoso for early completion of ongoing projects in Balochistan, an official of NHA informed APP on Sunday. About the present status of the M-8 he said that 60 per cent work on 54 km Gwadar-Dasht has been completed, while 64 pc work on 63 km Dasht-Turbat section has been completed.

60 pc work on 76 km Turbat-Hosbab section has been completed while on 50 km Khor-i-Wangu Hills 65 work has been completed,he added.—APP

All Day

Gwadar link roads completion prioritised -- Observer

Saturday, April 20, 2013 - Islamabad—The National Highway Authority (NHA) has attached top priority to develop the road linkages to the Gwadar Port which can prove backbone of the country's economy in the near future.

An National Highway Authority official told media on Friday that road connectivity with the Gwadar port was crucial for making it hub of transit trade between Pakistan, Afghanistan, Central Asian Republics and China.

He said that the Government has spent a total of Rs 13,527 million on the construction of link roads to Gwadar Port during past five years.

Giving details he said Rs 3854 million had been spent on the construction of N-10, N-85, and M-8 linking Gwadar with rest of the country in 2008-9, Rs 3738 million in 2009-10, Rs 1946 million in 2010-11, Rs 1630 million during 2011-12 and 2359 million during 2012-13.

He said Rs 1 billion has been allocated for providing comprehensive foolproof security and creation of dedicated wing of Frontier Constabulary for providing security to contractors and labour.

The National Highway Authority has planned the construction of another 110 km long Basima-Khuzdar road (N-30) for providing connectivity to Gwadar port. Moreover it has planned the construction of seven roads for providing connectivity to Gwadar Port, he said.

Three roads have already been completed including 653 km Lyari-Ormara-Gwadar-Gabd road (N-10). Another 35 km section of M-8 from Khuzdar- Khor road has also been completed while Khor-Quba Saeed Khan road has been nearly completed.

About 25 percent of 467 km long Hoshab-Basima-Sorab (N-85) has also been completed while 196 km long Gwadar-Turbat-Hoshab Highway has been completed about 75 percent.

April 23, 2013

Tue

All Day

China running Gwadar to accelerate pace of development: PM -- Pakistan Today

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Mir Hazar Khan Khoso has appreciated the invaluable assistance being provided to Pakistan by China in its socio-economic development and hoped that the handing over of Gwadar Port to China would prove to be an impetus not only in further cementing the ties between the two countries but also accelerating the pace of development in Pakistan.

The PM was talking to Ambassador of China in Pakistan Liu Jian who called on the premier on Tuesday.

Khoso said Pakistan and China enjoy close relations which are deep-rooted and time-tested. He extended his condolence on the loss of life and property caused by the recent earthquake in eastern China. "In this hour of grief the people of Pakistan stand shoulder to shoulder with their Chinese friends," said Khoso.

The Chinese ambassador thanked the PM for his sentiments towards China. China, he said, valued Pakistan's support and friendship. Liu Jian went on to say that Pakistan is like his second home. - See more at:

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2013/04/23/news/profit/china-running-gwadar-to-accelerate-pace-of-development-pm/#sthash.uPHz5zXr.dpuf>

All Day

Gwadar vital for Pak economy -- APP

Thursday, April 25, 2013 - Karachi—Establishment of Export Processing Zone in Gwadar can prove instrumental in bringing substantial foreign and local investment through economic and trade activity. When fully functional, it has the potential to benefit many neighbouring and landlocked countries. This was observed by Shahzada Ahsan Ashraf Shaikh, Minister for Industries and Production during his visit to Export Processing Zones Authority in Karachi.

While emphasizing the importance of Gawadar, the Federal Minister said that the importance of this port is strategic in nature and it can be visualized to become a regional hub serving incoming and out going commercial traffic of Middle East, Central Asian Republics and Gulf countries. It will attract trade from over twenty countries including Srilanka, Bangladesh, Oman, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq and Iran. Keeping such profile of trade in perspective it is natural to plan establishment of an Export Processing Zone in Gwadar on priority basis.

The Federal Minister assured Chairman EPZA and his team that the Ministry will extend all out support for establishment of an Export Processing Zone in Gawadar and instructed EPZA Chairman to immediately speed up the work in this regard.

Chairman EPZA, Mr. Saadat S. Cheema informed the Federal Minister that Gawadar is already on the top priority of his team. He mentioned that the land which has been allocated for EPZA in Gwadar is far from the port, we therefore request for its re-allocation near the port as otherwise Export Processing Zone in Gawadar will become a lesser attractive business proposition for the investors. By moving close to the port we may well become a country specific export processing zone, keeping in perspective the significant Chinese investment in Gawadar Port.

All Day

Fed govt may include Gwadar linkages project in budget -- Daily Times

* Project worth Rs 180.163bn aims at linking Gwadar with Pakistani rail network to connect it with neighbouring countries

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: The federal government is expected to include Gwadar linkages project in next year's development budget aiming at linking it with Pakistani rail network to connect Gwadar with neighbouring countries. Feasibility study of the project has been completed with an estimated cost of Rs 180.163 billion, according to the available official details.

An official said there was a proposal for connecting Gwadar Sea Port with Pakistan Railways' existing network. The feasibility study in this regard has been completed. As per feasibility study, Gwadar is proposed to be linked with main railway network at Mastung Station, which is located on Quetta-Taftan section. The length of proposed railway link would be 901 kilometres (kms). Estimated cost of construction is Rs 180.163 billion. PC-I has since been submitted to Planning Commission in November 2012.

From Mastung to Chaman railway network already exists. A feasibility study for Chaman-Kandhar rail link was carried out by PRACS in 2004 and in Phase-I, a PC-I for rail link between Chaman and Spinboldak is under revision, which will ultimately provide rail connection with the Central Asian Republics (CARs).

The government plans to link the Gwadar Sea Port with the rest of the country through rail and road networks. The government would develop the infrastructure in Balochistan and link Gwadar to other parts of the country. Gwadar port was being used to import wheat and fertilizer. It would be transformed into a business and economic hub that would generate employment opportunities for the local population.

As a part of its development plan for its transport and communications network, Pakistan Railways has completed a feasibility study of the Chaman-Kandahar section for laying railway tracks between Pakistan and Turkmenistan through Afghanistan. The feasibility study for cost, engineering and design for the construction of a rail link from Gwadar to the existing rail network in Mastung district in Balochistan has also been finalized. The new link to Gwadar port will open up underdeveloped areas of Balochistan for development. The main aim of the venture is to connect the Central Asian republics with Pakistan Railways' network through Afghanistan.

China is going to be the beneficiary of Gwadar's most accessible international trade routes to the CARs and Xinjiang. By extending its East-West Railway from the Chinese border city of Kashi to Peshawar in Pakistan's northwest, Beijing can receive cargo to and from Gwadar along the shortest route, from Karachi to Peshawar. The rail network could also be used to supply oil from the Persian Gulf to Xinjiang. Pakistan's internal rail network can also provide China with rail access to Iran.

China is actively involved in the development of Pakistan Railways and for the past five years it has been increasing its stake in the country's communication sector. Pakistan Railways is a state-owned company that provides an important mode of transportation in the furthest corners of the country. It has been a great integrating force and forms the lifeline of the country by catering to its needs for large-scale movement of people. The freight-passenger earnings comprise 50 percent of the railway's total revenue. Pakistan Railways carries 65 million passengers annually and operates 228 mail, express and passenger trains daily. It introduced new mail and express trains between major terminals from 2003 to 2005.

Gwadar is a planned free trade port city on the southwestern warm water Arabian Sea coastline of Pakistan in Balochistan province. It is the district headquarters of Gwadar district and, in 2011, was designated the winter capital of Balochistan

province. Gwadar has a population of approximately 85,000. Gwadar is located on the shores of the Arabian Sea in the western province of Balochistan. It is about 533 kms from Karachi and 120 kms from the Iranian border. Gwadar port is located at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, just outside the Strait of Hormuz, near the key shipping routes in and out of the Persian Gulf. Gwadar port a newly-built strategic warm-water, deep-sea port, which was developed by the government of Pakistan and the Government of China at a cost of \$248 million and inaugurated by the president of Pakistan on March 20, 2007.

In 2013, Gwadar port operations were officially handed over to China. According to the contract signed a full-fledged commercial port will be constructed with initial investment of \$750 million. The port is said to be strategically important for China as 60 percent of China's oil comes from the Gulf by ships traveling over 16,000 kms in two to three months, confronting pirates, bad weather, political rivals and other risks up to its only commercial port, Shanghai. Gwadar will reduce the distance to a mere 2,500 kms and also serve round the year.

In February 2013 Iran announced to set up a \$4 billion oil refinery in Gwadar with an estimated capacity of about 400,000 barrels per day. According to the original plan, Tehran will also lay an oil pipeline from its territory to Gwadar to transport crude oil for processing. China's coastal refinery plan has also announced to invest \$12 billion in multiple projects in Gwadar and other parts of Pakistan including a refinery with the processing capacity of 60,000 barrels of crude oil per day.

April 29, 2013

Mon

All Day

PM approves 795km Gwadar-Hoshab Road proposal -- APP

PM approves 795km Gwadar-Hoshab Road proposal

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Justice retired Mir Hazar Khan Khoso on Tuesday approved a proposal for completing 795 kilometer (km) Gwadar-Hoshab road in two years time. He said completion of this strategic road would herald a change in the socio-economic condition of Balochistan and Sindh provinces. Chairing a high level meeting to review the progress on Gwadar-Ratodero Road project he said completion of this road would connect Gwadar Port with rest of the country and the connectivity would result in the beneficial utilisation of Gwadar Port for the entire nation. He expressed hope the completion of the landmark project on schedule would be ensured and all stakeholders would coordinate the necessary logistics for its timely completion. He was apprised financial allocation for the completion of the Road would be ensured by Ministry of Finance for timely completion of the project. It was decided Gwadar-Turbat-Hoshab and Khor-i-Qubo Saeed Khan would be completed before June 2014. app

All Day

1,000MW reactors to raise China's capability -- The News

People's Republic of China is rapidly moving towards the goal of building up greater vessels of up to 1,000MW capacity for atomic reactors as compared with its present limited-capacity reactors of 300MW each two of which were already operational in Pakistan at Chashma.

This information was revealed to this scribe during a visit to China some time back when meetings were held with a number of Chinese functionaries and scientists from various fields including the seniors of MCC, China's most prestigious metallurgical corporation.

Thus far, this higher capacity of building vessels beyond 300MW generation capability, especially in the range of 1000MW, was available exclusively to the Western countries including the US, Britain and France.

The Chinese scientists accepted this challenge and subsequently took the initiative to address this limited-capacity issue and now they have taken many steps forward on the track of high-capacity reactors matching the capabilities of Western N-powers which means success of People's Republic of China in coming at par with other nuclear powers in the area of generation through high-capacity reactors.

The news of this latest advancement on the part of Chinese scientists has been well received in almost all the social, business and political circles in Pakistan obviously because of close, time-tested Sino-Pak ties that have tended to grow to the mutual benefit of people of both the friendly countries. Already, there was considerable cooperation going on between Pakistan and China in the area of defence (defence production in particular), a fact known to the entire world.

And, now there is strong likelihood of yet greater cooperation coming from Chinese friends in the wake of the recent Pakistan visit of Chinese prime minister when the point of Pak-China civil nuclear deal was highlighted in all the prominent forums and above all, in political circles, even at the level of the would-be Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Nawaz Sharif.

Islamabad is confident that China would go beyond its pledges to salvage Pakistan out of its acute energy crisis and issues like civil nuclear deal of higher-capacity would definitely be taken up with the Chinese government by the forthcoming Nawaz Sharif government.

Already, civil nuclear deal is in place in the form of already operational Chashma-I & II and in the form of upcoming Chashma III & IV.

In this area in particular, Pakistan could not get any cooperation from the US which, however, chose to give preference to India for whatever reasons.

As for Chinese collaboration and support in many areas including the handling of Gwadar Port, production of JF-17 Thunder aircraft and other projects, China was also helping Pakistan in the exploration of mineral resources besides doing trade in some metals.

One of the provinces of China was importing iron ore from Pakistan.

That information came as a surprise to this scribe for the reason that it would be normally thought that Pakistan was just an importer of iron ore.

This information was further confirmed from Tariq Saadat, a local businessman dealing in voluminous metals trade at international level.

All Day

Pakistan urges collective strategy -- China Daily

China and Pakistan should work on a comprehensive joint strategy to combat major regional challenges such as disaster relief and climate change, a senior Pakistani politician said on Thursday.

Mushahid Hussain, secretary-general of the Pakistan Muslim League (Quaid e Azam Group), said China and Pakistan, as neighbors and friends, share similar environmental concerns.

"As our two countries face common problems on climate change, poverty and natural disasters, the governments will need strategies and deeper cooperation to respond effectively to crises of these kinds in the future," Hussain said.

"To achieve green development over the world, states have to link to each other on three levels: bilateral, regional and global," he added.

President Xi Jinping vowed last week to set and strictly observe an ecological "red line" that requires all regions to optimize, prioritize, restrict or prohibit their industrial development according to their defined nature. "On issues of ecological and environmental protection, people should not cross the red line or they will get punished," Xi was quoted by Xinhua News Agency as saying.

Hussain applauded the concept of an ecological red line, saying the term shows China's determination to pursue quality development.

Days before Hussain's trip to Xi'an for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties special conference, he also had the chance to meet Premier Li Keqiang in Islamabad.

"Premier Li sent a very clear signal to our country during his visit, calling Pakistan China's good partner and brother," said Hussain. "This is very important in terms of bilateral relations."

Economic corridor

During his two-day stay in Pakistan, Li agreed on a long-term plan for an economic corridor to further connect central and western parts of China with Pakistan, and also signed 11 cooperation documents covering areas including trade, technology and culture.

China shares a 600-km border with Pakistan. The corridor connects China's vast Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region and Pakistan's Gwadar port at the Indian Ocean through the Karakoram Highway.

Hussain said the construction of the economic corridor will join the markets of South, Central and West Asia, and inject new impetus into regional cooperation. He also hailed the establishment of the special economic zone launched in 2010 in Kashgar of Xinjiang, saying it spurs regional economic growth. Bilateral trade between Pakistan and China soared 17.6 percent to \$12.4 billion last year, with a target of \$15 billion in the next two to three years.

In previous interviews, Pakistani Ambassador to China Masood Khalid encouraged Chinese business communities to be more proactive in exploring opportunities in Pakistan, in agriculture and the halal food industry, to tap the full trade potential.

Hussain is also chairman of the Pakistan-China Institute, a non-governmental think tank promoting people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

He said the relationship between Beijing and Islamabad has transformed into a deep, resilient strategic partnership based on shared values and interests since the 1950s.

"I am very positive about the prospect of a modern Sino-Pakistani relationship," Hussain said.

"It is rare and delightful that two neighbors the size of China and Pakistan can be free of friction," he added.

All Day

PM reviews progress of work on Gwadar-Ratodero Road -- The News
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Justice (R) Mir Hazar Khan Khoso has said that the Gwadar-Ratodero is a strategic link of great national importance and the government will accelerate its pace of work so that the people of country can reap benefits of the Gwadar Port.

The prime minister expressed these views while presiding over a high-level meeting held on Monday here at the PM House to review the progress on Gwadar-Ratodero Road. He issued instructions that work on Khuzdar-Ratodero and Hoshab-Gwadar sections should be completed during the next 12 months while work on N-85 Road and N-30 be prioritised for early completion of these linkages with Gwadar.

He said the completion of this road was not only important for linking Gwadar with the rest of country but would also quicken pace of development in the area right from Gwadar up to Ratodero.

The prime minister was informed that the country's total road network spread over 12,131kms of which 37.63% roads existed in Balochistan. The meeting was attended by Minister for Communications Asadullah Khan Mandokhel, Advisor to the PM on Finance Dr Shahid Amjad Chaudhary, Chairman National Highway Authority Hamid Ali Khan, senior officials of the Prime Minister's Secretariat and ministries of Commerce and Finance.

All Day

Work on Gwadar-Ratodero road be accelerated -- The Nation

Prime Minister Mir Hazar Khan Khoso has said that the government will accelerate the pace of work on the Gwadar-Ratodero Road so that people of Pakistan can reap the benefits of the Gwadar port.

He said this while presiding over a high-level meeting here on Monday to review the progress of work on Gwadar-Ratodero Road.

The Prime Minister said that Gwadar-Ratodero is a strategic link, which is of national importance.

The Prime Minister issued instructions that work on Khuzdar-Ratodero section and Hoshab-Gwadar section should be completed during the next 12 months while work on N-85 Road and N-30 should be prioritized for early completion of these linkages with Gwadar.

The Prime Minister was informed that total road network of the country was spread over 12131 kilometers of which over 37 percent of the roads comprised those in Balochistan.

He said that the completion of this road is not only important for linking Gwadar with the rest of the country but shall stimulate development in the area right from Gwadar upto Ratodero.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Communication, Asadullah Khan Mandokhel, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Finance, Dr. Shahid Amjad Chaudhary, Chairman National Highway Authority, Hamid Ali Khan and senior officials.

All Day

32,000 tons of urea arriving Gwadar port this week -- Business Recorder

The first urea consignment of 32,000 tons, imported by Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) from international market, is reaching Gwadar port this week. In January this year, the Economic Co-ordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet directed TCP to import 130,000 tons of urea from international market in order to avoid any shortage during Rabi season as domestic urea plant are unable to meet local demand due to gas curtailment.

Following the directives of the ECC, the state run grain trader successfully opened first urea import tender on April 24, 2013. TCP awarded contract for import of 80,000 tons of urea to the lowest bidder M/s Helm Dungenmittel, GMBH at a price of \$374.73 per ton Cost and Freight (C&F). The tender was for the import of 130,000 tons with minimum bid quantity of 50,000 tons, however lowest bidder offered only for 80,000 tons.

The Letter Of Credit for the import of 80,000 tons of urea was opened by TCP in the last week of April, when as per prescribed terms and conditions lowest bidder deposited five percent performance guarantee. At the same time, in order to comply with the decision of the ECC, a fresh tender for 50,000 tons has already been issued by TCP to complete the total targeted quantity of 130,000 tons.

As per schedule provided by the M/s Helm Dungenmittel, the first ship namely "MV Sunshine" carrying about 32,000 tons of urea will reach Pakistan this week. First consignment is scheduled to berth at Gwadar port on May 15-16 as loading of urea on the ship has already been completed and it is likely to sail from "Ruweis Port" of Qatar on Tuesday (today). Sources said the successful bidder has also assured to supply complete quantity by June and according to shipper, another consignment of 42,000 tons of urea is likely to arrive on May 22-23 and the ship namely "MV Spring Sunshine" has already been nominated by the supplier. With arrival of these two consignments, overall import under this tender will reach 72,000 tons against the award quantity of 80,000 tons. The rest is also expected to reach Pakistan in the first week of next month.

Besides this import, TCP is already engaged in urea import from Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (Sabic) under the 100 million dollar credit facility being provided by Saudi Fund for Development (SFD). Under this agreement some four urea shipments have already been arrived, while overall some 220,000-240,000 tons of urea arrival is expected against \$100 million credit facility. Sources said TCP is only responsible for the import of urea, while the distribution, transportation and bagging will be handled by National Fertiliser Marketing Limited (NFML) to ensure timely supply of urea to farmers during Rabi season.

All Day

Civilian nuclear technology talks on the table for Li Keqiang's first visit to Islamabad
[http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2013/05/15/news/national/civilian-nuclear-](http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2013/05/15/news/national/civilian-nuclear-technology-talks-on-the-table-for-li-keqiangs-first-visit-to-islamabad/)

-- Pakistan Today

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China are likely to initiate talks on civil nuclear technology and finalise agreements on Gawadar and energy sector during the upcoming visit of Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang who is making his first ever visit to New Delhi and Islamabad, Pakistan Today has learnt.

The upcoming visit of the Chinese premier is of great strategic importance for the region as he will visit both India and Pakistan in order to bring both the countries out of US influence.

On the other hand, the United States has already stroked a deal with India for transfer of civilian nuclear technology, but has not made any such agreements with Pakistan.

The visit is also important because both the countries would debate on the post-US withdrawal Afghanistan situation as American troops would pull out of Afghanistan by 2014. Terrorism is expected to be the main issue on the agenda.

Pakistan is now attempting to strike a deal for civilian nuclear technology with China as well for which talks are expected to be initiated in the upcoming visit by Li Keqiang.

Li Keqiang will make his trip from May 19-27 during which he will first visit India and then Pakistan. He will land in Islamabad on May 22 at the invitation of President Asif Ali Zardari.

He will also hold talks with President Zardari followed by a lunch hosted by the Pakistani president.

Li will hold a meeting with caretaker Prime Minister Mir Hazar Khan Khoso. On the next day, the Chinese prime minister will hold talks with Nawaz Sharif who recently won a heavy mandate in general polls of May 11 and is likely to be the prime minister of the country.

A source requesting anonymity told Pakistan Today that during talks with Pakistani officials, both countries are likely to ink two major accords including one on Gawadar port, whereas talks would be initiated on the transfer of civilian nuclear technology from China to Pakistan.

The source also informed that a number of small agreements and MOUs are likely to be inked between both the countries in connection with economy and the energy sector, out of which three accords would be energy agreements.

During the visit of the Chinese premier, the situation in Afghanistan, Indo-Pak relations, Pak-India-China ties and separatist Islamists movements in China would also be discussed between the leadership of both the countries.

It is the first ever visit of Li Keqiang to Pakistan after assuming the office. The visit takes place immediately after the elections in Pakistan. It will provide an opportunity to Li to meet the new leadership in Pakistan.

- See more at: [http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2013/05/15/news/national/civilian-nuclear-technology-talks-on-the-table-for-li-keqiangs-first-visit-to-islamabad/](http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2013/05/15/news/national/civilian-nuclear-technology-talks-on-the-table-for-li-keqiangs-first-visit-to-islamabad/#sthash.3fZmm9ZH.dpuf)
#sthash.3fZmm9ZH.dpuf

All Day

High importance to relations with China: Nawaz -- Pakistan Today

Whilst talking to Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Liu Jian, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) President, Nawaz Sharif stated that Pakistan attaches high importance to its relations with China.

Nawaz Sharif said that Pakistan and China are linked in a relationship of closed

friendship.

Both the sides discussed avenues for enhancing bilateral cooperation in various fields between the two countries.

The Chinese ambassador congratulated Nawaz Sharif on winning general elections and hoped that Pak-China relations will further be strengthened during his tenure. - See more at: <http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2013/05/15/news/national/high-importance-to-relations-with-china-nawaz/#sthash.eEkEy9Dy.dpuf>

All Day

Cabinet signs MoU to link Gawadar with Xinjiang -- Pakistan Today

ISLAMABAD - The federal cabinet on Wednesday accorded approval to a landmark memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Pakistan and China for establishment of Pak-China Economic Corridor, paving the way for linking Gawadar port with Xinjiang and other western parts of China.

The agreement is set to be officially signed upon the arrival of Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang in Pakistan on May 22. The Chinese premier would be visiting for the first time at the invitation of President Asif Ali Zardari after assuming office.

According to the agreement, both states would form a joint working group which would conduct research and planning for laying road and rail links between Gawadar and Xinjiang. Moreover, the document stated that optic fibre and oil pipelines would also be laid to link both the countries.

During the cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Mir Hazar Khan Khoso stated that despite being a caretaker regime, his government had decided not to delay the programmes of national significance which would usher progress and prosperity for the people of south Asia.

"This agreement is of strategic importance for both Pakistan and China and would help Pakistan strengthen its economic base. Moreover, both China and Pakistan would enhance their cooperation in the fields of economy, energy, agriculture, science and technology and trade," a source who attended the meeting said.
- See more at: <http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2013/05/16/news/national/cabinet-signs-mou-to-link-gawadar-with-xinjiang/#sthash.Z2JilWP6.dpuf>

All Day

Pak-China to sign several MoUs, FO -- PPI

Islamabad: Pakistan and China would sign several Memoranda of Understanding MoUs for cooperation in various fields during forthcoming visit of Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang to Pakistan on May 22.

Foreign Office spokesman Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary said at the weekly news briefing that details of these MoUs are being worked out. He said a warm welcome awaits to the Chinese Prime Minister when he arrives in Islamabad on 22nd of this month.

President Asif Ali Zardari will host a luncheon for the distinguished guest.

The Chinese Prime Minister will also hold wide ranging talks with President Asif Ali Zardari and Caretaker Prime Minister Mir Hazar Khan Khoso, which will be followed by a joint stakeout. The Prime Minister will also host a banquet for his Chinese counterpart.

The Chinese Prime Minister will also meet leader of political parties. On the second day of his visit, President of Pakistan Muslim League N Mian Nawaz Sharif will call on Mr. Li Keqiang.

The Chinese Prime Minister will hold a joint meeting with Chairman Senate and Speaker National Assembly. He will visit Pak-China Friendship Centre and plant a sapling at Shakarparian.

The spokesman told a questioner that no details of the visit of US Secretary of State to Pakistan are available as yet. He said Pakistan and the United States enjoy mutually collaborative relationship. Pakistan would like to have good relations with the United States based on mutual respect and mutual benefits.

He confirmed that Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Sherry Rehman has resigned. He said there are 15 non-career ambassadors and the new Government would decide about their fate.

Replying to a question about reference to Pakistan's nuclear programme in the

white paper issued by Australian Defence Ministry, the spokesman said Pakistan has a robust nuclear command and control system and robust security arrangements. He said Pakistan's civilian nuclear programme is under IAEA safeguards.

To a question he said Pakistan has received no new communication from India about dialogue process. Pakistan has already approached India for focused discussions on the issue of prisoners including 47 who have completed their sentence.

Replying to another question he said Pakistan is in regular contact with Afghan authorities including military to military contact. He said the issue of border post has been resolved. Pakistan has been emphasizing the need for effective border management to interdict undesirable cross border activity.

Responding to a barrage of questions about threatening statement of MQM leader Altaf Hussain, the spokesman said the Foreign Office is waiting for political guidance on the issue.

All Day

پیپلز پارٹی گوادر پورٹ اور گیس منصوبے پر پیشرفت کو مانیٹر کرے گی، رضا ربان -- جنگ

پیپلز پارٹی نے وفاق میں اپوزیشن پر بیٹھنے اور سندھ میں حکومت سازی کا فیصلہ کرتے ہوئے... کراچی 7 نکاتی ایجنڈے کا اعلان کر دیا ہے۔ پارٹی رہنما سینیٹر رضا ربانی کہتے ہیں کہ پیپلز پارٹی گوادر پورٹ اور گیس منصوبے پر پیشرفت کو مانیٹر کرے گی، پیپلز پارٹی کا سینیٹ میں کوئی فارورڈ بلاک نہیں بن رہا پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی کے رہنما رضا ربانی نے کراچی پریس کلب میں پارٹی کے سات نکاتی ایجنڈے کا اعلان کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ معاشی شعبے میں آئی ایم ایف کے پیکیج، شرائط، قیمتوں کے کنٹرول، روزگار کے مواقع اور برطرفیوں کو مانیٹر کیا جائے گا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ صحت اور تعلیم کے شعبے صوبوں کے حوالے کیے ہیں انہیں واپس لینے نہیں دیا جائے گا۔ وسائل پر 50 فیصد وفاق اور 50 فیصد صوبوں کا حق ہے۔ آئل اور گیس کی آمدنی میں 50 فیصد صوبوں کو دیا جائے۔ رضا ربانی نے مزید کہا کہ قومی انسداد دہشت گردی حکمت عملی کے بارے میں مسلم لیگ ن کے منشور میں کچھ نہیں اس کی وضاحت کی جائے۔ حکومت کو ڈرون حملوں اور افغانستان سے غیر ملکی فوجیوں کی انخلا پر حکومتی پالیسی واضح کرنی ہوگی۔ رضا ربانی کا کہنا تھا کہ توانائی کے بحران پر حکومتی دعوؤں کی مانیٹرنگ کریں گے

All Day

بتیس ہزار ٹن یوریا لے کر بحری جہاز گوادری پورٹ پہنچ گیا -- جنگ

ملک میں کھاد کی قلت پورا کرنے کے لیے، اس کی درآمد شروع ہوگئی، 32 ہزار ٹن یوریا لے کر... کراچی آج بحری جہاز گوادری پورٹ پہنچ گیا ہے۔ ٹریڈنگ کارپوریشن پاکستان کے مطابق اقتصادی رابطہ کمیٹی نے ملک میں کھاد کی قلت کو پورا کرنے کے لیے ایک لاکھ 30 ہزار ٹن یوریا درآمد کرنے کا حکم دیا تھا۔ اس سلسلے میں سے 80 ہزار ٹن درآمد کا ٹینڈر گزشتہ ماہ جاری ہوا تھا جس کے تحت 32 ہزار ٹن یوریا لے کر ایک جہاز قطر سے گوادری پورٹ پہنچا ہے۔ ٹریڈنگ کارپوریشن کے مطابق 30 ہزار ٹن یوریا لے کر ایک اور جہاز قطر سے آئندہ ہفتے گوادری پورٹ پہنچے جائے گا۔

May 18, 2013

Sat

All Day

Pakistan adopts Chinese GPS satellite system -- BEIJING

Pakistan adopts Chinese GPS satellite

BEIJING: Pakistan is set to become the fifth Asian country to use China's domestic satellite navigation system which was launched as a rival to the US global positioning system, a report said Saturday.

The Beidou, or Compass, system started providing services to civilians in the region in December and is expected to provide global coverage by 2020. It also has military applications.

Thailand, China, Laos and Brunei already use the Chinese system, which currently consists of 16 operational satellites, with 30 more due to join the system, according to English-language China Daily.

Huang Lei, international business director of BDStar Navigation, which promotes Beidou, told the newspaper the company would build a network of stations in Pakistan to enhance the location accuracy of Beidou.

He said building the network would cost tens of millions of dollars.

American website Defensenews.com reported early May that Pakistani military experts were in favour of using the Chinese system, even though the availability of the signal could not be guaranteed in case of conflict.

But according to one of them, Pakistan cannot place its trust in the United States.

"Pakistan's armed forces cannot rely on US GPS because of its questionable availability during a conflict that has overtones of nuclear escalation," former Pakistan Air Force pilot Kaiser Tufail told the site.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang travels next week to Pakistan, a long time ally, after a visit to India.

May 19, 2013

Sun

All Day

Pakistan and China to sign MOUs on development of strategic Gwadar port -- Global Post

The Foreign Ministry in Islamabad said Sunday that Pakistan and China will sign several memorandums of understanding during Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's visit to Pakistan, starting Wednesday.

Foreign Secretary Jalil Abbas Jilani said as many as 12 MOUs will be signed, including three linked to the development of the strategic Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea, which China has been managing since February.

According to local newspaper reports, Pakistan wants China to commit to the construction of an international airport at Gwadar as well as improved infrastructure, linking Gwadar port with Pakistan's railway and national motorway at the city of Ratodero in Sindh province.

Another important MOU to be signed during Li's visit relates to the development of a 1,000-megawatt hydropower project in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, which has been hampered by financial and bureaucratic difficulties.

The Chinese premier is also expected to discuss promotion of the Chinese language and the opening of Chinese cultural centers across Pakistan.

Li will arrive in Islamabad on Wednesday for a two-day visit to discuss details with Pakistani President Asif Zardari.

All Day

China, Pakistan plan "economic corridor": Li -- News Asia

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang Wednesday linked growth in his country's restive west with that in sluggish Pakistan, saying the two sides wanted to create an "economic corridor" to boost development.

PHOTOSVIDEOS

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (L) speaks with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari during a signing of agreements ceremony at the presidential palace in Islamabad, May 22, 2013. (AFP/Aamir Qureshi)

prevENLARGEnext

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Premier Li Keqiang Wednesday linked growth in his country's restive west with that in sluggish Pakistan, saying the two sides wanted to create an "economic corridor" to boost development.

Li, on his first overseas trip since taking over in a once-in-a-decade power transfer in Beijing, congratulated Pakistan on its recent general election and hailed the countries' long-standing friendship.

The Chinese leader held talks with President Asif Ali Zardari and officials signed a series of memorandums of understanding on economic, science, technology and energy issues.

Prime minister-elect Nawaz Sharif, set to meet Li on Thursday, will doubtless be hoping the visit leads to closer trade ties after his Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) party swept to victory in the May 11 general election on a promise to revitalise the struggling economy.

The PML-N faces a daunting array of problems: a bloody Islamist militancy, sluggish economic growth, high inflation, a crumbling currency, the threat of a balance of payments crisis and crippling electricity shortages.

Trade between China and Pakistan hit an annual US\$12 billion for the first time last year, according to Islamabad's foreign ministry, and the two sides plan to raise this to US\$15 billion in the next two to three years.

Li said China's desire to boost domestic demand and develop its western region would benefit Pakistan as it seeks to restart its foundering economy.

"Both sides are of the view that by connecting China's development and Pakistan's development, we can create a joint economic corridor linking the central and western parts of China and Pakistan," he said.

"This vision, once realised, will have great strategic significance for the development of China, South Asia, Asia and of peace and stability in the region and the improved lives of people in our region."

China's western region of Xinjiang sees frequent clashes between mainly Muslim Uighurs and Han Chinese, and Beijing has blamed extremists trained in Pakistan for some of the violence.

Riots in Xinjiang's capital Urumqi in 2009 killed around 200 people, leading the ruling Communist Party to tighten surveillance and boost investment in the region.

There are an estimated 10,000 Chinese people and more than 120 Chinese companies in Pakistan, many working on infrastructure and energy projects. Beijing built two nuclear power plants in the country and is contracted to construct two more reactors.

In February Beijing took control of Pakistan's port of Gwadar, which through an expanded Karakoram Highway could connect China to the Arabian Sea and the Strait of Hormuz, a gateway for a third of the world's traded oil.

China is also the main source of arms for Pakistan's military, the country's dominant institution, and Pakistan accounted for more than half of Chinese weapons exports between 2008 and 2012, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Li was met by Zardari on the tarmac at Nur Khan air base in Rawalpindi next to Islamabad when he flew in from Pakistan's arch-rival India, where he promised to open China's vast domestic market wider to Indian goods.

Pakistan's former ambassador to the United States Tariq Fatemi said the visit was crucial in drawing the economic roadmap for the incoming government.

"Normally foreign visitors don't go to countries during the interim setups, but China has recognised that the visit to Pakistan is necessary even at this stage, and that is why they have organised a separate one-on-one meeting with Nawaz Sharif," Fatemi told AFP.

After Pakistan, Li's tour takes him on to Europe for visits to Switzerland, with which China is negotiating a free trade agreement, and Germany, its largest European trading partner.

All Day

Pak & China to sign several MoUs for cooperation in various fields during forthcoming visit of Chinese PM: FO -- South Asian News Agency (SANA)

Pak & China to sign several MoUs for cooperation in various fields during forthcoming visit of Chinese PM: FO

ISLAMABAD, (SANA): Pakistan and China would sign several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for cooperation in various fields during forthcoming visit of Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang. Foreign OFFICE spokesman Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary said at the weekly news briefing that details of these MoUs are being worked out.

He said a warm welcome awaits to the Chinese Prime Minister when he arrives in Islamabad on 22nd of this month. President Asif Ali Zardari will host a luncheon for the distinguished guest.

The Chinese Prime Minister will also hold wide ranging talks with President Asif Ali Zardari and Caretaker Prime Minister Mir Hazar Khan Khoso, which will be followed by a joint stakeout. The Prime Minister will also host a banquet for his Chinese counterpart. The Chinese Prime Minister will also meet leader of political parties.

On the second day of his visit, President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Mian Nawaz Sharif will call on Mr. Li Keqiang. The Chinese Prime Minister will hold a joint meeting with Chairman Senate and Speaker National Assembly. He will visit Pak-China Friendship Centre and plant a sapling at Shakarparian.

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All Day

Pak-China economic corridor to restore peace in region: Chinese PM -- Tribune

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang , in a joint news conference with President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday, said the two countries are working to develop an economic corridor, Express News reported.

The Chinese PM arrived in Islamabad under extra-tight security on the second leg of his first official trip since taking office in March and after a visit to Pakistan and China's arch rival, India.

Li's plane was escorted by six air force fighter jets as it entered Pakistani air space. Security measures also included shutting down mobile phone networks briefly across the city.

"The two countries have reached a consensus on multiple important issues. We hope to create a giant economic corridor that would not only enhance China's strategic significance but would also help in restoring peace and stability to Asia," he said.

Li said there was still "great potential" for the relationship. Bilateral trade last year rose above \$12 billion for the first time and both sides are aiming to reach \$15 billion in the next two or three years.

"Our two sides should focus on carrying out priority projects in connectivity, energy development and power generation and promoting the building of a China-Pakistan economic corridor," Li told media.

The Chinese PM said that his visit to Pakistan prior to it forming a new government shows that the relationship between the two countries is "ever-lasting." He said the regular meetings between officials of the two countries have become a norm.

"Through my visit, I aim to strengthen the tradition," he said.

He thanked President Zardari for awarding him with Nishan-e-Pakistan on his arrival and said "I don't just take this as personal honour but also as a sign of goodwill from people of Pakistan to the people of China."

"We would like to partner with Pakistan, so that we can create a better future for mankind, for Asia and for both our countries," he added.

President Zardari responded by saying, "Today is one of the happiest days of my life. Gwadar Port and our agreements on Satellite connectivity among others are a testament to the fact that the dreams of citizens from both the countries are being realized."

He thanked the Chinese PM for generously contributing 500 million yuan to development projects in Pakistan and hoped that the cooperation of the two countries would lead to a better future for South Asia.

The two countries also signed a series of cooperation documents covering the economy, culture, and science and technology.

"China and Pakistan shall remain all-weather friends," President Zardari said.

All Day

Pakistan, China sign 11 agreements, MoUs -- Frontier Post

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Pakistan and China on Wednesday signed 11 agreements, Memoranda of Understanding and documents to strengthen and diversify cooperation in economy, science and technology, space and upper atmosphere communication and boundary management.

These were signed by officials of the two countries at a ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr after talks between President Asif Ali Zardari and the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Li Keqiang. The two leaders witnessed the signing ceremony.

The agreements include those on economic and technical cooperation, boundary

management system, Sino-Pak Border Posts and their Management System, satellite navigation, and establishment of Confucius Institute at Karachi University.

Under these agreements, Balochistan port of Gwadar would be connected with China via rail, road and air routes.

All Day

Gwadar gateway to Central Asia trade: Li -- The Nation

Pakistan and China Wednesday vowed to further consolidate their time-tested ties and signed a number of accords and MoUs, including the one for establishing an economic corridor that would provide air, rail and road connectivity to bolster bilateral trade between the neighbouring countries.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, on his first overseas trip since taking over in a once-in-a-decade power transfer in Beijing, congratulated Pakistan on its recent general election and hailed the countries' long-standing friendship.

Prime Minister Li was deeply impressed when he saw incoming Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also joining the meeting he held with President Asif Ali Zardari and caretaker Prime Minister Mir Hazar Khan Khoso shortly after arriving at the Presidency. He said he believed the impressive democratic transition of power following the May 11 elections will further strengthen Pakistan.

The meeting was followed by a special investiture ceremony in which President Zardari conferred Nishan-e- Pakistan on the visiting Chinese leader. The investiture was followed by a luncheon attended by galaxy of country's civil, political and military elite before the Chinese Premier retired to his hotel only to resume a second round of activities in the Presidency in the afternoon.

The immaculately choreographed activities, the participation of leaders of all political parties, the substantive one on one and delegation level talks and the signing of a number of agreements and MoUs on trade, economic, science, technology and energy cooperation in the afternoon highlighted once again that Pak-China relations transcended political divide.

Later at a joint press stakeout, warmly welcoming Premier Li to 'his second home' - Pakistan, President Zardari said, "Our friendship with China is rooted in national consensus. This friendship is not only between the governments but also between the two peoples. It is also time tested."

Premier Li linked growth in his country's western part with economic improvement in Pakistan, saying the two sides wanted to create an "economic corridor" to boost development. Li said China's desire to boost domestic demand and develop its western region would benefit Pakistan as it seeks to restart its foundering economy. "Both sides are of the view that by connecting China's development and Pakistan's development, we can create a joint economic corridor linking the central and western parts of China and Pakistan," he said. "This vision, once realised, will have great strategic significance for the development of China, South Asia, Asia and of peace and stability in the region and the improved lives of people in our region."

Li described the Gwadar Port as a gateway to Central Asia trade.

Trade between China and Pakistan hit an annual \$12 billion for the first time last year, according to Islamabad's foreign ministry, and the two sides plan to raise this to \$15 billion in the next two to three years. The MoU on cooperation for long-term plan on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was inked by Chinese National Development and Reform Commission Chairman Xu Shao Shi and Advisor to the Prime Minister Shahid Amjad Chaudhry.

An MoU on Maritime Cooperation, an agreement on Boundary Management System between China's Xinjiang province and Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan area, and another agreement on border ports and their management system was signed by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Foreign Secretary Jalil Abbas Jilani.

Chinese Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng and Pakistan's Economic Affairs Division Secretary Shahzad Arbab signed the agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation and the handing over certificate of Seismographic Network.

The MoU on cooperation in marine science and technology between the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) of China and Pakistan's science and technology ministry was signed by SOA administrator and Secretary Akhlaq Ahmad Tarar.

An agreement between China Satellite Navigation Office (CSNO) and Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) was inked by CSNO Director Ran Chengqi and Major-Gen (r) Ahmed Bilal. An agreement on establishment of Confucius Institute at Karachi University was signed by Head of National Office for Chinese Language Xu Lin and KU VC Muhammad Qaiser. The other documents signed included Annual Blister Purchase Contract and Greige Fabric Contract.

President Zardari told the press conference, "We are delighted that Mr Li has chosen Pakistan among the first countries to visit after taking over as Premier of the State Council." He said friendship with China has always been the cornerstone of

our foreign policy.

Premier Li Keqiang recalled his visit to Pakistan 27 years back as part of the youth delegation and said his visit left deep impressions on him. He termed Pakistan-China friendship a valuable asset and said it was something not affected by change of a government and politics.

Zardari said the two countries discussed various connectivity proposals including fibre optics, road and rail links and energy projects. He said both the countries were determined to achieve the bilateral trade target of \$15 billion and have agreed to speed up work on the projects identified under the Five-Year Development Programme. "We have also decided to press ahead with the second phase of negotiations on China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement and start work on the China-Pakistan Agriculture Demonstration Zone."

Premier Li Keqiang said both sides have decided on a long term program – a strategic idea for the peace and stability of the world. He stressed that consolidating the strategic cooperation needs to be backed by concrete actions and mentioned the witnessing of agreements on economic and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Li said the purpose his visit to Pakistan was to cement friendship between the two countries, which has been nurtured by successive leaders and the people of the two countries. He hoped that regular meetings between the leaders would help deepen and further consolidate their ties.

Li arrived in the Pakistan capital under extra-tight security on the second leg of his first official trip since taking office in March. His plane was escorted by six air force fighter jets as it entered Pakistani air space. Security measures also included shutting down mobile phone networks across the city. He was met by President Zardari on the tarmac at Rawalpindi's Nur Khan Airbase.

At the lunch, where Nawaz Sharif was also present, Premier Li said China and Pakistan should make cooperation on power generation a priority. Nawaz, who is set to meet Li again today, will doubtless be hoping the visit leads to closer trade ties after his PML-N party swept to victory in the elections on a promise to revitalise the struggling economy and solve the energy crisis in shortest possible time.

All Day

Pak govt, people support cordial relations with China -- AAJ News

ISLAMABAD: Former Ambassador Shahid Amin has said that Pak-China friendship is a time-tested and China can help Pakistan in coping with the economic crises.

Talking to Radio Pakistan, Shahid Amin remarked that everyone in Pakistan agreed upon friendship with China and there are no differences among them over this aspect of foreign policy.

Eminent analyst Imtiaz Gul termed the recent visit of China's Premier Li Keqiang to Pakistan very significant as by this visit he has given a message to the world that Islamabad is still important for Beijing.

He said that the relations of China with Pakistan are of political and geographical importance besides their economic significance.

Imtiaz Gul remarked that China has been suggesting Pakistan for the last 30 years to concentrate on economic development while keeping aside all the regional issues.

Former Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh has praised the statement of China's Premier Li Keqiang where he said that Pak-China friendship is spread on generations.

All Day

Pak-China economic linkages being further strengthened: Premier Li -- APP

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Prime Minister, Li Keqiang Wednesday said productive negotiations with Pakistani leadership for common purpose would help increase strategic, economic and trade relations.

Talking to leaders of different political parties of Pakistan who met with him here, he said that priority of both Pakistan and China was to further strengthen economic

linkages and in this regard China would extend all cooperation.

The leaders included Javed Hashmi of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTA), Raza Rabbani of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Chief of Pakistan Muslim League (PML-Z), Ejazul Haq, Afrasiab Khattak of Awami National Party (ANP), Senators Saeeda Iqbal and Dr. Abdul Malik and Former MNA, Muhammad Usman.

Chinese Premier thanked the political leaders for their commitment towards the growth of Sino-Pak relationship.

He said China would extend 500 million Yuan as free assistance to Pakistan for welfare of its people and expressed the hope that the MoUs signed in trade and economic areas would definitely ensure development.

Premier Li said the handling of Gwadar Port by a Chinese company was another steps which would not only ensure development for Pakistan but also for the local population.

Li Keqiang said Pakistan was an important country in the region and it had made significant contribution to peace, stability and development of the region and the world at large.

The Chinese Premier said that China was committed to consolidating its traditional friendship with Pakistan and deepening the strategic cooperation between the two countries.

The political leaders thanked the Chinese Premier for his visit to Pakistan and said the time-tested friendship between the two countries would be further strengthened in the days to come.

All Day

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Premier Li Keqiang wrapped up on Thursday his two-day official visit to Pakistan after promising a deeper and more comprehensive strategic engagement and a closer coordination for security and stability in Afghanistan. -- Dawn

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Premier Li Keqiang wrapped up on Thursday his two-day official visit to Pakistan after promising a deeper and more comprehensive strategic engagement and a closer coordination for security and stability in Afghanistan.

Cementing the “strategic partnership is the shared objective of both countries”, a joint statement issued at the conclusion of the visit said. Both sides noted that their bilateral relationship had acquired strategic importance in the context of the changing regional and international scenario.

The roadmap agreed by the two sides for taking the strategic ties to next level included strengthening strategic communication, moving ahead with negotiations on free trade agreement, convening the next round of meetings of Pak-China Joint Working Energy Group for cooperation on conventional, renewable and civil nuclear energy, enhancing connectivity through upgrading Karakoram Highway and other such transport infrastructure, working on proposed economic corridor, jointly combating non-traditional threats to maritime security and guarding international sea-lanes, expanding air routes, counter-terrorism cooperation and working together at regional and international fora.

It was particularly important for Islamabad that Beijing expressed confidence in its counter-terrorism strategy.

China “reiterates that it respects the anti-terrorism strategy developed and implemented by the Pakistani side in light of its own conditions. ...China expresses its appreciation and continued willingness to help Pakistan build up counter-terrorism capacity”, the joint statement read.

China had in the past reservations over the presence of East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM — a rebel Chinese group) in Pakistan. During Premier Li’s visit the Pakistani leadership recommitted to “continuous, active collaboration with and assistance to China in combating terrorist forces including the ETIM”.

ETIM was declared a common threat for Pakistan and China.

Pakistan’s counter-terrorism strategy has quite often been criticised by the West for being flawed. The criticism largely stems from the continued presence of militants in ungoverned spaces in tribal areas.

With Beijing’s endorsement for its counter-terror strategy in hand, some in Islamabad think that they would be able to better counter the “Western propaganda”.

Beijing and Islamabad broadly identified eight sectors for enhanced cooperation — political relations; economy and trade; connectivity; maritime security; aviation and aerospace; people to people exchanges; defense and security collaboration; and cooperation on international and regional issues.

“Pak-China friendship has stood the test of time and is more precious than gold,” Li told Senators at a special session of the upper house of parliament that had been convened for his speech. Address to the parliament is a special honour given to some of the visiting foreign leaders.

Prime Minister Li had at the start of his visit said that China would consolidate its friendship with Pakistan no matter how the international situation developed. He had also effusively praised Pakistan for significantly contributing to regional and world peace and stability.

Mr Li hoped that Pak-China cooperation in the fields of economy, maritime security, aerospace, energy, agriculture, transportation and cultural fields would grow.

Prime Minister Li and his delegation were given a warm send-off. The special Air China Boeing 747 aircraft carrying Mr Li was escorted by a formation of six JF-17 Thunder aircraft in Pakistani airspace as the Chinese leader embarked on the European leg of his four-nation tour.

During his stay in Islamabad, Mr Li met President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Mir Hazar Khan Khoso, Senate Chairman Nayyar Bokhari, former speaker of the National Assembly Fehmida Mirza, PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Gen Khalid Shameem Wynne, services chiefs and leaders of major political parties. He, along with President Zardari, also witnessed signing of 11 agreements and was decorated with highest Pakistani civil award of Nishan-i-Pakistan.

All Day

Jl chief stresses strong ties with China -- The News

JAMAAT-e-Islami Ameer Syed Munawar Hasan while welcoming Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's visit to Pakistan and his address to the Senate has stressed upon Pakistani's newly elected government to further strengthen bilateral ties with the great neighbour to get out of the US slavery.

China is not simply a good neighbour but also a well-wisher and a strategic partner which always assisted Pakistan in different spheres to bolster strong and lasting Pak-China friendship, he said on Thursday while commenting on Chinese PM's visit.

Syed Munawar Hasan also noted that China's offer for mediation between Pakistan and India on the Kashmir issue indicated its honest desire for regional peace. He said the presence of the US and Nato forces in the region and Washington's effort to build India as regional power to curtail China's influence was a conspiracy to destroy the regional peace.

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Syed Munawar Hasan said the US wanted to continue its control on trade in the world and in the Asian region.

He said the US and India had been opposing Gowadar's handover to China. He noted with concern that these powers were also behind the abductions and killings of Chinese engineers in Balochistan to create differences between China and Pakistan but their conspiracies failed.

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Syed Munawar Hasan hoped that Pakistani government would immediately embark on the projects proposed by the Chinese leader for pulling this country out of energy crisis.

Meanwhile Jl Secretary General Liaquat Baloch has said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's election slogan of recovery of ill-gotten billions from President Zardari should not die down after Mian Nawaz Sharif's meeting with him.

Talking to media at a gathering on Thursday, he said corruption had crippled the country's economy while loadshedding deepened the unemployment problem.

Jl Secretary General Liaquat Baloch said the nation would be greatly disappointed if newly elected rulers could not overcome energy crisis and control corruption. Liaquat Baloch said Chinese Premier's visit would strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries. He said handing over Gowadar port to China would be in the national interest. He said if India agreed to resolve Kashmir issue in the light of UN resolutions, the region would emerge as a strong economic power.

All Day

Powering the relationship: Nawaz wants energy, not aid, from China -- The Express Tribune

A day earlier during his meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari, the Chinese premier offered his country's help in resolving Pakistan's energy crisis.

During the meeting, both leaders discussed ways to further strengthen existing bilateral and strategic relations. Nawaz expressed an eagerness to avail Chinese expertise in order to develop infrastructure in Pakistan and asked Premier Keqiang to develop the Gwadar Port as early as possible to kickstart economic activity in the country. The two leaders also discussed a range of regional and international issues of common interest.

"The PML-N chief has yet to take oath of his office and was thus not in any position to make any agreement but he will be materialising proposals [discussed in the meeting] when he would travel to Beijing," added the PML-N official..

Congratulating Sharif on his party's success in the general elections, the Chinese premier also invited the PML-N chief to visit China.

"China views Nawaz Sharif as a sincere and committed friend, whose contribution to expanding cooperation between the two countries is highly appreciated," a statement quoted Premier Li as saying. Following the meeting, Sharif told reporters that he would visit China at the earliest after taking the oath of office, and it seems its not just energy that will be on the agenda.

"A team of experts will go with Sharif in his visit to Beijing who will materialise the proposals in several sectors other than energy as well," the party official added.

Meeting with services chiefs Along with meeting the man who will be the next civilian head of government, the Chinese premier also met Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, along with the other services chief and the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, on Thursday.

They highly commended the China-Pakistan Defence and Security Consultations Mechanism, and resolved to maintain the momentum of high-level visits between the armed forces of the two countries and exchanges between military academics, while also deepening cooperation in counter-terrorism personnel training and identifying new areas for exchanges and cooperation.

Joint statement

In a joint statement issued at the conclusion of Chinese Premier's two-day visit, Islamabad and Beijing agreed to further deepen practical cooperation in all sectors and strengthen coordination and cooperation on international and regional issues.

The Chinese premier reaffirmed support Pakistan's efforts to uphold its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. In return, Pakistan reiterated that friendship with China is the cornerstone of its foreign policy as well.

According to the statement, tThe statement also said that both sides believe that terrorism, separatism and extremism pose a serious threat to regional peace, stability and security, and reaffirmed their resolve to continue cooperation to combat the 'three evil forces'.

"China recognises that Pakistan has made great efforts and sacrifices to combat terrorism, and reiterates that it respects the anti-terrorism strategy developed and implemented by the Pakistani side in light of its own conditions," the statement read. Pakistan reaffirmed its resolve to combat terrorism, and commits to continuous, active collaboration with and assistance to China in combating terrorist forces including the East Turkestan Islamic Movement.

Published in The Express Tribune, May 24th, 2013.

All Day

BEIJING: Many countries around the world are keen on obtaining JF-17 Thunder fighter jet jointly developed by Pakistan and China, said a senior officer of the Pakistan Air Force on Sunday. -- Totays News

BEIJING: Many countries around the world are keen on obtaining JF-17 Thunder fighter jet jointly developed by Pakistan and China, said a senior officer of the Pakistan Air Force on Sunday.

"We've been getting inquiries and expressions of interest for the JF-17 Thunder from many countries in the Middle East, Africa and from as far as South America," Air Marshal Sohail Gul Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, told China Daily.

Pakistan has had the privilege of showcasing the fighter plane twice in China's International Airshow held bi-annually in Zhuhai. The JF-17 Thunder or the FC-1 Fierce Dragon as it's known in China is a third-generation multipurpose combat jet co-developed by Aviation Industry Corp of China and the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC).

PAC is in charge of manufacturing and maintaining the Pakistan Air Force's aircraft back home. "During my foreign visits, almost everyone I met asked me about the plane and many countries said they want to join the project," Khan said.

The JF-17 is an "extremely capable aircraft" and its maneuverability and avionics are excellent, he added. Air Vice-Marshal Javaid Ahmed, chief director of the JF-17 project, added to the assertion. "The JF-17 is one of our top lightweight fighters, comparable to any advanced aircraft in the Pakistan Air Force."

The Complex has already produced more than 40 JF-17s, he said adding that the collaborative project between China and Pakistan on the aircraft is still underway with technicians from both the countries focusing on upgrading the weapons and avionics.

Khan said the Pakistan Air Force may also take part in the development of other aircrafts in the future. His remarks came shortly after six JF-17 Thunder fighter jets escorted the Boeing 747 with Premier Li Keqiang on board, who arrived in Pakistan for a two-day visit on Wednesday.

In a telephonic interview with China Daily, Wing Commander Ronald Afzal, leader of Pakistan Air Force's 16th Squadron said "It's a great honor for us that our JF-17s were selected to welcome Chinese Premier Li Keqiang."

"We had handpicked the best pilots in my squadron and trained intensively on escort formation at high altitudes as well as low altitudes one week before Prime Minister Li was to arrive," Afzal said.

"As its developers, we feel quite privileged to see our planes undertake such an honorable mission and believe that the Pakistan Air Force chose the JF-17 to welcome our premier partly because it has a lot of Chinese elements," said Yang Wei, the chief designer of the aircraft at the Aviation Industry Corp of China.

Yang's team will join hands with their Pakistani counterparts to develop future versions of the JF-17, gradually providing the aircraft with partial stealth and aerial refueling capabilities, he said.

All Day

1,000MW reactors to raise China's capability -- The News

People's Republic of China is rapidly moving towards the goal of building up greater vessels of up to 1,000MW capacity for atomic reactors as compared with its present limited-capacity reactors of 300MW each two of which were already operational in Pakistan at Chashma.

This information was revealed to this scribe during a visit to China some time back when meetings were held with a number of Chinese functionaries and scientists from various fields including the seniors of MCC, China's most prestigious metallurgical corporation.

Thus far, this higher capacity of building vessels beyond 300MW generation capability, especially in the range of 1000MW, was available exclusively to the Western countries including the US, Britain and France.

The Chinese scientists accepted this challenge and subsequently took the initiative to address this limited-capacity issue and now they have taken many steps forward on the track of high-capacity reactors matching the capabilities of Western N-powers which means success of People's Republic of China in coming at par with other nuclear powers in the area of generation through high-capacity reactors.

The news of this latest advancement on the part of Chinese scientists has been well received in almost all the social, business and political circles in Pakistan obviously because of close, time-tested Sino-Pak ties that have tended to grow to the mutual benefit of people of both the friendly countries. Already, there was considerable cooperation going on between Pakistan and China in the area of defence (defence production in particular), a fact known to the entire world.

And, now there is strong likelihood of yet greater cooperation coming from Chinese friends in the wake of the recent Pakistan visit of Chinese prime minister when the point of Pak-China civil nuclear deal was highlighted in all the prominent forums and above all, in political circles, even at the level of the would-be Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Nawaz Sharif.

Islamabad is confident that China would go beyond its pledges to salvage Pakistan out of its acute energy crisis and issues like civil nuclear deal of higher-capacity would definitely be taken up with the Chinese government by the forthcoming Nawaz Sharif government.

Already, civil nuclear deal is in place in the form of already operational Chashma-I & II and in the form of upcoming Chashma III & IV.

In this area in particular, Pakistan could not get any cooperation from the US which, however, chose to give preference to India for whatever reasons.

As for Chinese collaboration and support in many areas including the handling of Gwadar Port, production of JF-17 Thunder aircraft and other projects, China was also helping Pakistan in the exploration of mineral resources besides doing trade in some metals.

One of the provinces of China was importing iron ore from Pakistan.

That information came as a surprise to this scribe for the reason that it would be normally thought that Pakistan was just an importer of iron ore.

This information was further confirmed from Tariq Saadat, a local businessman dealing in voluminous metals trade at international level.

All Day

Pak-China firms sign agreement to manufacture life saving products -- BR

Pak-China firms sign agreement to manufacture life saving products

Friday, 31 May 2013 00:41 Posted by Imaduddin 237

LAHORE: Pakistan and Chinese firms Medipak and Hunan China Sun have inked an agreement for manufacturing of life saving health care products I.V. Infusion Solutions, here on Thursday.

Dr Khalid J Chowdhry, Chairman of Medipak Group of Companies and Mr. Fangxi Liu, Vice President Hunan China Sun Pharmaceutical Machinery Co. Ltd. signed the landmark agreement on behalf of their respective sides.

Under the agreement, Hunan China Sun will set up a state- of-the-art cGMP compliant facility on turnkey basis for the manufacturing of Intravenous (I.V.) Infusion Solutions for Medipak Limited.

Dr Chowdhry said that Medipak is the pioneer in manufacturing of I.V. Infusion Solutions in Pakistan, with the know how transfer and technical collaboration of Fresenius A.G (Germany). I.V. Infusion Solutions are a life saving product and approximately 150 million units are manufactured annually to meet local demand, he added.

He said that Medipak was manufacturing the product since 1985. Prior to this, Pakistan was reliant on imported I.V. Infusion Solutions from across the globe. Pakistan is proudly self reliant and in fact exports this critical product to many parts of the world.

While elaborating, he said that I.V. Infusion Solutions are a life saving health-care product and are used to establish the lifeline through which critical medications are infused into the human body when seriously sick or injured.

Dr Khalid J. Chowdhry former President LCCI and former Chairman of Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Association (PPMA) said that the recent visit of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang to Pakistan has set a new milestone in economic cooperation between the two nations, and is a catalyst across all sectors.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Fangxi Liu, Vice President, Hunan China Sun said that the introduction of the modern and cost effective Injection Stretch Blow Moulding (ISBM) technology in Pakistan is a testament to the great friendship between Pakistan & China and will lay the foundation to further cooperation between the companies of the two countries in the future.

He said that Hunan China Sun, a public listed entity on the Shenzhen China stock exchange, is the leading Chinese technology company in pharmaceutical machinery & equipment with a specialization in Injection Stretch Blow Moulding (ISBM) technology.

Besides being the dominant ISBM technology suppliers within the Chinese market, Hunan China Sun has also completed globally acclaimed turnkey projects in various countries within the Middle East and Central Asian States.

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June 2, 2013

Sun

All Day

Pakistan participates in Chinese fairs in a big way -- Daily Times

Pakistan participates in Chinese fairs in a big way

Staff Report

KARACHI: Pakistan is scheduled to participate in Chengdu Forum 2013 in a big way in order to boost Pak-China trade.

The Chengdu Forum 2013 is commencing from June 3, 2013 in Sichuan province's capital Chengdu. A large trade delegation led by President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Zubair Ahmed Malik along with vice President Confederation of Asia Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) and Patron In-Chief Pak-China Business Council Tariq Sayeed.

FPCCI is also participating in the 1st South Asia Exposition 2013 in Kunming June 6th-10th and the 3rd China-Sichuan Import Commodity Fair starting from June 14-18 in Chengdu. FPCCI is sending 85 and 43 exhibitors to attend the fairs.

Along the sidelines of these exhibitions, in the cities of Chengdu and Kunming business forums are being held, namely 4th South Asia Sichuan Business Promotion Roundtable Conference from June 3-4 and China South Asia Business Forum Kunming June 6-8.

The delegation aims to explore prospects of enhancing trade and development between Pakistan and China, especially with the Yunnan and Sichuan provinces.

The CCPIT Sichuan and CCPIT Kunming have been instrumental in facilitating helping FPCCI promote Pakistani goods in China by helping organise participation in various fairs, exhibitions and forums over the years. The delegation would also visit Kunming to attend Kunming Forum and participate in Kunming Fair being held there from June 6, 2013. FPCCI has set up a large pavilion at the fair and as many as 85 exhibitors are setting up their stalls to display their products.

All Day**Pak-China currency swap – wait and watch -- BR**

Pak-China currency swap – wait and watch

With all eyes on the upcoming budget, very few people realise there is an auction, under the central bank's Chinese Yuan (CNY) Loan Facility, due to be held on June 4. The State Bank of Pakistan had entered a bilateral currency swap arrangement with the People's Bank of China (PBC) in December 2011, which was implemented earlier last month.

For the uninitiated, here is how a currency swap arrangements (CSA) will work. The CSA will be executed for a three-year tenor amounting to Rs140 billion and CNY10 billion, extendable on the mutual consent of the respective central banks.

The SBP can purchase the Chinese currency from PBC against the rupee, and repurchase the same on predetermined dates and rates. The pricing will be linked to the interest rate differential between PKR and CNY. The SBP will lend the CNY to banks which will further lend it to importers who will borrow the CNY to pay off the Chinese supplier.

Likewise, the exporter will borrow in CNY and utilise rupee for its local operations by selling CNY. On maturity of the contract, the exporter will pay off the CNY loan locally, having received CNY from the overseas buyer.

The idea behind CSA is to supplement the available pool of liquidity between the two countries to finance the bilateral trade. China is Pakistan's most significant trading partner, with Pakistan importing the most from China during 10MFY13.

The SBP maintains that the key aim of the currency swap is to promote regional currencies for trade settlement. China already has currency swap arrangements (CSA) with more than 20 countries, and with the CSA with Pakistan, it aims at enhancing CNY's role in international investment and trade. Financing direct investment is also penned as a key objective of the CSA, though it's difficult to say how will that help considering that China's share in FDI in Pakistan has not been of any significance to speak of.

Pakistan can surely benefit from the CSA should the structure fall well in place and banks and traders combine to take keen interest. The SBP had asked the banks to conduct awareness programmes for traders regarding the CSA. The upcoming auction on June 4 will certainly indicate the keenness and awareness or the lack thereof at the traders' level.

All Day

Begin construction of a Sino-Pakistani economic corridor -- China
Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hong Lei held a regular press conference.

He said, we warmly welcome Mr. Nawaz Sharif for his re-election as Prime Minister of Pakistan. Premier Li Keqiang immediately sent him a congratulatory message. As a neighbor and close friend of Pakistan, China will continue to develop mutually beneficial cooperation with China in all areas and to support efforts to achieve national stability and promoting socio-economic development.

Begin construction of a Sino-Pakistani economic corridor is an important consensus reached by the two countries during the visit to Pakistan Premier Li Keqiang. We intend to work together with Pakistan to actively carry out the planning and construction to properly implement this great project to make a new flagship project of Sino-Pakistani cooperation.

All Day

Building on ties: New premier indicates plan to link Gwadar with China
-- Express Tribune

Building on ties: New premier indicates plan to link Gwadar with China

By Shahbaz RanaPublished: June 6, 2013

The successful implementation of the Gwadar-Khunjerab-Kashgar rail network will help China secure oil supply and commercial routes on the Indian Ocean and provide a major boost to Pakistan's sinking economy. PHOTO: FILE
ISLAMABAD:

Newly-elected Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, in his maiden speech, revealed that Islamabad and Beijing have expressed a keen desire to implement the Gwadar-Khunjerab-Kashgar rail network. The project had been discussed during talks with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in his recent visit to Pakistan.

While PM Sharif said the actual details of the project would be shared at a later date, he also stated that both countries will soon establish a taskforce to complete the project within the next five years, indicating that it may be implemented on a fast-track basis.

The successful implementation of the Gwadar-Khunjerab-Kashgar rail network will help China secure oil supply and commercial routes on the Indian Ocean, furthering its plans to secure yet another strategic energy and trade corridor. Besides, the project is expected to provide a major boost to Pakistan's sinking economy.

The project is part of China's 'Strings of Pearl' strategic initiative, under which the economic giant wants to secure maritime centres in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives and Somalia. The plan highlights China's growing influence on the region's ports and airfields. The previous government has already handed over administrative control of the port to China.

The project, which will root Gwadar as a nexus point connecting the West with Central China, was the only scheme mentioned by the new premier in his first speech, and seems close to his stated vision of building mega-projects. It also indicates the new government's desire to receive economic benefits from the world's second-largest economy.

Notwithstanding successive governments' amenability to the Chinese cause, the implementation of the project, originally conceived over a decade ago, is dependent upon Pakistan's ability to overpower regional and international forces working against it.

The United States and the United Kingdom are trying to keep a check on China's increasing interests in the Indian Ocean through Bahrain and Dubai, insiders say. The western powers are reportedly offering a New Silk Route alternative to lure Pakistan away from China's 'friendly' grasp.

"Some countries are not happy with the Pakistan-China relationship, and Pakistan will have to make inroads through diplomacy alone," observed Akram Zaki, a former diplomat and an expert on Pakistan-China relations. He said the Gwadar-Kashgar project will increase China's stake in Pakistan's security, besides the economic dividends of the project.

More importantly, the success of the project depends on China's resolve to finance

it: the actual cost is yet to be determined, but 2005 estimates showed it over \$10 billion.

"The project was conceived many years ago, but it was not pursued actively in the past," Tariq Puri, former executive director of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, told The Express Tribune. Puri had been part of a delegation that visited Urumqi and Kashgar and reviewed the possibility of implementing this project. The project will route Chinese goods destined for the Middle East and other global destinations from Urumqi through Gwadar. It will save the Chinese half of their current voyage time and secure their oil supplies and commercial routes. The distance from Dubai to Khunjerab is 3,300 miles; the distance from Dubai to Shanghai via the Indian Ocean is about 9,000 miles.

"China will be gaining virtual control of the Indian Ocean and the energy and trade corridor from the Gulf," Puri said. He said China's plans also provide a trade opportunity to Pakistan, as the northern neighbour will be the next big consumer market for Pakistani products in the coming years.

According to an official of the Planning Commission, such a major investment will create thousands of jobs, besides boosting economic growth and bringing in prosperity in Balochistan, a historically underdeveloped province. Pakistan will also receive a transit fee for all goods passing through its territories. However, the project's implementation is not without economic and political costs: Pakistan is solely dependent on China for the construction of the rail network, as its cost runs higher than that of the Diamer Basha Dam.

Published in The Express Tribune, June 6th, 2013.

All Day

Gwadar, Karachi to be linked with Kashgar: PM -- Daily Times

Gwadar, Karachi to be linked with Kashgar: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday announced Karachi and Gwadar would be linked by road and rail with Kashgar, China via Khunjrab to boost regional trade. In his maiden speech at the National Assembly after being elected as Prime Minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif referred to his meeting with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during latter's recent visit to Pakistan in which they agreed to construct a rail track and road link from Kashgar to Gwadar, leading to Karachi. He said Chinese premier had asked him to constitute a task force for carrying out the feasibility of the projects and assured to form a similar team in China, so both the teams could work in cohesion. He lauded the handing over of Gwadar Port to China by previous government, which he said should be a free Port and have a special status. If the Port had not been handed over to China, we would not have been discussing this Port here, he remarked. app

June 7, 2013

Fri

All Day

China calls for co-op on Pakistan transport links -- Global Times

China calls for co-op on Pakistan transport links

China congratulated Nawaz Sharif on being elected Pakistan's prime minister for a third term and voiced hope of further promoting cooperation, particularly transport links, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said Thursday.

Hong Lei made the comments at a regular press briefing when responding to questions on Sharif's election win and the construction of highways and railways connecting Pakistan's Gwadar Port and Kashi in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

China and Pakistan reached an important agreement on building an economic corridor between the two sides during Li's visit to Pakistan, Hong said. He added that China will work to step up planning and construction of the project.

Xinhua

June 8, 2013

Sat

All Day

Durrani welcomes Kashgar-Gwadar road, rail plan -- APP

Durrani welcomes Kashgar-Gwadar road, rail plan

Saturday, June 08, 2013 - Islamabad—Former Information Minister and Vice President of PML-F Mohammad Ali Durrani on Friday welcomed the announcement of rail and road networks from Kashgar to Gwadar with Chinese assistance and said that the initiative would help boost bilateral and regional trade. Mr Durrani expressed these views while talking to Du Genqi, the First Secretary of Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, who called on him and discussed issues of mutual interest at the office of former information minister.

“PM Li Keqiang's visit is addition of a new chapter in relations between the two time tested friends and that also conveyed his strong desire for the development, progress and prosperity of Pakistan and its people,” a statement quoted Mr Durrani while talking to the Chinese official. He said announcement of ‘Kashgar-Gwadar rail and road link project’ by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will enhance friendly ties between both the countries and will increase economic and trade activities for the mutual interest of people of China and Pakistan.

He hoped that commitment and desire expressed by the newly elected leadership of the two countries will take the relations of friendly states to a new level of cooperation. “Bilateral trade between Pakistan and China in 2011-12 was around \$ 12 billion approximately, making China the largest trade partner of Pakistan.—APP

All Day

Pak-China women sign accord -- APP

Pak-China women sign accord

KARACHI: A memorandum of cooperation (MoC) has been signed by Sindh Women Chamber and Women Entrepreneur Association (WEA) of Yunnan Province of China in Kunming on Friday to bring about bilateral cooperation of women entrepreneurs in the two countries. The MoC was signed by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce delegate, Rizwana Shahid, who is also President of Sindh Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

All Day

Pak-China trade to reach \$14b by next year: Envoy -- KUNMING (China)

KUNMING (China) : Pak-China bilateral trade is likely to reach \$14 billion by the end of next year, while improving its balance of payment position, said Pakistan Ambassador to China Masood Khalid. Talking to newsmen here, he said Pakistan's export to China is showing upward trend, and the two countries are actively engaged in exploring new opportunities to strengthen their economic ties, that could match to their outstanding strategic partnership.

Chinese leadership he said was showing keen interest in bridging existing gap in our trade ties, and taking their mutual partnership in socio-economic sectors to new heights.

Talking about the ongoing 1st China-South Asia Expo, the ambassador said it provides a platform for Pakistani enterprises to create an interface and develop linkages with the Chinese companies and exhibitors from around the world, especially the South Asian countries.

Earlier, Masood Khalid while addressing the 8th China South Asia Business Forum said that Pakistan businessmen have put 170 stalls at the expo, displaying variety of products which made good business and attracted the Chinese side to import them in their country.

He pointed out that the cooperation between China and South Asia has made great progress since China became an observer in Saarc in 2005. The ambassador concluded by saying the future for the region is quite bright.

Meanwhile, Chinese Vice Premier Ma Kai said that China attaches great importance on expanding cooperation with Pakistan and other South Asian countries, so as to meet the common aspirations of their people for a better future.

Addressing the expo's opening session, he said Pakistan services as economic corridor for China and its other neighboring countries and it has also a key role in the region for economic integration and connectivity, he said while addressing here the opening session of the first China-South Asia Expo, that was attended by a number of political and economic leaders from the regional countries.

Pakistan was represented at the Expo by Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman Pakistan-China Institute and Pakistan Ambassador Masood Khalid. .

Ma Kai referred to recent visit of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang to Pakistan and said it has opened new avenues of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Some new initiatives were taken to deepen their socio-economic interaction. The expo, he said provides an important platform for upgrading economic interaction between the two countries. " We welcome businessmen from the South Asia countries to promote their business in China.

All Day

Ambassador of China Sun Weidong has stressed on quickly developing an economic corridor from Xinjiang to Gwadar Port to make Pakistan an economically vibrant state. -- The Express Tribune News Network

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China Sun Weidong has stressed on quickly developing an economic corridor from Xinjiang to Gwadar Port to make Pakistan an economically vibrant state.

"Both friends—China and Pakistan are making plans for setting up a task force for the purpose," he told Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan on Wednesday, according to an official statement.

Referring to the Chinese premier's recent visit, the ambassador said that Pakistan was one of the first countries he visited. He also said that the Chinese government expects a visit from the Pakistani prime minister soon.

Ambassador Weidong also expressed the desire to open new areas of corporation between the two countries. He said that Pakistan has always supported China in its crucial issues such as Taiwan, South China Sea, Tibet and Xingjian.

He also admired Pakistani support in both regional and international forums.

Condemning the recent incidents in Quetta, the ambassador said that his government was against any incident that destabilises Pakistan. He highlighted support to Pakistan in economy, infrastructure development, energy, people to people contact and security.

Chaudhry Nisar stressed the need for Chinese collaboration for economic development.

He said the new government's priorities were development, fighting terrorism and issue of sovereignty which has been threatened by the drone strikes.

He acknowledged that the Gwadar Port would change the strategic and economic importance of the entire region.

Published in The Express Tribune, June 20th, 2013.

All Day

Pak, China Sign Pact For SEZ -- APP

Pak, China Sign Pact For SEZ

BEIJING: A prominent Pakistani business house yesterday signed a pact with a key business entity of China for setting up Special Economic Zone in Pakistan.

The signing ceremony was held at the Diaoyutai State Guest House here in the presence of large number of invitees.

Faisal Afridi, the Chief Executive of Ruba- SEZ and Mr. Jun Ma, Chairman of China Enterprise Confederation (CEC) signed the agreement on behalf of their organizations.

According to Faisal Afridi, in the first phase the SEZ spread over an area of 900 acres of land will be setup, while later the SEZ will be developed on 3000 acres and finally on 10,000.

He said that the SEZ will be established near Lahore soon.

The CEC, according to Faisal has the members of China top 500 business entities, while all together it has 54500 membership.

He said that CEC member will submit their plan and proposals for investment in Pakistan.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Faisal said that there are enormous investment opportunities Pakistan offers to the Chinese investors.

He said that due to strategic location and close proximity to China, Chinese investors can set up their industries in the SEZ and can sell their products not only in Pakistan, but also can capture growing middle east market.

The Minister Economic Salim Khan, speaking on behalf of Pakistan Embassy highlighted the significance of economic, political and people to people friendly

June 20, 2013 Continued

Thu

relations between Pakistan and China.—APP

All Day

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has decided to send his government's first delegation to China, -- TribuneBiz

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has decided to send his government's first delegation to China, signalling an increased emphasis on a regional approach for tackling national issues.

The delegation will be led by the Minister for Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal, and will comprise the PM's adviser on foreign affairs and officials from various economic ministries.

Both sides are expected to hold discussions on areas of mutual cooperation, especially in the fields of economics and regional security, the two biggest problems faced by Pakistan, officials said.

While talking to The Express Tribune, Iqbal said the purpose of the visit was to hold preliminary discussions and come up with a framework for cooperation that serves the interests of both nations. He said the delegation will visit China on the invitation of China's National Development and Reforms Commission (NDRC), and will exchange proposals for initiating projects.

Officials said both sides will exchange ideas, which will later be converted into projects when PM Sharif visits China sometime in the near future. However, the PM's visit dates have not yet been finalised.

The delegation's visit is a follow-up to the discussions that took place between PM Sharif and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during the latter's visit to Pakistan last month, when both sides agreed to establish a regional trade corridor.

China is keen to now sign agreements rather than mere Memorandums of Understanding (MoU), as Islamabad is perceived as too slow to work on agreed common goals, officials said.

During the Chinese premier's visit, both sides had signed a MoU to conduct a feasibility study and come up with a concrete plan for connecting both countries through rail and road links.

PM Sharif, in his maiden speech, had said that Islamabad and Beijing keenly desire to implement the Gwadar-Khunjerab-Kashgar rail and road network, which is aimed at connecting Gwadar with China and making the former a free port.

During discussions, both leaders had also agreed to constitute a task force to pursue the common agenda and implement it within the next five years. It is expected that Pakistan's Planning Commission and China's NDRC will host the task force.

The successful implementation of the Gwadar-Khunjerab-Kashgar rail network will help China secure oil supplies and commercial routes on the Indian Ocean, furthering its plans to secure yet another strategic energy and trade corridor in the region.

Pakistan is hoping to benefit from China, which is now the world's second-largest economy and is poised to take over the top slot from the US by 2020. The plan is to create a trade corridor that largely hinges on China's willingness to give a mix of grants and concessionary loans to construct the infrastructure, officials added.

The inclusion of PM's Adviser on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi in the delegation points to the fact that Pakistan may also approach China for the resolution of outstanding issues in the wake of the US withdrawal from the region.

Published in The Express Tribune, June 20th, 2013.

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All Day

Economic Corridors along Pakistan-China road, rail link to Change region's destiny: PM -- APP

Economic Corridors along Pakistan-China road, rail link to Change region's destiny: PM

ISLAMABAD, Jun 21 (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Friday stressed for establishing state of the art fast moving railway tracks and expressway to connect China with Pakistan through Khunjrab, Gwadar and Karachi, which he said, will usher in a new era of economic prosperity for both the countries and entire region. "Projects to benefit maximum number of population of the region will be pursued that will enhance economic activities, provide jobs and change the destiny of millions", observed the Prime Minister in a meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office. Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, briefed the

meeting on the on-going projects and areas for future projects with the Chinese government including railway network, energy sector and road networks.

The Prime Minister said that he had held in-depth discussions on the proposed projects with Chinese Premier, during his recent visit to Pakistan and was happy to note that Chinese government was equally interested in the project.

"We want concrete projects and tangible results to benefit the people of Pakistan and China", added the Prime Minister.

He further said that the project is in the greater interest of China as it will reduce distance inside Chinese territory thus resulting in reduction of cost of transportation and giving access to Chinese trade with India, Central Asia and the whole region. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif highlighted that the future belongs to this region due to its huge potential, thick population and massive business opportunities.

He directed the Ministry of Railways to submit solid proposals for building new railway track alignment to facilitate fast moving trains for passenger and cargo services, before a delegation leaves for China in a couple of days.

He, however, asked for "out of the box" thinking and doable projects to be identified that could benefit maximum number of population.

The Prime Minister proposed to work on an alignment i.e Havelian-Ratodero-Gwadar-Karachi-Quetta and Havelian-Islamabad-Lahore Railway track and expressways that would substantially enhance trade activities and open up this region to China and the world.

He also directed the Planning and Development Division for identification of economic zones alongside the proposed railway and expressway.

The Prime Minister underlined the importance of special economic zones and converting Gwadar into an international city and economic hub to bring about prosperity for the people of Balochistan and the country.

He said that the missing links in the existing roads and railway tracks must be built but the need of the day is to establish new linkages to connect China with Pakistan and give access for Chinese trade to India, Central Asia etc.

Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage Pervaiz Rashid, Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafiq, secretaries railways, communication, EAD, Chairman CDA and other senior officials were also present in the briefing.

All Day

Speakers highlight potential of Inland Water Transport System -- BR Speakers highlight potential of Inland Water Transport System

June 21, 2013 RECORDER REPORT

"Transport your cargo through rivers and canals; save the money and environment; also earn money for carbon credits", was the unanimous call of navigation experts, surveyors, industrialists, government bodies and legal fellows in a seminar that explored potential, progress and strategies of inland water transport in Pakistan.

The seminar organised by the Institute of Policy Studies. The speakers included Naeem Sarfraz, former chairman, Maritime Task Force, Imtiaz Tajwar, secretary, Wapda, Riaz Khan, technical advisor, Agritech Ltd, and Commodore M Azhar, former DG, Gwadar Port Authority, while Mirza Hamid Hasan, former secretary, water and power was in chair.

The panellists observed that the extensive river and canal network of Pakistan was used over centuries for transportation. There was no cargo movement on the waterways now, despite the fact that huge fuel savings can be achieved in the country, which was highly dependent on expensive imported fuel. The fuel saved can be used for critical power generation.-PR

All Day

Prime Minister for establishing railway tracks, expressway -- Associated Press of Pakistan

Prime Minister for establishing railway tracks, expressway

June 22, 2013 RECORDER REPORT

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Friday stressed for establishing state of the art fast moving railway tracks and expressway to connect China with Pakistan through Khunjrab, Gwadar and Karachi, which he said, will usher in a new era of economic prosperity for both the countries and entire region.

"Projects to benefit maximum number of population of the region will be pursued that will enhance economic activities, provide jobs and change the destiny of millions", observed the Prime Minister in a meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office. Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, briefed the meeting on the on-going projects and areas for future projects with the Chinese government including railway network, energy sector and road networks. The Prime Minister said that he had held in-depth discussions on the proposed projects with Chinese Premier, during his recent visit to Pakistan and was happy to note that Chinese government was equally interested in the project. "We want concrete projects and tangible results to benefit the people of Pakistan and China", added the Prime Minister.

He further said that the project is in the greater interest of China as it will reduce distance inside Chinese territory thus resulting in reduction of cost of transportation and giving access to Chinese trade with India, Central Asia and the whole region.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif highlighted that the future belongs to this region due to its huge potential, thick population and massive business opportunities. He directed the Ministry of Railways to submit solid proposals for building new railway track alignment to facilitate fast moving trains for passenger and cargo services, before a delegation leaves for China in a couple of days.

He, however, asked for "out of the box" thinking and doable projects to be identified that could benefit maximum number of population. The Prime Minister proposed to work on an alignment ie Havelian-Ratodero-Gwadar-Karachi-Quetta and Havelian-Islamabad-Lahore Railway track and expressways that would substantially enhance trade activities and open up this region to China and the world. He also directed the Planning and Development Division for identification of economic zones alongside the proposed railway and expressway.

The Prime Minister underlined the importance of special economic zones and converting Gwadar into an international city and economic hub to bring about prosperity for the people of Balochistan and the country. He said that the missing links in the existing roads and railway tracks must be built but the need of the day is to establish new linkages to connect China with Pakistan and give access for Chinese trade to India, Central Asia etc. Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage Pervaiz Rashid, Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafiq, secretaries railways, communication, EAD, Chairman CDA and other senior officials were also present in the briefing.

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All Day

Sino-Pak road, rail projects to bring economic prosperity: PM Nawaz -- PakTribune

Sino-Pak road, rail projects to bring economic prosperity: PM Nawaz
22 June, 2013

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Friday stressed the need for establishing state-of-the-art fast-moving railway tracks and expressway to connect China with Pakistan through Khunjrab, Gwadar and Karachi, which he said, would

usher in a new era of economic prosperity for both countries and the entire region.

"Projects benefiting maximum number of population of the region will be pursued, which will enhance economic activities, provide jobs and change the destiny of millions," he observed in a meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office.

Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal briefed the meeting on the ongoing projects and areas for future projects with the Chinese government, including the railway network, energy sector and road network.

The prime minister said that he had held in-depth discussions on the proposed projects with the Chinese premier during his recent visit to Pakistan, and was happy to note that the Chinese government was equally interested in the projects.

"We want concrete projects and tangible results to benefit the people of Pakistan and China," Nawaz said.

He further said that the projects were in the greater interest of China, as they would reduce distance inside the Chinese territory; thus resulting in reduction of cost of transportation and giving access to Chinese trade with India, Central Asia and the whole region.

Nawaz highlighted that the future belonged to this region due to its huge potential, thick population and massive business opportunities.

He directed the Ministry of Railways to submit solid proposals for building new railway tracks to facilitate fast-moving trains for passenger and cargo services, before a delegation leaves for China in a couple of days.

He, however, asked for out-of-the-box thinking and identifying doable projects that could benefit maximum population.

The prime minister proposed to work on an alignment i.e. Havelian-Ratodero-Gwadar-Karachi-Quetta and Havelian-Islamabad-Lahore Railway track and expressways that would substantially enhance trade activities and open up this region to China and the world. He also directed the Planning and Development Division for identification of economic zones alongside the proposed railway and expressway.

The prime minister underlined the importance of special economic zones and converting Gwadar into an international city and economic hub to bring about prosperity for the people of Balochistan and the country.

He said that the missing links in the existing roads and railway tracks must be built "but the need of the day is to establish new linkages to connect China with Pakistan and give Chinese access of trade to India and Central Asia".

End.

All Day

FPCCI presents Gwadar's future potential -- DAILY TIMES

FPCCI presents Gwadar's future potential

KARACHI: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Standing Committee on Gwadar Promotion and Development presented a detailed presentation on Gwadar's future potential.

Col (retd) Fazal Maqbool Afridi Chairman of the Standing Committee highlighted the importance of Gwadar in the days to come.

He informed the participants Gwadar would attract a lot of investment from foreign countries particularly China in the future and thereby become an economic hub not only for Pakistan but also for the entire region owing to its geographical and strategic importance.

He said Gwadar was located close to the Gulf countries, the world's biggest oil reserves and shipping routes and also because it reduced the time consumed in moving cargo from China to the Arabian Sea from five days to one day, if the land route was completed.

While comparing Gwadar Port with other ports in Pakistan, he said a ship at Port Qasim had to cross a channel of 40 kilometers (km), while at Gwadar the channel was only 3 km, because Gwadar is a deep sea port.

Therefore there is no demurrage expense at Gwadar Port. If in Karachi a 20,000-tonne ship can offload, then at Gwadar a 100,000-tonne ship can easily offload its cargo.

He said the success of the Port would lead to the creation of 2.5 million jobs in Gwadar. He urged investors to come forward to invest in education, health, construction, tourism, real estate, logistics, transportation, fisheries and other sectors at Gwadar. staff report

All Day

Pak-China friendship not against any country: PM -- Dunya News

Pak-China friendship not against any country: PM

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif Saturday said that friendship with China is and will remain the corner stone of Pakistan's foreign policy and it would boost peace and stability in the region.

Talking to newly appointed Chinese ambassador, Sun Weidong, at the PM's House, Nawaz said he was looking forward to his visit to China in the first week of July and the visit would help further strengthen the bilateral ties.

The Prime Minister welcomed Sun Weidong on his appointment as Ambassador.

He said Pak-China friendship was based on mutual cooperation and was not against any country.

Nawaz said Pakistan is committed to take Pakistan's relations with China to an even higher level and it greatly values China's economic support and cooperation.

A delegation of Chinese media persons also called on the PM at the PM House.

He conveyed his deepest condolences to the Chinese government, Chinese people and the effected families.

The perpetrators would be brought to justice, he affirmed.

The Prime Minister said that he was looking forward to his visit to China in the first week of July and the visit would help further strengthen the bilateral ties.

He said Gwadar Port Project was the hallmark of Pak-China strategic partnership and it would bring economic dividends for both Pakistan and China.

The Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction that both the countries' shared vision of establishment of Long term Economic Corridor is moving forward.

He said he had established a high-level task force headed by a federal minister to explore avenues to enhance economic cooperation with China.

All Day

PM Sharif stresses importance of Pak-China relations -- GEO TV

PM Sharif stresses importance of Pak-China relations

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif stressed the importance of Pak-China relations while meeting with members of the Chinese press here on Saturday.

The prime minister said Pak-China relations were not against any country, adding that Pakistan wanted to establish trade ties in the sectors of energy, construction and textiles.

PM Sharif emphasized that the relationship with China was an important aspect of Pakistan's foreign policy.

All Day

Task force set up to strengthen Pak-China economic cooperation: PM -- THE NATIONS

Task force set up to strengthen Pak-China economic cooperation: PM

June 29, 2013, 6:19 pm NNI 13

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that a high level task force has been set up to explore avenues to enhance economic cooperation with China.

He was talking to Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong in Islamabad Saturday.

The Prime Minister said that friendship with China is and will remain the corner stone of Pakistan's foreign policy and it has been a factor of peace and stability in

the region.

He conveyed his deepest condolences to the Chinese government, Chinese people and the effected families of the victims recently shot dead in Gilgit. He reaffirmed that perpetrators would be brought to justice.

The Prime Minister said that he was looking forward to his visit to China in the first week of next month and the visit would help further strengthen the bilateral ties.

The Prime Minister said that Gwadar Port Project is the hallmark of Pak-China strategic partnership and it will bring economic dividends for both Pakistan and China.

The Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction that both the countries' shared vision of establishment of Long Term Economic Corridor is moving forward.

Mian Nawaz Sharif said that Pakistan is committed to take Pakistan's relations with China to an even higher level and it greatly values China's economic support and cooperation.

All Day

Gwadar Port, economic corridor tops PM's agenda on China trip -- PAKISTAN TODAY

Gwadar Port, economic corridor tops PM's agenda on China trip

BEIJING - Ahead of his first foreign trip after assuming office, Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif said clinching the proposed economic corridor linking the strategic Gwadar Port with China's Xinjiang province would top his agenda in Beijing. Sharif said the new economic corridor, which will connect the resource-rich western region with Gwadar port, has the potential to "change the fate" of the region. "The economic corridor taking off from Kashgar in Xinjiang to Gwadar is a game changer as far as this region is concerned," the premier said ahead of his visit. "We expect the corridor will become a very important economic hub," he added. The proposed corridor will also pass through Azad Kashmir. Sharif's six-day visit beginning from July 4 coincides with the tour of Indian Defence Minister AK Antony to China, bringing the India-Pakistan-China diplomatic triangle into focus. Chinese analysts said China maintained a "strategic equilibrium" between India and Pakistan. Sharif's tour will be a follow up visit to Chinese premier Li Keqiang's trip to Islamabad last month. Keqiang came to Pakistan after his India visit, during which he proposed the economic corridor project. China and Pakistan signed 11 agreements in the time he was in Islamabad. The corridor which consisted of a series of special economic zones, a rail link and a pipeline providing China access to the Indian Ocean topped the list of agreements. Sharif said during his visit he would seek bilateral cooperation in "every field," especially energy and infrastructure. "We are investing in each other's countries. This is the time for both countries to move forward at a faster speed," he said. A Pakistani task force held talks with the National Development and Reform Commission on the scheme early this week, said reports. The operation of the Gwadar port, located near the Strait of Hormuz, was handed to the China Overseas Port Holding Company last year after the Singapore firm, which secured the contract, gave up due to a host of operational problems and questions over its economic viability. The Strait of Hormuz has strategic importance since roughly 40 percent of all world-traded oil pass through this route.

- See more at: <http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2013/06/30/news/national/gwadar-port-economic-corridor-tops-pms-agenda-on-china-trip/#sthash.Jptqh0md.dpuf>

All Day

Pak-China trade corridor to benefit about 3bn people in region: PM -- APP

Pak-China trade corridor to benefit about 3bn people in region: PM

Sunday, 30 June 2013 01:10 Posted by Imaduddin 44
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Saturday said that the envisaged Pak-China Trade Corridor would open vistas of development and prosperity to about 3 billion people inhabiting this region. During his interaction with the visiting Chinese media delegation, the Prime Minister said that both the countries enjoyed deep ties in all fields and spheres. "We will pursue cooperation in all spheres of national activity; we have cooperation in the strategic and economic fields and of course, there is great potential. Pakistan and China have to extend this economic cooperation and collaboration into the Central Asia countries and into the SAARC countries, of course with the SAARC, where Pakistan is also a member," he opined. The Prime Minister said "I think there is cooperation of 3 billion people of the region and they will benefit from such cooperation and I think, this the big, huge population in this region which is going to benefit from this cooperation." Terming this cooperation as 'game changer' for the whole region, the Prime Minister further said that it would bring in economic development and prosperity to the region. About handing over of the Gwadar port to China, the Prime Minister shared that they viewed it as the significant economic hub and important port in the Arabian

Sea which of course would be beneficial for China as well as for Pakistan, 'I'm talking of Pak China interests'.

He said that during his forthcoming visit to China, he would be discussing all these initiatives with the Chinese leadership so that the steps could be materialized.

He said that a high level team headed by a federal minister Ahsan Iqbal with the secretary Economic Affairs Division had just returned from China after holding positive talks with their counterparts.

There was good news for both the countries as both sides were keen on accomplishing such projects, he said, adding, "Pakistan has to come out of its difficulties and we want to cooperate with each other on a number of fields of energy, infrastructure and in the field of energy, we have talks with the Chinese companies and I have invited them to Pakistan to work in this sector and take up projects based upon coal to produce power, setting up solar based houses to generate power."

To another query, the Prime Minister said that they would like to build motorways and happy to report that the Chinese companies were keen in these projects.

During his upcoming visit to China, he would be discussing the setting up high speed trains and said "I think if all these things are materialized, trade volumes in the economic cooperation will cross over hundreds of billions of dollars, so this is the time for both countries to move forward at faster pace so that we can harness the potential which exists between the both countries."

Dilating on the Pak-China trade corridor, Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said that 'special economic zones' would be established where the Pakistani and Chinese businessmen would invest together or in their individual capacity.

To a query regarding the expectations attached with his upcoming visit to China, the Prime Minister said that the relationship between both countries was handed down from one generation to another and had started many years back.

"We have excellent relationship and whosoever is in the government, whosoever comes and goes, that does not make any difference. The relationship and friendship keep moving on and strengthening," he said, emphasizing that both the countries had done many projects together and had excellent partnership in business, trade and industries and declared that many more would follow in the future.

Underlining the importance of the cooperation in different fields from infrastructure to industry including textile and engineering, he said that Pakistani and Chinese businessmen were interested to invest.

Responding to a question, the Prime Minister maintained that they would have soon a fast paced train with 250kg per hour capacity to run from Karachi to Peshawar on the same pattern as being moved from Beijing to Shanghai in China.

Reiterating the Government of Pakistan's clear stance on the drone attacks, the Prime Minister said "I think which is of course, creating ill will in Pakistan and it is true that international laws are very clear on that. Drones are certainly violating our airspace and challenging our sovereignty."

He said that the people in the country had protested against such attacks and the government had taken up the issue with the Americans and protested strongly against such attacks.

Terming such attacks as counter-productive, the Prime Minister said that his government was taking up the issue seriously with the US.

About the tragic incident of Chinese mountaineering team members' death, the Prime Minister said "Let me express my deep condolences on the tragic death of Chinese and other tourists. I feel very sorry for the people who lost lives and my heart goes out to all bereaved families."

The Prime Minister said in categorical terms that it was an unforgettable incident and they would make every effort so that such situation should not occur in future.

About Pakistan's losses during the five-seven years violence, the Prime Minister said that Pakistan had paid a heavy price so far as the loss of lives was concerned; as far as terrorism was concerned; as more than forty thousand people of this country had lost lives, including the personnel of armed forces, police, administration and general people.

"I am talking about the lives lost during 5-7 years, Pakistan's economy suffered a lot, our growth has suffered a lot, I think, it is to the tune of more than 100 billion dollars had been lost because of it," he lamented.

Dealing with the issue on priority basis, the Prime Minister declared that it would be the priority of his government to tackle it on war footings as it was doing with the

issue of load shedding and promised to improve the conditions of economy and law and order by eliminating violence from Pakistan completely.

The Prime Minister said that in the coming months, they would witness a change and assured to provide security to the Chinese working in Pakistan.

About a question posed to him by the Chinese media personnel in Urdu language requesting the Prime Minister to respond in the same language, he said that youth in both the countries were vital for the development of their respective countries.

He said that youth in any country had the role of a back bone and if properly harnessed, their potential could be materialized adequately.

The Prime Minister said that his government would implement a single word of its elections manifesto and told that the youth in Pakistan would be encouraged through proper training, facilities and bank loans to play their due role in the prosperity of the country.

The Prime Minister also advised the Chinese media men to rebuff any kind of false accusations and negative propaganda against the interests of both countries and focus upon their shared goals and objectives.

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All Day

Xinjiang-Gwadar port economic corridor tops Pakistani leader's China agenda -- APP

Xinjiang-Gwadar port economic corridor tops Pakistani leader's China agenda

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Photo: AP

Nawaz Sharif says working out the details of a new economic corridor to Xinjiang will be a major goal of his first trip to China as Pakistan's prime minister this week.

In an interview with Chinese media including the Sunday Morning Post, Sharif said the corridor, which will connect the resource-rich western region with Pakistan's Gwadar port, would "change the fate" of the region.

Sharif's six-day visit will be the second high-level exchange between the two countries in less than two months. China and Pakistan signed 11 co-operation agreements during Premier Li Keqiang's visit to the country in late May.

The corridor would consist of a series of special economic zones, a rail link and a pipeline, and would give China access to the Indian Ocean.

"The economic corridor taking off from Kashgar [in Xinjiang] to Gwadar is a game changer as far as this region is concerned," Sharif said. "We expect the corridor will become a very important economic hub."

Sharif said he would seek bilateral co-operation in "every field", but especially energy and infrastructure.

"We are investing in each other's countries," Sharif said. "This is the time for both countries to move forward at a faster speed."

Sharif mentioned Islamabad's and Beijing's shared interest in building a railway between Gwadar and Kashgar in his June 5 inauguration speech.

A Pakistani task force held talks with the National Development and Reform Commission on the scheme on Tuesday.

The operation of the Gwadar port, located near the Strait of Hormuz, was handed to the China Overseas Port Holding Co last year, a success in China's plan to secure maritime hubs around the Indian Ocean.

Wang Dehua, a South Asian studies specialist at the Shanghai Institute for International Studies, said the economic corridor could serve as an alternate route for trade if the Strait of Malacca were blocked.

Wang said China was building up ties with countries along its western border to counter the United States' pivot to the Asia-Pacific, under which Washington has been firming up ties with China's eastern neighbours.

Sharif's trip to China comes amid frosty US-Pakistan ties. Islamabad lodged a protest over a recent American drone attack in a border region.

Regional rivals such as India are suspicious the Gwadar port deal may strengthen military ties between Islamabad and Beijing.

All Day

**Gwadar Port, economic corridor top agenda on China visit: Nawaz --
DAILY TIMES**

Gwadar Port, economic corridor top agenda on China visit: Nawaz

* PM to seek bilateral co-operation in energy and infrastructure

BEIJING: Ahead of his first foreign trip after assuming office, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that clinching the proposed economic corridor linking the strategic Gwadar Port with China's Xinjiang province, a "game-changer" for the region, would top his agenda in Beijing.

Nawaz Sharif said the new economic corridor, which will connect the resource-rich western region with Gwadar port, has the potential to "change the fate" of the region. "The economic corridor taking off from Kashgar in Xinjiang to Gwadar is a game changer as far as this region is concerned," the premier told the Chinese media ahead of his visit. "We expect the corridor will become a very important economic hub," the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

The proposed corridor will pass through Azad Kashmir. Nawaz Sharif's six-day visit beginning from June 4 coincides with the tour of Indian Defence Minister AK Antony here, bringing the India-Pak-China diplomatic tangle into focus. Chinese analysts say China maintains a "strategic equilibrium" between India and Pakistan. Nawaz Sharif's tour will be a followup visit to Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's trip to Islamabad last month. Li went to Pakistan after his India visit during which he proposed the economic corridor project. During Li's visit China-Pakistan signed 11 agreements.

The corridor which consisted of a series of special economic zones, a rail link and a pipeline providing China access to the Indian Ocean topped the list. Nawaz said during his visit he would seek bilateral co-operation in "every field", but especially energy and infrastructure. "We are investing in each other's countries. This is the time for both countries to move forward at a faster speed," he said. A Pakistani task force held talks with the National Development and Reform Commission on the scheme early this week, the Post reported.

The operation of the Gwadar port, located near the Strait of Hormuz, was handed to the China Overseas Port Holding Co last year after the Singapore firm which secured the contract gave up due to a host of operational problems and questions over its economic viability. The Strait of Hormuz has strategic importance as roughly 40 percent of all world-traded oil pass through this route. inp

All Day

**Nawaz Sharif's visit to enhance Pak-China economic cooperation:
Chinese Envoy -- APP**

Nawaz Sharif's visit to enhance Pak-China economic cooperation: Chinese Envoy

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's upcoming visit to China will be highly significant in further cementing Sino- Pak bilateral ties and enhancing economic cooperation besides helping to ease energy crisis in Pakistan, Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong said here on Monday.

"The government and the people of China are looking forward to the visit of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif which is likely to lead to comprehensive cooperation in all fields of their common interest especially energy, infrastructure, agriculture and people to people contact," he said while briefing the local media on Nawaz Sharif's visit to China, here at the Chinese Embassy.

Certainly, energy will be on top of agenda during the talks between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang.

Following the talks, the two sides are likely to sign an agreement on energy cooperation.

The Ambassador informed that Chinese companies and enterprises are interesting to resolve and ease this problem by investing in hydro, wind, solar, wind and bio-mass power projects.

Expressing his confidence that the visit will be highly fruitful and productive, he said this visit will give further boost to the economic and trade relationship.

The visit will send a positive signal to the outside world and the people of the two countries in regard to their deep-rooted decades' old brotherly relationship, which is a unique example in nation-to-nation interaction.

Sun Weidong said that during his stay in Beijing, Mr Sharif will discuss with the Chinese leadership plans for reinforcing bilateral strategic partnership, enhancing economic cooperation and development of Pakistan-China trade and economic corridor.

Shedding more light on importance of Pak-China relations in the backdrop of Prime Minister's visit, he said that his country attached great importance to this visit and wished it help keep high the momentum of their comprehensive partnership.

"China considers Pakistan as its iron friend and wishes to help it coming out its economic crisis," the Ambassador said adding his country appreciates Nawaz Sharif for choosing China for his first foreign tour that signifies the closeness and warmth which characterizes Pak-China relations.

He said a number of proposals and initiatives will be discussed during the Prime Minister's visit to strengthen their ties at all levels.

He said the traditionally close, cordial, cooperative and friendly ties between the two countries are based on shared principles and mutual interests entailing cooperation in diverse fields.

"We are confident that the visit will provide further impetus to enhancing the existing Pak-China strategic partnership which is also a source of peace, stability, prosperity in the region," the ambassador added.

To a question, the Ambassador appreciated Pakistan's role on counter-terrorism and said the two countries have been carrying out joint efforts to curb terrorism and extremism which are common enemies of both the countries.

"We appreciate the measures being taken by Pakistan government to safeguard and protect Chinese people and companies in Pakistan," he added.

To yet another question about increase in trade volume, he said, presently, the trade volume is about US\$ 12 billion which is not big enough keeping in view the deep-rooted relations between the two countries.

He said that China has free trade agreement with Pakistan which is only country in South East Asia

Sun Weidong, who took over his new assignment just 20 days back, said he found great potential and depth in further development of their bilateral ties.

"Our hearts beat together and all segments of society in the two countries are on the same page, keeping the momentum of the relationship high under all circumstances."

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All Day

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to seek Chinese help for nuclear plant during visit -- THE ECONOMIC TIMES

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is expected to seek Chinese help for various development projects including a major nuclear power plant during his visit to Beijing this week, media reports said today.

Sharif has opted to visit China for his maiden official foreign trip since taking power in June as he struggles to address Pakistan's crippling energy crisis and revive its ailing economy.

All Day

Nawaz Sharif, Chinese President pledge to take Pak-China friendship to new heights -- News Pakistan

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Thursday met with Chinese President Xi Jinping Thursday in Beijing and during the meeting both the leaders pledged to carry forward their all weather friendship to new heights.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that it is an honour for him to visit China.

The Prime Minister said that, in fact, Premier Li Keqiang, during a recent visit to Islamabad, had expressed the desire for him to pick China for his first foreign visit and added that he had accepted his invitation.

The Prime Minister informed the Chinese President that Pakistan was faced with numerous challenges. He further added that pulling Pakistan's economy from its current state of stagnation is an uphill task.

The Prime Minister said that the gigantic nature of these challenges notwithstanding he and his team will not only overcome these challenges with commitment and determination and will also put Pakistan on the path of progress and development.

The Prime Minister said that he is fully cognizant of internal security situation prevailing in Pakistan and expressed his resolve to address the economic challenge in tandem with internal and regional security issues.

"Failure is not an option for him and he believes that China will stand by its friend and neighbor –Pakistan", said the Prime Minister.

During the meeting, the Chinese President recalled his meeting with the Prime Minister in 2010.

The Chinese President added that he has great and happy memories of that meeting.

President Xi said that Chinese government and people are proud that Mr Sharif has chosen China as the first country to visit overseas. Pakistan, he said, is a great country and Chinese have enormous love and affection for it.

He expressed the hope that the present visit will prove to be a success as a lot of homework had been done on both the sides.

He further expressed the hope that this visit would result into tangible outcomes in the days to come with the implementation of projects and strengthening of bilateral cooperation.

- See more at: <http://www.newspakistan.pk/2013/07/04/nawaz-sharif-chinese-president-pledge-pak-china-friendship-heights/#sthash.libxEzJd.dpuf>

All Day

Oil storage facility, oil refinery: China, Pakistan to sign MoUs -- Business Recorder

Pakistan and China are to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) during the ongoing visit of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for setting up of oil storage facility, an oil refinery and distribution points for transmission of oil and gas to western regions of China from Gwadar, well informed sources told Business Recorder.

The sources said, during the visit of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, to Pakistan on May 22 to 23 May, 2013 both parties agreed to establish a joint working group, formulating a long-term planning for China-Pakistan economy corridor and promoting infrastructure and economic zones construction along the corridor. In order to implement the consensus reached by leaders of the two countries, and after friendly negotiations, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) China and the Ministry of Planning and Development (MPD) of Pakistan are to sign the MoUs, which are as follows:

1) The building of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will promote bilateral connectivity construction, explore the potential bilateral investment, economic and trade, logistic and people-to-people contacts. It will facilitate two countries' and regional economic integration, bring benefits to both countries and the two peoples, play an active and important role in co-operation and stability between South Asia and the entire Asia.

2) A Long-term Plan should be developed under the principle of scientific planning, steadily developing and take the highest priority first. An Action Plan is to be developed biannually under the framework of the Long-Term Plan, articulating detailed working targets and co-operation projects, and implement them phase by phase. The co-operation plan includes but is not limited to connectivity, undertaking research on communication networks including roads, railways, oil and gas pipelines, and fibre optic cables linking Western China with Gwadar, Pakistan. The sources said, Pakistan will also request China for further co-operation in nuclear energy, coal and hydropower projects. The issues confronting Chinese investors in Pakistan will also come under discussion.

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All Day

Three climbers to take part in Pak-China friendship expedition -- The Express Tribune News Network

A three-member expedition is scheduled to leave for China on Thursday to participate in the Pakistan-China Friendship Expedition 2013.

The team comprising experienced climbers including Rehmatullah, Dr Naveed Iqbal and Ahmed Mujtaba will attempt to summit Muztagh Ata, the second highest (7546 metres) of the mountains which form the northern edge of the Tibetan Plateau.

Speaking at a press conference, organised by the Alpine Club of Pakistan (APC), APC President Lt-Col (retd) Manzoor Hussain and mountaineer Nazir Sabir said that the expedition has become all the more important after the recent attack at a base camp in Nanga Parbat wherein

10 foreign mountaineers including two Chinese were killed.

Sabir said that the expedition aims to pay tribute to the slain Chinese mountaineers on behalf of the Pakistani mountaineering community and renew friendship with the Chinese Mountaineering Association (CMA).

The CMA on the initiative of the ACP agreed to launch the joint expedition to ascend Muzhtagh Ata.

The three members expedition will leave for Taxkorgan and Kashgar on Thursday and they will be crossing over the Khunjerab Pass on July 7 and then start climbing Muztagh Ata from July 9.

The team is likely to stay on the mountain till July 27 and is expected to return by August 1.

Earlier this year, the Pakistan-China Friendship Expedition was launched to summit 7,027-metre-high Spantik Peak in G-B as part of the Pakistani government's programme to commemorate the 60th years of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Published in The Express Tribune, July 4th, 2013.

All Day

Gwadar may be given special status for speedy development: Nawaz -- APP

BEIJING, Jul 5 (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Friday said that the government desires to develop Gwadar Port on Hong Kong model and it may be given special status through necessary legislation to ensure speedy execution of the project. In a meeting with President China Overseas Port Holding Company Limited Sun Ziyun, the Prime Minister said there should be no delay in the infrastructural development of Gwadar and assured government's all out cooperation to the companies engaged in Gwadar's development. He said the government wanted to develop an airport of international standard in Gwadar and called for early completion of the repair and rehabilitation works on Karakorum Highway. Nawaz Sharif said KKH was of utmost importance that should be rehabilitated without any delay so that the bilateral trade between Pakistan and China may flourish.

He also urged the Chinese company's head to accomplish the rehabilitation work on Attabad Lake and surrounding areas.

In response, Sun Ziyun said work on Attabad Lake would be completed by 2016 while the rehabilitation of KKH would complete a year earlier.

President of China Overseas Port Holding Company Limited told Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that for Gwadar's development, assistance would be sought from China Development Bank.

He said the roads infrastructure in Gwadar would be connected with the communication network of rest of the country to facilitate transportation of goods. Deputy Director General/Vice Minister, State Administration for Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence (SASTIND), Wang Yi Ren also met Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

On this occasion, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that he feels happy to see the dream of JF-17 Thunder fighter aircraft - a joint production of Pakistan and China - coming true, as it was he who had signed the agreement to this effect with the Chinese Premier in 1997. He said Pakistan and China enjoy time-tested friendship and one objective of his visit to China was to enhance bilateral cooperation in all spheres.

The Prime Minister said he has held useful meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang.

"Today we have signed several agreements and MoUs and I Premier Li Keqiang talked on energy, infrastructure development and various other projects", he added. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that Chinese Premier assured that he wanted to help Pakistan so that the pressing issue of power shortage in the country is addressed.

About Pak-China Economic Corridor, for which the two sides signed agreement on Friday, the Prime Minister said the project was highly beneficial not only for Pakistan alone but for the whole region.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that his government intends to complete all development projects including the energy projects in the shortest possible time. Chairman China Three Gorges Corporation, Cao GuangJing also called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and told that his company was executing nine power projects in Pakistan.

Out of these projects, he said one each was underway in Kohala, Karot and Jhampir. He said work on Jhampir project was heading on swift pace that would produce 50 megawatts on completion.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif assured the company's head to address any problem confronting the company in execution of projects.

He said there was huge potential for hydro power projects in Pakistan and the Corporation should invest maximum capital in this sector.

Cao GuangJing offered company's technical assistance to Pakistan for Diamer Bhasha Dam project besides expressing willingness to carry out more hydel power projects in the country.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif invited Cao GuangJing to visit Pakistan along with project proposals for their timely execution.

Vice Chairman China Coal Technology and Engineering Group Corporation (CCTEGC) Wang Jinhua also called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. During the meeting, the Prime Minister said that as far as energy was concerned,

Pakistan was facing this certain problem. Power shortages have badly affected our economy, he added.

He said during his meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang, they assured their support to address the energy problem in Pakistan.

The Prime Minister said since the CCTEGC had vast experience in coal technology, Pakistan would like to benefit from its expertise.

"We want to fully utilize Pakistan's coal reserves for the provision of economical power to masses", he said and appreciated the support and assistance of CCTEGC in this regard.

Wang Jinhua thanked Prime Minister Sharif for providing him an opportunity of meeting and assured all out support of CCTEGC to Pakistan, which he said, had good prospects of power generation through coal.

The Prime Minister said the PML-N government desired to have power producing units set up near the coal site and wanted to complete this work on a fast pace. "We want to fully benefit from the country's precious coal reserves".

Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Chief Minister Punjab Mian Shahbaz Sharif, Chief Minister Balochistan Dr Abdul Malik Baloch, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatimi, Foreign Secretary Jalil Abbas Jilani, Ambassador Masood Khalid and senior government officials were also present during the meetings.

All Day

Huawei to Build China-Pakistan Link as Sharif Woos Investors --

Bloomberg

China and Pakistan signed a deal to build a \$44 million fiber-optic cable connecting their border region with the Pakistani military garrison city of Rawalpindi, and agreed to explore a strategic transport corridor.

The pacts were the highlights of talks between Pakistani and Chinese officials in Beijing as visiting Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif seeks to secure the investment his new government needs to repair a shattered economy. In a shot in the arm for Sharif, Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund yesterday agreed a \$5.3 billion loan to boost the country's depleted currency reserves.

By choosing Beijing for his first overseas trip since winning May 11 elections, Sharif signaled that securing Chinese funding ranks among his foreign policy priorities. Pakistan's growing emphasis on ties with China follows years of strained relations with the U.S. amid the war in Afghanistan and American targeting of Pakistani guerrillas.

Meeting Premier Li Keqiang at the Great Hall of the People in the Chinese capital today, Sharif lauded bilateral ties, telling his host that the two countries' friendship is "higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the deepest sea in the world, and sweeter than honey."

Huawei Technologies Co., China's largest maker of networking equipment, will build the fiber-optic link in three years, project director Waseem Ahmad said, adding that 85 percent of the funding will be provided via Chinese loans. The agreement will give Pakistan more connectivity to international communications networks, Ahmad said. Rawalpindi is home to the headquarters of Pakistan's army.

Gwadar Pact

An initial pact on a transport corridor to link the western Chinese city of Kashgar with the Pakistani port of Gwadar, control of which was in February transferred to a state-run Chinese company, was also signed today. No details were given on what was described as a "long term" plan.

"China will encourage and support companies to invest in Pakistan and Pakistan will provide a good environment for China's investment," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a briefing in Beijing today.

While Sharif has called the road-and-rail project a "game changer" capable of generating revenue and jobs for Pakistan, financing and security concerns could prove hurdles. The route would run through Baluchistan province, where anger over exploitation of gas and minerals has spurred a separatist insurgency.

Touted Role

Aside from its touted role as a short cut for Chinese imports of Middle Eastern oil, officials in India and the U.S. have seen Gwadar as part of China's strategic ambition to project its growing naval power into the Indian Ocean.

Unrest in the western Chinese province of Xinjiang which authorities have in the past linked to Islamist training camps in Pakistan may also be on the agenda for

Sharif's visit which ends on July 8.

Pakistan's government presented a "very robust reform" agenda to secure the IMF assistance, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said at a briefing with officials from the multilateral lender in Islamabad yesterday. The program of credit needs approval from the IMF board, Pakistan mission head Jeffrey Franks said.

A plunge of about 40 percent in the reserves in the past year to \$6 billion has left Pakistan with enough to cover only about two months of imports, central bank data shows. The slide has weighed on the rupee and adds to other challenges facing Sharif, which include energy shortages and a Taliban insurgency in the northwest. The currency touched a record low this week.

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All Day

Linking Khunjrab with Gwadar, other projects: Pakistan, China to sign umbrella deal -- BUSINESS RECORDER

In a major economic breakthrough in the region Pakistan and China are all set to sign an umbrella agreement Friday to start mega projects between the two neighbours which will lay the foundation of a long term economic bond. "Pakistan and China have agreed to sign the multibillion dollars economic corridor project linking Khunjrab with Gwadar," sources told Business Recorder Thursday.

China's banking giant, China Development Bank, will fund the project along with China EXIM Bank and China Investment Bank. Termed a "Game Changer" repeatedly by Nawaz Sharif, the construction work on the ambitious project will start within a year. In addition to rail-link, the project will also include the building of road, optic fiber and oil and gas links.

On Friday both the sides will announce the project, and the formation of two separate Ministerial and Working groups to monitor the pace of the project. Ministerial group and working will immediately initiate surveys and preparations of feasibility reports for the project.

The "Memorandum of Understanding for the Framework of Pak-China Economic Corridor" will also include the building of Lahore-Karachi Motorway and the construction of economic zones along the 2700 km Khunjrab-Gwadar economic corridor. The first phase of 750km Khunjrab-Havelian rail-link is estimated to cost \$18 billion. The railway line, the highest in the world, will have total 200 km long tunnels and about 70 bridges to snake through the world's highest mountainous regions.

Answering a question, the sources said all details about funding have been worked out and Chinese banks will fund the projects. "Bigger success is that both the sides have forged a commitment at the highest political level to translate the time-tested political and security ties into long-term economic co-operation." In an unprecedented gesture, Chinese President Xi Jinping, came to the State Guest House to meet Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The meeting between the two leaders confirmed Friday's signing of the agreements.

The mega projects were finalised by the Planning Divisions of both the countries. Ahsan Iqbal, the Minister for Planning Division, has been working for the last few weeks to finalise the details of the projects which have the potential to usher in a new era of development and economic activity in the entire length and breadth of the country.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had expressed his desire to start this project when he met visiting Chinese Prime Minister Li before his oath taking in mid-May. The Chinese also focused their energies on building up Khunjrab-Gwadar rail and road links after a similar project with Myanmar ran into trouble following the US pressure. China has spent about 10 billion dollars during the last 10 years in building a rail and road link to the Indian Ocean through Myanmar. But for the last two years, Myanmar has gotten close to the US which created hurdles in the execution of the

project. "Pakistan might face similar pressure from the US but Beijing and Islamabad are committed to complete it," sources said, adding, "and hence hurry on the part of Pakistan to complete the project in the next few years."

All Day

Pak-China agreements will lead to huge investment in Pakistan -- BR & APP

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on foreign affairs Tariq Fatemi has said the visit of the Prime Minister will be greatly beneficial for Pakistan in improving its economy and generating more economic activities.

Talking to PTV from Beijing, he said Pakistan will get advantage of Chinese investment in various sectors including infrastructure development, energy, transportation and other public welfare projects.

He said under the agreements signed in Beijing on Friday, Pakistan will attract billions of dollars investment from China which will give boost to its ailing economy. Tariq Fatemi described Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's talks with Chinese leadership and business leaders as extremely constructive and positive.

He hoped that it will lead to open new avenues for economic development and prosperity besides creating job opportunities for youth.

All Day

Pak-China pipeline project: Nawaz to offer China the shortest oil route -- The Express Tribune

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led government has decided to offer China to lay oil pipeline from Gwader to Western China – a move that will allow the latter to diversify and safeguard its crude oil import routes, sources told The Express Tribune.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif would make a formal offer to his Chinese counterpart during his current visit to China. The government is expected to sign within a month an operational agreement with the brotherly nation to hand over Gwader Port to a Chinese company.

Officials said Pak-China oil pipeline could later be linked with Iran that had already offered to lay oil pipeline from its territory to Gwader to transport crude oil. During the PPP era, Iran had also announced to set up oil refinery at Gwader Port with 400,000 barrels per day oil production capacity.

"So, this proposal may become feasible after Chinese company takes operational control of Gwader Port," official said adding that Gwader Port is quite near to Persian Gulf through which nearly 40% of world's oil supply flow is maintained. Officials maintained that 50% of total oil demand of China is met from imports that come from Middle East. At present supply line to China runs over 10,000 kilometre Dubai-Shanghai-Urumqi ocean route.

"The crude oil processed and refined at Gwader Oil Refinery can be exported and transported to Urumqi through the shortest possible route to China via Dubai-Gwader-Urumqi which is about 3600 kilometres. For this a oil pipeline will be laid through the envisaged Energy Corridor up to Western China via KKH/Khunjrab bypass," officials said.

They said that impediments like high altitude, freezing temperature and difficult terrain could be overcome through certain technological advancements since many countries had successfully completed such pipeline projects under extreme conditions and high altitude such as ATACAMA gas pipeline, Trans-Alaska Pipeline, Trans-Asia Gas pipeline etc.

Published in The Express Tribune, July 5th, 2013.

All Day

Pak-China relationship 'sweeter than honey', Nawaz tells Chinese counterpart -- Pakistan Today

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Friday told his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang that their countries' relationship was "sweeter than honey". He expressed these views during a meeting with his Chinese counterpart in which economic ties were at the top of the agenda. Pakistan and China have close diplomatic and military allies and Nawaz, who is on his first foreign trip since becoming prime minister, is looking to secure infrastructure projects to tackle a chronic energy crisis and economic malaise in his country. At the Great Hall of the People in the Chinese capital, Nawaz said his welcome "reminds me of the saying, our friendship is higher than

the Himalayas and deeper than the deepest sea in the world, and sweeter than honey". Li told him: "I greatly appreciate your great warmth and deep affection for the people of China." The Chinese premier was the first foreign leader to visit Pakistan after Nawaz Sharif's victory in the May polls. Beijing has been involved with the upgrade of the Karakoram Highway as part of a proposed economic corridor between the two countries. Earlier this year, China took control of Pakistan's Gwadar port, giving it access to the Arabian Sea and Strait of Hormuz, a gateway for a third of the world's traded oil. China-Pakistan trade last year reached \$12 billion and is targeted to rise to \$15 billion in the next two to three years. On Thursday, Nawaz held talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, amid concerns in his country over weak growth, inflation and power cuts of up to 20 hours a day. Xi, who referred to Sharif as an old friend and a good brother, said strengthening strategic cooperation with Islamabad was a priority for China's diplomacy, the state-run broadcaster China Central Television reported. Nawaz said his country welcomed Chinese investment and would work to create a friendly environment for it. Earlier on Friday, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif received a red carpet welcome from the Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on his arrival at the impressive building of Great Hall of the People. While both leaders were inspecting the guard of honour, there were 19 gun salutes in the background to herald the arrival of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif as a symbol of high regards and warmth on the part of the host country and its leaders. As both leaders reached the welcome dais, a contingent of People's Liberation Army played national anthems of both the countries. Following the welcome ceremony, both the dignitaries held bilateral talks. Briefing the media, Premier Li said he clearly remembered his visit to Pakistan in May when then prime minister-in-waiting Nawaz Sharif participated in his meetings with the interim leaders of Pakistan. Premier Li greatly appreciated Nawaz Sharif's warmth and deep affection for the people of China. Nawaz thanked Premier Li for his remarks and the hospitality extended to him and his entourage. He recalled his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping held on Thursday and said, "He was very kind to invite us. We exchanged similar views last night as well." Nawaz also thanked Premier Li for inviting him to visit China and added that he felt proud to visit China as his maiden foreign destination after assuming office. - See more at: <http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2013/07/05/news/national/pak-china-relationship-sweeter-than-honey-nawaz-tells-chinese-counterpart/#sthash.7lo3ymkZ.dpuf>

All Day

Pak-China set sights on transport link from China to Arabian Sea -- Forst Post Word

Beijing: China and Pakistan set their sights Friday on developing a transport link from northwestern China through rugged Pakistani mountains to the Arabian Sea, a route they hope will boost economic growth and slash shipping times.

A broad agreement for the "economic corridor" was among eight pacts signed following a meeting in Beijing between Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The transport link was described as a "long-term plan" to connect the Chinese city of Kashgar to the port of Gwadar, more than 2,000 kilometers (1,240 miles) away across the towering Karakoram mountains and Pakistan's lawless Baluchistan province.

Another agreement will see a fiber optic cable laid from the Chinese border to the Pakistani city of Rawalpindi that will boost Pakistan's access to international communications networks. China is to provide 85 percent of the financing for the three-year project's \$44 million budget, with Pakistan covering the rest.

The visit is Sharif's first to his country's close ally since he returned to power last month, highlighting the importance Pakistan places on its 63-year-old relationship with China. The two cooperate closely in diplomatic and defense affairs, and share a common rival in their mutual neighbor and occasional military opponent India.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, second from right, introduces Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, third from right, to Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, right, before a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. AP "Let me tell you very candidly and very sincerely that what I am witnessing here on my visit to Beijing, it reminds me of the saying our friendship is higher than the

Himalayas and deeper than the deepest sea in the world, and sweeter than honey," Sharif told Li at the start of their meeting, employing the usually effusive language with which the two nations describe their relationship.

China provides Pakistan with aid and foreign investment, while Islamabad offers Beijing important diplomatic backing in the face of Muslim-majority nations who might otherwise criticize China's handling of its Muslim population.

Pakistan is hoping to attract greater Chinese investment to revive its moribund economy beset by inefficiency, corruption, political instability, and chronic electricity shortages, while expanding two-way trade that exceeded \$12 billion for the first time last year.

For its part, China wants Pakistan to crack down on insurgents from China's Muslim Uighur minority who have taken refuge in Pakistan's northwest alongside al-Qaida-linked extremists. Pakistan says it has killed or extradited several of those militants over the past few years, but acknowledges that some remain at large in the area.

Hopes for road, rail and pipeline links from Kashgar to the presently little used port at Gwadar received a major boost when control of the port was transferred to China's state-owned China Overseas Ports Holding Company Ltd. in February. Built by Chinese workers and opened in 2007, it is undergoing a major expansion to turn it into a full-fledged, deep water commercial port.

Located just outside the mouth of the Persian Gulf, Gwadar has the potential of vastly cutting the 12,000-kilometre (7,500-mile) route that Mideast oil supplies must now take to reach Chinese ports. It could also provide an outlet for copper and other resources that Chinese firms plan to mine in Afghanistan, while offering a base for China's navy to operate in the Indian Ocean in competition with India.

China has already begun upgrading the Karakoram Highway that runs through the northwestern Xinjiang region to the Pakistan border and has dispatched workers to develop projects high in the mountains of the Pakistan-controlled part of Kashmir.

The geographical and security challenges to the link remain daunting, however, and any working link is likely many years away. It would go through territory menaced by the Pakistani Taliban, while nationalists in Baluchistan view it as an attempt by the ethnic Punjabis who largely run Pakistan to strengthen their control over the desert region and plunder its natural resources.

All Day

Pakistan Prime to Sign Sino-Pakistan Railway Agreement -- SinoCast Daily Business Beat

Pakistan Prime to Sign Sino-Pakistan Railway Agreement

XINJIANG, Jul 05, 2013 (Menafn - SinoCast Daily Business Beat via COMTEX) -- Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was signed to sign a number of agreements, including Sino-Pakistan railway, during the visit to China and China Development Bank and China Investment Corporation were reported to participate in the project investment.

The agreements on roads and railways from Kashi, Xinjiang Autonomous Region to Pakistan's Gwadar may be officially signed.

The Kashi ? Gwadar railway is a lifeline that will enable Gwadar Port to be a transit station for the transport of crude oil from the Middle East to China to get rid of dependence on the Malacca Strait. Currently, 80% of oil imported by China must go through the Malacca Strait.

Source: www.163.com (July 05, 2013)

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All Day

PM orders completion of Lahore-Karachi Motorway by 2015 -- APP

BEIJING, Jul 5 (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Friday ordered the completion of Lahore-Karachi Motorway within two and half years after finalizing the feasibility study of the project in three months. Talking to Pakistan Television here after an MoU signing ceremony between Pakistan and China for cooperation to construct Lahore-Karachi Motorway, the Prime Minister said the government was committed to provide comfortable and affordable transport facilities to its citizens within minimum possible time. Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal and Chairman China State Construction Engineering Corporation Yi Jun signed the MoU from both sides, respectively.

While stressing for expeditious project completion, Nawaz, however, was categorical to state that the government will not compromise on quality of the work. He said the signing of MoU was a remarkable step and it was laudable that the government has been making landmark achievements in its initial days. He said work on the mega project would be launched shortly after completion of the project's feasibility study which he hoped would benefit the people of all four provinces as well as Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. "It is a historic day. Once this project completes, the travel time would reduce remarkably that would also ultimately promote business activities in the region," Nawaz Sharif said.

He also lauded the MoU signing for infrastructure development in Gwadar and said the planned Lahore-Karachi Motorway would also touch another highway linking Kashgar to Karachi via Gwadar.

Earlier, in a meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Chairman CSCEC Yi Jun said his company was interested in executing various development projects in Pakistan including the construction of highways and launching of bullet trains. He also offered his company's services for the construction of already planned bullet train project between Peshawar and Karachi.

The Prime Minister lauded the offer and invited CSCEC chairman to visit Pakistan in August this year for negotiations in this regard.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said resolution of energy crisis, infrastructure development and comfortable and affordable transport facilities were among his government's foremost priorities.

Source: <http://www.defence.pk/forums/economy-development/262487-pm-orders-completion-lahore-karachi-motorway-2015-a.html#ixzz2YkovPLBF>

All Day

Nawaz, Li hold fruitful meeting: 2,000km road to link Gwadar with Kashgar -- DAWN

BEIJING, July 5: China and Pakistan set their sights on Friday on developing a transport link through rugged mountains and troubled lands, a route they hope will boost economic growth and bring critical oil supplies to power-hungry China much faster.

A broad agreement for the Pak-China economic corridor was among eight pacts signed following a meeting in Beijing between Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

The 2,000km transport link was described as a "long-term plan" to connect Kashgar in northwestern China to the port of Gwadar, likely by road in the beginning and possibly by rail later.

Pakistan is hoping to attract greater Chinese investment to revive its moribund economy beset by inefficiency, corruption, political instability and chronic electricity shortages, while expanding two-way trade that exceeded \$12 billion for the first time last year.

For its part, China wants Pakistan to crack down on insurgents from China's Xinjiang region who are said to have taken refuge in Pakistan's northwest alongside Al Qaeda-linked extremists. Pakistan says it has killed or extradited several of those militants over the past few years, but acknowledges that some remain at large in the area.

Another agreement is for a fibre-optic cable to be laid from the Chinese border to Rawalpindi which will boost Pakistan's access to international communications networks.

China is to provide 85 per cent of the financing for the three-year project's \$44 million budget, with Pakistan covering the rest.

Mr Sharif's visit to China is his first foreign trip since returning to power last month, highlighting the importance Pakistan places on its 63-year-old relationship with its most important ally in the region.

The two cooperate closely in diplomatic and defence affairs.

"Let me tell you very candidly and very sincerely that what I am witnessing here on my visit to Beijing, it reminds me of the saying our friendship is higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the deepest sea in the world, and sweeter than honey," Mr Sharif told Mr Keqiang at the start of their meeting, employing the usual effusive language with which the two nations describe their relationship.

A joint statement issued after the meeting affirmed their support for an Afghan-led peace effort in the country following the withdrawal of US troops next year. It said they would "work with the regional countries and the international community to help Afghanistan achieve peace, stability and security".

Hopes for road, rail and pipeline links from Kashgar to the presently little-used port at Gwadar received a major boost when control of the port was transferred to state-owned China Overseas Ports Holding Company Ltd in February. The statement said a joint committee would be set up which would oversee the upgrading and realigning of the 1,300km Karakoram highway running from Kashgar to Abbottabad over mountain passes as high as 4,693 metres.

If the transport link takes off, oil from the Middle East could be offloaded at Gwadar, which is located just outside the mouth of the Gulf, and transported to China through Balochistan and the rugged Karakoram mountains. Such a link will vastly cut the 12,000km route which Mideast oil supplies must now take to reach Chinese ports.

According to the joint statement, Pakistan and China resolved to promote the policies aimed at advancing the cause of peace, cooperation and harmony in the region.

During their meeting, Mr Sharif and the Chinese premier reaffirmed their commitment to pursue people-centric policies to mitigate poverty, promote social and economic development and diminish the roots of conflict.

Mr Sharif reaffirmed the commitment of his government to further promote and deepen the bilateral strategic cooperation.

The Chinese premier thanked Mr Sharif for choosing China as his first destination for foreign visit after coming to power.

Mr Sharif said the recent political transition in Pakistan was a historic development which would create political cohesion, social stability and economic growth. "It will also improve governance and lead to sound macro-economic management, thus creating an enabling environment for foreign investment in Pakistan," he added.

The two sides reviewed with satisfaction the development of China-Pakistan relations and were of the opinion that the relationship had acquired growing strategic significance in the emerging dynamics of 21st century. They resolved to continue to deepen the strategic partnership in the new era.

The two leaders appreciated that Asia was the engine of global economic growth and more than 40 per cent of the global population resided in this vibrant and dynamic region. A major urbanisation and technological advancement is under way in the region which will unleash enormous potential for regional economic development.

The two countries decided to further deepen practical cooperation in all sectors and strengthen coordination and cooperation on international and regional issues. This has been agreed under the guiding principles of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good-Neighbourly Relations between China and Pakistan signed in April 2005 and on the basis of the existing close cooperation.—Agencies

All Day

Nawaz's Beijing visit: Trade corridor tops MoU bonanza -- The Express Tribune

BEIJING: Pakistan and China on Friday signed a bonanza of agreements, including one on a long-term economic corridor, capping a meeting between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang in the Chinese capital.

The 2,000-kilometre road and rail link connecting the northwestern city of Kashgar to Gwadar port was among eight pacts inked by the two countries. The corridor is expected to cost around \$18 billion. Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal inked the pact from the Pakistani side while the chairman of the National Development and Reforms Commission signed it from the Chinese side, as Premier Li reiterated his country's strategic interest in the project.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) pertaining to the Lahore-Karachi Motorway was signed on Friday as well, following which Prime Minister Nawaz ordered concerned departments to complete the project within two-and-a-half years.

Talking to PTV after the signing ceremony, the premier said the authorities will have to finalise the project's feasibility study within three months. He made it clear, however, that the government would not allow any compromise on quality.

"Once this project is completed, travel time [between Lahore and Karachi] will be drastically reduced ... this will ultimately promote business activity in the region," Nawaz maintained, adding that all four provinces would benefit from it. He added that the Lahore-Karachi Motorway would be connected to the Kashgar-Gwadar highway as well. Other agreements signed on Friday included a pact on economic and technical cooperation between the two countries – signed by the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi – and two letters of exchange regarding training courses for textiles, flood relief and disaster management, and the provision of equipment for eradicating polio from Pakistan.

An MoU was also signed for cooperation and exchanges between PML-N and the Communist Party of China. Fatemi, meanwhile, inked another MoU for cooperation between Pakistan's Institute of Strategic Studies and the China Institute of Contemporary Study. The two countries also reached a \$44 million agreement on setting a fibre-optic cable from the China-Pakistan border to Rawalpindi. The document was signed by Strategic Communication Organisation of Pakistan and Huawei Technologies Company.

Punjab Energy Minister Sher Ali Khan and the chief of ZTE Corporation signed an MoU on a solar energy project as well.

Meanwhile, the Chinese company tasked with the construction of the stalled Nandipur power plant has agreed to resume work on the project. According to a news channel, the Chinese company has decided to send its engineers to Pakistan in this regard, following a meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif. Shahbaz, who is part of Prime Minister Nawaz's delegation, assured the company's officials of his government's full support.

Separately, in a meeting with the president of China Overseas Port Holding Company, Nawaz expressed his desire to develop Gwadar port on the Hong Kong model.

Nawaz's meeting with Li

Nawaz and Li on Friday resolved to promote policies to advance the cause of peace, cooperation and harmony in the region.

In a joint statement issued after their one-on-one meeting, the two leaders reiterated their commitment to 'people-centric' policies aimed at mitigating poverty, promoting social and economic development, and diminishing the roots of conflict. During the meeting, Prime Minister Nawaz once again reaffirmed his government's commitment to deepening the bilateral relations between Pakistan and China. The Chinese leader appreciated his decision to choose China as his first foreign destination after being elected premier.

The two sides reviewed the development of Pakistan-China relations and observed they had acquired growing strategic significance. Premier Nawaz and Premier Li noted that Asia was the engine of global economic growth and major urbanisation and technological advancement was underway in the region.

Earlier, upon his arrival at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Prime Minister Nawaz received a rousing red carpet welcome from Premier Li. He said his welcome reminded him of 'the saying, our friendship is higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the deepest sea in the world, and sweeter than honey'.

Published in The Express Tribune, July 6th, 2013.

All Day

Oil city to be developed at Gwadar -- DAWN

KARACHI, July 6: Minister for Ports and Shipping Senator Kamran Micheal said on Saturday that Sri Lanka is ready to give sea cargo to Pakistani flagships, and an oil city would be developed at Gwadar where refineries would be set up to meet China's energy needs through oil pipeline coming from Iran.

Talking to newsmen at a luncheon meeting at a local hotel, the minister said: "when we do not want aid and talk about trade, so we have to take such steps which can help promote our trade relations with neighbouring countries, like Sri Lanka."

He said he held a meeting with Sri Lankan ambassador in PNCS building where cooperation in shipping was discussed for promoting trade between the two countries.

The minister said that Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) flotilla, consisting of seven bulk carriers and three oil-tankers, would be available to carry Sri Lankan cargo. This would help enhance PNSC revenue which could be used for expanding the fleet of the corporation.

He said soon he would be visiting Sri Lanka for signing an agreement for cooperation in ports and shipping and haulage of Sri Lankan cargo by Pakistani ships.

"This would not only expand trade relations between the two countries, but would also help create jobs," he added.

He said that he would soon be visiting China to discuss and finalise Gwadar port concession agreement and added that if Pakistan wants to come out of economic crisis, it would have to develop closer economic links with China.

He further said that the Gwadar port concession given to China Overseas Port Holding Company is the same given to Port of Singapore, but he would like to make changes in some of the terms and conditions before finalising the agreement with China.

Responding to a question, he said, the sections related to marketing in the Gwadar port concession would be changed and Pakistan would like to retain them in the larger interest of the country.

The minister said that he paid a visit to Gwadar port and was not satisfied with the progress and feels that the work should be speeded up because the project is very important and has the potential to make economic progress in the country at large and Balochistan, in particular.

During his visit, the minister said the Dutch ambassador also accompanied him who extended assistance in expansion and upgradation of the fishing harbour which is presently being used as a playground by locals. The ambassador also offered to assist in providing PET raisin baskets for handling fish catch.

There was a time Pakistan's ship-breaking industry at Gadani was the largest of the world, but now Bangladesh and India are leaders in this industry. Therefore, the minister said, efforts would be made to revive this industry for which a core committee had been formed.

Senator Kamran Micheal said Marine Academy would be upgraded and converted into university to cater our needs and of other countries.

He said all avenues will be explored and Ministry of Ports and Shipping and its affiliated departments would be opened up and upgraded to meet the fast changing technological as well as rapidly growing economic trade activities of the country.

He further said all corrupt elements would be removed from the ministry and its affiliated departments and an important announcement would be made in Ramadan.

To a question, the minister said presently three berths were operational at Gwadar port and soon five more would become operational and Chinese concession holders would be asked to speed up work and Pakistan has assured them of full security and proper working environment.

Referring to deteriorating law and order situation in the city which is also affecting port operations, the minister said that soon the interior minister, Chaudhary Nisar, would be visiting Karachi and hold meetings with Governor and Chief Minister of Sindh.

All Day

Gwadar to be operational soon: Kamran Michael -- THE NEWS

KARACHI: Pakistan's Federal Minister Ports & Shipping Kamran Micheal has said that the time has come to make Gwadar port operational – and that the country's progress was tied to the project.

He said that he had recently visited Gwadar Port and would be talking to the Chinese to speed up the development work to make it fully operational.

The minister said that oil refineries will be setup in Gwadar and talks are underway regarding this, China is interested in taking oil from Iran and it will set pipeline from Gwadar to China so oil terminal and jetty will be developed there.

For the dredging at Gwadar Port, the government has allocated Rs.1billion in order to accommodate bigger vessels and maintenance of the port can be done.

He added that there are already three berths which are operational and soon five more berths will be constructed by Chinese.

Michael also said that “we are also pushing China to market the port internationally and fetch considerable business for making Gwadar Port a success.

“We will invite all are neighboring countries to utilize Gwadar port.”

He added, “The Government of Holland has assured us help in building the Gwadar Fish harbour on modern lines – they will also provide fiber fishing boats.

The government is keen to develop the fishing industry and is planning to develop value addition mechanism for our fisheries products. That's so they can be marketed well and can earn huge foreign exchange.”

The minister also said the government is making efforts to resolve all issues pertaining to the Gwadar Port.

Connectivity issue of Gwadar Port to be resolved soon and all important roads and link roads will be completed. Government is keen to connect Gwadar to Kashgar and in this regard in the budget Rs.31billion have been reserved in the budget, he added.

The minister said that water shortage in Gwadar is another major issue which needs to be addressed on permanent basis.

He also said that negotiations have taken place with the Navy and coast guard regarding the disputed 923 hectares of land in the Gwadar Economic Free Zone.

He said that alternate land has already been chosen at Pishukan and the Navy has shown willingness to release the occupied land in exchange

The minister maintained the government has to honor all the commitments with the Chinese port operator so the port becomes functional.

The Gwadar Port which was envisioned to become a trans-shipment port and shipping hub for the landlocked Central Asian States (CAS), Afghanistan and Western China government is committed to fulfill this vision because it is in the interest of Pakistan, he added.

Kamran Michael said that the Ports & Shipping Sector in Pakistan has huge potential and all efforts are being put down to resolve all the problems to generate revenue from it.

He said that “the government is committed to resolves all the issues related with Port & Shipping and its related departments.

Soon major reshuffling is expected in bureaucracy of the Ports & Shipping Ministry

and miss management and bad governance will not be tolerated.”

All Day

Gwadar-Kashgar economic corridor to benefit 3bn people: Nawaz Sharif -- THE NATION

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif says, his official trip to China has proven more fruitful than he expected.

Speaking to the media in Guangzhou the PM added, that agreements have been signed for the construction of the motorway from Karachi to Lahore as well as the Khashgar-Gwadar project and that work on both will be expedited.

On the energy shortfall the prime minister said, that Chinese companies will invest in the energy sector in Pakistan, and that the shortage exists because previous governments did not address the issue.

Nawaz Sharif said his government will further strengthen friendship between Pakistan and China. He said his talks with the Chinese leadership remained highly beneficial and productive.

He said Gwadar-Kashgar economic corridor is an important milestone in the history of Pak-China friendship and we will ensure its completion as early as possible. He said this project will benefit three billion people in the region.

Nawaz Sharif said Karachi-Lahore motorway is another important project signed during his visit.

He said Chinese authorities are worried for the safety of their citizens in Pakistan and he has assured them that his government will provide foolproof security to them.

The Prime Minister stressed the need for working together to combat the menace of terrorism. He said the government, security agencies and the people will have to work collectively to curb terrorism effectively. He said killing of foreign tourists in Damer has badly damaged the image of Pakistan. He said we have to improve the security and law and order to ensure peace in the country.

He said Pakistan is passing a difficult time and we need to take decisions accordingly. He said the government has laid down a policy to address the energy crisis. He said there is a need to bridge the gap between supply and demand of electricity as there is no way left to compete international economies.

The Prime Minister said the government will take important steps to make Gwadar a free port. He said laying a fast train route from Peshawar to Karachi is another significant project in this connection.

Nawaz Sharif said a special cell will be established to monitor the matters pertaining to Chinese projects and investment in Pakistan. He said a task force headed by Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal will also be established to boost economic cooperation between Pakistan and China.

All Day

Kashgar to Gwadar highway project a key achievement: Shahbaz -- THE NEWS

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has said the decision to construct a 2,000-kilometer long highway from Kashgar to Gwadar is a key milestone achieved during the prime minister's China visit.

Talking to Pakistani citizens in Beijing, Shahbaz said the highway will turn out to be a good omen for Pakistan and has been named the Economic Corridor. He said the project would help promote 35 industries and create employment opportunities for hundreds of thousands of people.

Earlier, during meetings with certain heads of Chinese energy companies, Shahbaz said the days of a tentative approach on national projects has gone.

Later, addressing an economic forum organized by the Pakistani embassy in Shanghai, the Punjab chief minister said he will personally host the Chinese investors in Pakistan, and ensure full government cooperation to them.

All Day

Kashgar-Gwadar project to bring economic paradigm in region: Nawaz -- GEO TV

GUANGZHOU: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that Pak-China economic corridor would not only benefit both the countries but the entire region, Geo News reported.

During his visit of China Southern Power Grid Corporation here Sunday, Nawaz Sharif said Kashgar-Gwadar project would bring economic change in the region.

The government was working on energy projects on priority basis as it was the key issue of the country, the prime minister said and added that the preceding government failed direct any focus towards this.

Nawaz Sharif welcomed investment from Chinese companies to Pakistan, saying that it was encouraging.

All Day

Pak-China take quantum jump -- Daily Pakistan Observer

Sunday, July 07, 2013 - THE visit of Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif to China has been a resounding success as the two countries agreed on a number of projects and plans aimed at forging economic ties and giving depth to their strategic partnership. Nawaz Sharif had a point in taking pride in the fact that the two sides arrived at concrete understanding on multi-dimensional cooperation in the early days of his Government.

All the agreements concluded during the visit are important the idea of establishment of economic corridor between Kashghar and Gwadar is indeed fabulous one and is reflective of the far-sightedness and vision of the leadership of the two countries. This coupled with plans to build Lahore-Karachi Expressway, run a fast train between Peshawar and Karachi, lay optic fibre from Chinese border areas to Rawalpindi and construction of expressway/rail link between Gwadar and Kashghar has the potential to revolutionize life in Pakistan besides giving tremendous boost to trade and industry of China. Once Chinese turn Gwadar Port fully functional and an international airport, rail and road network is completed to link the port city with the rest of the country, the dream of the Prime Minister to turn Gwadar into Hong Kong of Pakistan would become a reality. Balochistan is a backward province and these projects of far-reaching importance would surely bring about a positive change there and we are glad that the local leadership is on board as Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik was part of the Pakistani delegation that negotiated various deals and agreements. We have been hearing about eight visits of President Zardari to China and signing of scores of agreements during high level bilateral visits in the past but all this has mostly remained a paper dream. This time round one can genuinely expect some difference as Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has already formed a task force under the dynamic leadership of Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal that would constantly monitor implementation of agreements and MoUs. It is also satisfying that the Prime Minister has expressed his resolve to complete feasibility of Lahore-Karachi expressway just in three months and completion of the actual work in two and a half years, sending a clear message that he means business.

All Day

Pakistan PM Visits China with Trade High on Agenda -- CRIENGLISH

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is set to kick start his official visit to China later on today.

As CRI's Su Yi reports, trade and energy cooperation trade and the environment are expected to dominate the week-long visit.

Related: QA with Pakistan's Former Foreign Secretary

The proposed economic corridor linking the strategic Gwadar Port with the western Chinese region of Xinjiang is expected to top Sharif's agenda in Beijing.

The corridor was proposed by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during his most recent

trip to Pakistan last month.

Wang Xu is assistant to the director at the centre for South Asian studies at Peking University.

He says the project, once completed, is going to benefit people on both sides.

"First, the project can strengthen Sino-Pakistan trade ties and help Pakistan to overcome some economic problems it's facing right now, including energy and power shortages. Second, it will help China integrate economically with South Asian and Middle East countries. Because the corridor takes off from Kashgar in Xinjiang and it ends in Southern Pakistan, the Port of Gwadar and Karachi. So this is going to drive the development of western China."

The corridor consists of a series of special economic zones, on top of a rail link and a pipeline providing China access to the Indian Ocean.

During his 6-day trip here in China, Sharif is also going to discuss clean energy cooperation with Chinese officials.

Wang Dehua is from the South Asia and Central Asian Studies centre at the Shanghai Institute for International Studies.

"China and Pakistan have already reached agreements on hydro power stations, thanks to China's experience on our Three Gorges Dam project. The two countries can also deepen cooperation on solar, wind, and bio power and other renewable energy fields. Besides, China is developing technologies that process coal to crude oil, and Pakistan has fair amount of coal reserves, so we've got huge potential in this area as well."

All Day

Pakistan woos China into large project -- Malaysiasun

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is in China to try to revive his country's economy.

Sharif has chosen Beijing for his first official trip following victory in the 11 May elections to search for assistance in building a road and rail corridor between Kashgar in the western Chinese province of Xinjiang and the port of Gwadar in Pakistan.

He has been meeting with members of the Politburo to push the project which has been touted as a short route for Chinese crude imports from the Middle East and for exports.

Many Asian business analysts have suggested the port of Gwadar will be allow China to follow through on its plan to increase its naval power and influence in the Indian Ocean.

International energy exchanges between the countries would likely start in the heart of Xinjiang province and cross into Baluchistan in Pakistan.

Baluchistan is a desert province bordering Iran and Afghanistan.

- See more at:

All Day

Road and rail link is a significant step -- THE INTERNATIONAL

On Friday, the governments of China and Pakistan agreed a deal to build a road and rail transport link to connect the two nations. The project promises to open a wide "economic corridor". While no firm timetable for development has been announced, this "long-term" plan will eventually connect Kashgar in western China with Gwadar in Pakistan in the west. The potential gains from such links are huge. Related

■ Pakistan and China set sights on Arabian Sea link

The project will undoubtedly foster greater commercial ties between the two nations, but it will also have serial implications for other parts of the world. It could, as The National reported yesterday, allow for oil shipped from the Middle

East to be unloaded in Gwadar, close to the mouth of the Arabian Gulf, before being moved overland to China. And while this would still represent an epic logistical endeavour, it would also substantially reduce, by several thousand kilometres, the distance oil would have to cover to get to any destination point in China, and at a time when it is encouraging the development of its western region. In general, it is likely to deliver an upturn in trade between the GCC group of nations and Asia.

For Pakistan itself, the road and rail link will create jobs, help reinvigorate almost every sector of its embattled economy and afford it more breathing space away from its neighbours.

But this link is likely to have many other consequences, too. For those observers who nervously watch any time China furthers its international reach and influence - be that in Africa, Asia, the Americas or even on the high seas - this latest development could be perceived as troubling. China supplies more arms to Pakistan than any other nation and a reciprocal deal might see the port at Gwadar reused as a strategic platform for China's naval operations in the region. The port has been redeveloped in recent years with substantial investment from China. When the Suez Canal opened in 1869, it changed the way the world worked. Nearly 150 years later, eight per cent of global shipping traffic passes through its waters. Similarly, the Panama Canal allows ships to move from the Pacific to the Caribbean Sea in less than 12 hours.

Like both of these examples, the Kashgar to Gwadar road and rail link could eventually prove game-changing regionally and economically.

All Day

Sharif in Beijing to bring Arab oil to China -- AsiaNews/Agencies

From now until 8 July, Pakistani Prime Minister will be in Beijing to discuss energy and investments. The construction of a road-and-rail corridor between Kashgar (Xinjiang) and Gwadar (Baluchistan) on the Arabian Sea is crucial. This way, Pakistan could solve its energy crisis, but in return, it will likely have to "stop" the emergence of Islamic fundamentalism.

Islamabad (AsiaNews/Agencies) - Energy, transport and investment are on the agenda Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is taking with him as he begins today a six-day visit to China (3-8 July). His ultimate aim is to revive his country's economy, which has been paralysed by an energy crisis and violent Islamic fundamentalism. The construction of a road and rail corridor between Kashgar (in the western Chinese province of Xinjiang) and the port of Gwadar (Baluchistan province) on the Arabian Sea is part of the broader picture.

The fact that Sharif chose Beijing for his first official trip abroad after his victory in the 11 May elections is significant. During his stay in China, he is expected to meet at least three members of the Politburo, namely President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang.

The Kashgar-Gwadar project is of great interest to both countries. "Sharif knows that Gwadar has significant geopolitical and economic importance for China," said Rashid Ahmed Khan, a professor of international relations at the University of Sargodha in Punjab. "It can provide a short route for Chinese crude imports from the Middle East and for its exports to the region."

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying agrees. The project "will help both countries as well as the development of the whole region," she said.

In addition to trade, many analysts see the port of Gwadar as part of China's plan to increase its naval power and influence in the Indian Ocean, considered the future centre of international energy exchanges.

The Kashgar-Gwadar line starts in the heart of Xinjiang province and cross into Baluchistan, a desert province bordering Iran and Afghanistan, and among the poorest in Pakistan.

Both areas have often been the scene of sectarian clashes. In recent days, fresh unrest broke out in Xinjiang between indigenous ethnic Uyghur (who are Turkic and Muslim) and Han Chinese, the majority in China. Beijing blamed the attacks on Islamic extremists trained in Pakistan, in camps run by the East Turkestan Islamic Movement.

Baluchistan has been in the hands of paramilitary forces for decades. The exploitation of gas and mineral resources by the government has unleashed attacks by extremist and separatist movements, as well as Taliban groups.

If approved, the project might force Pakistan to find a final settlement to the fundamentalist emergency that has ravaged the country, a problem many blame on the central government in Islamabad.

This view is shared by Afghan Army Chief General Sher Mohammad Karimi who said that Pakistan controlled and gave shelter to Taliban leaders, deliberately unleashing fighters on Afghanistan.

All Day

Khunjerab to Gwadar trade corridor to boost economy -- APP

ISLAMABAD - Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has said the "National Economic Corridor" between Pakistan and China from Khunjerab to Gwadar will open new avenues in trade and economy between the two countries. Talking to PTV from Beijing, he said that the government will expand ties with China on economic grounds and trade corridor between two countries will open new vistas for development in the region.

Minister said China will assist Pakistan for converting oil based power plants to coal based plants. He stated that Pakistan will complete feasibility reports of all developmental projects within one year's time and these projects will start benefiting masses with in 1-2 years. He said to boost the development projects his Chinese counterpart will soon visit Pakistan with his team to finalize the projects feasibility.

He said Chinese PM Li Keqiang, during composite dialogues between two leaders, has termed Nawaz Sharif as key leader for enhancing Pak-China ties.

He said that Chinese PM has also shown determination to complete this new initiative between two brother countries as soon as possible for economic development in the region. To a question, he said that among the 8th Sino-Pak agreements, most important is the "National Economic Corridor" through which roads and trains track will be constructed between China Pakistan. "Besides, on these corridors economic cities in Gwadar will be developed," he claimed.

He said that Chinese PM has emphasized Pakistan should be given loan on soft conditions; in this way it will not only benefit Pakistan with billion of dollars but also to those Chinese companies that are interested in investing in Pakistan.

He said that Chinese PM has assured that china will assist Pakistan with its expertise in Coal-Power generation. He said that Chinese companies will provide their services in solar energy sector while projects like Neelum-Jhelum and Bhasha dam are also under consideration. He hoped that different projects will be starting with in a year that will make the economic relations between the two countries stronger.

All Day

Nawaz to induct 'China cell' into PM's office for development projects -- Business Standard

Newly elected Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has introduced 'China cell' in his office to speed up development projects in the country.

The Express Tribune reports that the cell will supervise all development projects to be executed with the cooperation of Chinese companies in Pakistan.

Sharif said that the government will bring the infrastructure of Gwadar port at par with Hong Kong, Dubai and Singapore and turn the city into a major trade hub.

According to the report, Nawaz said his meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang and representatives of Chinese companies over Pakistan's energy and infrastructure issues had been fruitful.

Nawaz further added that the prospects of introducing mass transit systems in Karachi and Lahore, and high-speed trains in the country were also discussed during the meetings.

Nawaz reiterated that 2,000 km long trade corridor project would trigger socio-economic uplift for the entire region.

All Day

Project will be a 'game-changer' in region: Nawaz -- The News

GUANGZHOU (China): Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Sunday wound up his official China visit marked by hectic interaction with the political leadership and business leaders of the host country, which he said were productive beyond his expectations.

Set to fly back home on Monday after a busy day of engagements in this largest city of Guangdong province, a beaming prime minister said implementation of the Gwadar-Kashgar corridor project and a raft of agreements signed during his week-long visit would prove a "game-changer in the region".

The two countries agreed on major projects, including the establishment of an economic corridor to link Gwadar deep sea port with the Chinese border city of Kashgar in Xinjiang province with road and rail networks.

Construction of motorways and other infrastructure development projects as well as power generation with the participation of China are also on the mutually agreed roadmap to help bring about Pakistan's economic resurgence and pull it out of the crippling energy crisis.

With investment pledges worth billions of dollars under his belt, a happy Sharif exclaimed : "The outcome of the visit is more than I expected."

The sentiment in the delegation of the prime minister was the two traditional friends are on the threshold of a new era of which economic bonds will be the hallmark more than political and defence cooperation.

"We are poised to enter a long-term phase of bilateral economic cooperation which will benefit not only the two nations but also open up avenues of immense value in trade and commerce for the region as a whole," remarked a senior Pakistani official.

Amid the optimism, there was also a realisation among the Pakistan side that curbing terrorism with more effective steps based on a national political consensus is a must in order to allay concerns in China and the international community over the lack of a secure environment for investment and development.

Prime Minister Sharif himself disclosed while talking to media representatives that the Chinese leaders had conveyed to him their concerns and that he had assured them that his government would ensure foolproof security for Chinese workers and investments in the country.

On his return, the prime minister is expected to chair on Friday a conference of leaders of political parties represented in parliament as part of his efforts to evolve a consensus national security policy to deal with terrorism, extremism and other security challenges.

The prime minister and members of his entourage received with shock and sorrow reports of a bomb explosion in a popular food street in Lahore on Saturday night that killed four people and injured dozens.

Implementation of agreements being of vital importance to achieve the set goals, Prime Minister Sharif has established a task force headed by Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal. The prime minister has said he himself would also be overseeing progress on the projects.

The warmth and friendly feelings for the Pakistani leader and his team and the hospitality extended to them in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou reflected the strength of the bilateral relationship. Even ordinary Chinese people displayed their sentiment with smiles and by waving their hands in greeting.

At a banquet hosted by Governor of Guangdong province Zhu Xiaodan, the prime minister was informed that a large number of Pakistanis including traders and business people were present in the province.

The governor said that 60 per cent bilateral trade is being done through this province and stressed the need for the enhancement of the trade volume. His province, the governor said will welcome Pakistani tourists.

The banquet was also attended by Chief Minister of Punjab Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Chief Minister Balochistan, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, Advisor to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi, Foreign Secretary Jalil Abbas Jilani, Ambassador Masood Khalid and senior officials from the Chinese foreign ministry.

The prime minister earlier visited a major power transmission and distribution company, China Southern Power Grid, and held a meeting with its head Zhao Jianguo to get suggestions about ways to cut line losses, theft and pilferage in Pakistan.

Zhao Jianguo told the prime minister his company was ready to provide help to Pakistan to tackle the problem of line losses. The prime minister asked him to provide the consultancy.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Punjab Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif urged Zhao Jianguo to help Pakistan in generating power besides controlling ills like power theft.

Shahbaz Sharif said Pakistan attaches great value to Chinese cooperation in the energy sector.

APP adds: Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Sunday said he would set up a 'China Cell' at his office to supervise all development projects to be executed with Chinese cooperation in Pakistan.

He said the cell would be of a specific nature, overseeing and pursuing the execution of such development projects to steer the country out of the current economic crisis.

July 9, 2013

Tue

All Day

Chinese investment in Gwadar appreciated -- The Nation

KARACHI: Pakistan and China are interlinked on friendship front sharing areas of mutual interest on many economic and cultural fronts. Chinese investment in Gwadar Port will prove instrumental in economic prosperity of Pakistan.

While addressing a group of investors and industrialists from China. He further said that Prime Minister's recent visit has already started showing results and well known Chinese companies are coming forward to explore Pakistani market.

As far as EPZA is considered we are already providing excellent facilities to the investors which can be compared with other industrial zones in the world.

According to our recently adopted strategy, extending our facilities and incentives to the cities which have the potential of producing products related to exports. This new approach has been widely appreciated by the industries and chambers of commerce all over the country he added.

Courtesy: The Nation

All Day

Nawaz Sharif's China visit to open new avenues of bilateral cooperation -- APP

Nawaz Sharif's China visit to open new avenues of bilateral cooperation
ISLAMABAD, Jul 11 (APP): Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal Thursday said the recent visit of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to China will open new chapter of strong friendship between the two countries and help in promoting trade and economic relations. Addressing a press conference here at Foreign Office along with Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi, Ahsan Iqbal said the visit will be helpful in transforming traditional foreign policy into economic diplomacy to give new boost to trade and economic relations with neighbours and friendly countries. He said, "Unfortunately our political and economic relations with friendly countries including China and Middle East countries do not reflect our level of relationships with these countries in terms of trade as we could not expand our trade with these countries in the past."

Ahsan Iqbal referring to the visit of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to China said it was focussed on economic development of Pakistan which has provided new base for expanded strong economic relations. He said the PM's visit has laid a foundation of new strategic economic cooperation between both the countries which will not only benefit the two countries, but vision behind this is to integrate all economic engines of the region.

The Minister hoped this visit will prove as a new milestone not only in terms of Pak-China but also increasing economic growth of Pakistan.

He said a number of important agreements were signed during the visit which will pave way for rapid economic development of the country.

The most important agreement is to establish "Economic Corridor" by building rail and road links through Pakistan.

He said an institutional framework has been constituted to review the economic and trade corridor between China and Pakistan. He said a committee and a task force have been set up in this regard which will hold meetings after six months to review the progress on the projects signed during this visit and to complete all the studies and framework within one year.

The Minister said construction of Motorway from Lahore to Karachi was also discussed with Chinese companies and expressed the hope that this project will be completed within three years record time.

Replying to a question Ahsan Iqbal said the present government is determined to complete Diamir-Bhasha dam at its scheduled time which is of vital importance to meet energy and water requirements of the country.

He said, "The government intends to form a consortium of friendly countries for raising funds for the quick completion of Diamir-Bhasha project."

Answering a question he said Chinese companies have expressed willingness to invest in big way in Pakistan in various sectors including energy and the government will provide full protection to them.

He said both China and Pakistan are committed to move forward to further promote their relations despite challenges.

He said, "It is our resolve to combat terrorism with commitment and expedite development work in a way that nefarious designs of the enemies of Pakistan could not be fulfilled."

He said the government has the resolve to bring peace in the country and will go into consultations with all stakeholders to devise a comprehensive strategy in this regard.

Ahsan Iqbal said peace is vital not only for the society but also for socio-economic development of the country which will be restored at all cost.

The Minister said the government is working on a vision to settle conflicts also through dialogue which is essential to achieve the goals of economic progress and prosperity.

In this regard he said, special focus is being given to bring peace in Balochistan through dialogue with all political forces.

Regarding Gwadar, the minister said that during negotiations with Chinese leadership, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was keen to prioritize the development of Balochistan and that is why Chief Minister Dr. Abdul Malik was accompanying him. He said setting up of an Economic City in Gwadar was also part of these negotiations where both the leadership discussed establishment of new industrial facilities and relocation of Chinese industries in Gwadar.

All Day

Gwadar: the future trade hub of the world? -- APP

ISLAMABAD - The government is considering giving Gwadar a status similar to Hong Kong in terms of special business incentives. This vision aims to turn tides on the region's economic horizon.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during his recent visit to China, expressed his intention to develop Gwadar port on the model of Hong Kong. Hong Kong is China's special administrative region that enjoys specific trade regulations. Gwadar, having a natural hammerhead-shaped geography protruding from the country's coastline into Arabian Sea, is no longer just a fishing harbour. It is now deemed as an important deep seaport with vast potential of becoming the hub of business activities for the entire region.

Pakistan needs to promote free trade and low taxation in Gwadar on similar lines to Hong Kong, which is regarded as one of the world's leading international financial centres in addition to being an extremely tax friendly economy.

Necessary legislation would allow Gwadar to set its own financial targets such as economic freedom and competitiveness similar to Hong Kong.

Gwadar is expected to be declared a special economic zone for a certain period to facilitate rapid commercial and economic development.

The specific incentive-regime is likely to be free of Value Added Tax (VAT), capital gains tax and withholding tax, with general tax-holidays and generous incentives for business ownership and employment of foreigners. The establishment of the special economic zone, free trade zone, and export processing zone in the port city would attract foreign investment which would in turn create innumerable job opportunities for locals and consequently raise their standards of living.

The main purpose of this project is to accelerate economic development and investment, both foreign and local. This will in turn increase the port traffic and resultantly spur industrial development.

For the port's construction and operations Gwadar was officially handed over to the state-owned China Overseas Port Holding Company Limited in February.

According to the contract signed between the two countries, a fully fledged commercial port will be constructed with an initial Chinese investment of \$750 million.

In a recent meeting with the company's President Sun Ziyun, Sharif stressed to not delay the infrastructural development of Gwadar. He assured the Pakistani government's full cooperation with the Chinese companies engaged in the port's development. Sun Ziyun told Sharif that the financial assistance for this project would be sought from the China Development Bank.

China will also assist Pakistan in the construction of an airport of international standards at Gwadar.

One of the accords inked during Sharif's visit to China, which was also witnessed by Premier Le Keqiang, envisages the establishment of an economic corridor between Gwadar and Kashgar. Kashgar is the historic Silk Road city in western Xinjiang region of China. It is connected to Gilgit-Baltistan through the 15,397 feet (altitude) Khunjerab Pass. The ambitious Pakistan-China economic corridor plan will cost approximately \$18 billion.

Sharif is of the view that the Gwadar would help bring Balochistan's coastal areas into the socio-economic mainstream. This would serve as a catalyst for fast track development of the province. It would contribute towards rapid employment generation in the province.

Gwadar will benefit both Pakistan and China. 60 percent of China's oil comes from the Gulf via ships travelling over 16,000 kilometres in two to three months to its commercial port, Shanghai. Gwadar will reduce this distance to a mere 2,500 kilometres.

Gwadar is termed as "the future of Pakistan". Due to its location on the channel of Central Asia, Middle East and Asia, it can flourish as the World's business centre.

The Chinese assistance in the development of this port is essential in positively impacting Pakistan's economy. - See more at:

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2013/07/13/news/profit/gwadar-the-future-trade-hub-of-the-world/#sthash.G69LPaS6.dpuf>

All Day

Gwadar-Kashgar motorway to strengthen Sino-Pak ties -- APP

SLAMABAD - Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) president Zafar Bakhtawari said on Friday that Sino-Pak agreement of 2700 kilometer long Gwadar-Kashgar motorway will open new avenues of relationship in trade and economy between the two countries. Talking to APP, Zafar Bakhtawari said that the "National Economic Corridor" agreement with China is a hallmark of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government which will benefit more than 3 billion people. Bakhtawari informed APP that according to this agreement, on 2700 kilometer motorway, 200 kilometer long tunnels with 70 main bridges will be constructed. This agreement will expand ties with China on economic grounds, ICCI president said. He further said that trade corridor between two countries will open new vistas for development in the region.

All Day

Chinese officials have been asked to carry out research to identify a location for railway connectivity between Pakistan and China -- APP

BEIJING: Chinese officials have been asked to carry out research to identify a location for railway connectivity between Pakistan and China, a press report said, adding that people were enthusiastic on plans to build a train link to connect Kashgar in Xinjiang with Gwadar.

"We've already been asked to carry out research into the location of a station in Kashgar for the China-Pakistan railway, but a detailed plan and timetable have yet to be drafted," Wang Yongzhi, the deputy commissioner of Kashgar prefecture, was quoted as saying by an English-language newspaper.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif announced in June that Pakistan would like to build new road and rail links to Kashgar and establish a Sino-Pakistan economic corridor.

If an overland link were to be established, Gwadar Port would become the starting point for deliveries of oil and natural gas to Xinjiang, China Daily reported.

Mr Wang said that China's long experience of carrying out construction work on plateaus could prove invaluable if the decision is made to build a railway across the Pamir Plateau.

Yuan Jianmin, director of Xinjiang Logistic Association, said most freight from Pakistan was transported to China via sea route, a journey of more than a month, whereas a railway link would allow goods to be transported from Pakistan to cities around China in 10 days.—APP

All Day

China starts work to identify location for railway link -- APP

BEIJING - Officials have been asked to carry out research to identify location for railway connectivity between Pakistan and China, as local people are enthusiast on plans to build a railway network to connect Kashgar in Xinjiang with the port of Gwadar.

"We've already been asked to carry out research into the location of a station at Kashgar for the China-Pakistan railway, but a detailed plan and timetable have yet to be drafted," Wang Yongzhi, deputy commissioner of Kashgar prefecture was quoted as saying by an English daily.

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Yuan Jianmin, director of Xinjiang logistic association, said most freight from Pakistan is transported to China via the sea route, a journey of more than a month, whereas a railway link would allow goods to be transported from Pakistan to cities around China in roughly 10 days.

The poor condition of the roads between Kashgar and Pakistan means the network is ineffective, constraining exports to Pakistan via the land port at Kashgar to just 100,000 metric tons each year, according to Wang.

"A railway link between China and Pakistan railway would transform Kashgar and allow it to truly become an economic hub," the daily quoted Wang.

In February, China Overseas Port Holding Co took over the management of Gwadar, a deep-water port on the shores of the Arabian Sea and situated close to the Strait of Hormuz.

All Day

Govt considering for Gwadar a status similar to Hong Kong -- DAILY TIMES

Govt considering for Gwadar a status similar to Hong Kong

ISLAMABAD: The government is considering giving Gwadar a status similar to Hong Kong in terms of special business incentives-a vision that aims to turn tides

on the region's economic horizon.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during his recent visit to China has expressed his intention to develop Gwadar Port on the model of Hong Kong-the China's Special Administrative Region that enjoys specific trade regulations.

Gwadar having a natural hammerhead-shape geography protruding from the country's coastline into Arabian Sea is no longer just a fishing harbour. It is now deemed as an important deep seaport with a vast potential of becoming the hub of business activities for the entire region.

For Pakistan, free trade and low taxation environment in Gwadar is the inspiration to be derived from Hong Kong, which is regarded as one of the world's leading international financial centres and one of the most tax friendly economies in the world.

Necessary legislation will allow Gwadar to set its own financial targets such as economic freedom and competitiveness similar to Hong Kong, which also has one of the highest per capita incomes in the world.

Gwadar is expected to be declared a Special Economic Zone for a certain period to facilitate rapid commercial and economic development.

The specific incentive-regime is likely to include general tax-holidays, no Value Added Tax (VAT), no capital gains tax, no withholding tax and generous incentives pertaining to business ownership and employment of foreigners.

The establishment of Special Economic Zone, Free Trade Zone and Export Processing Zone in the port city would attract foreign investment creating innumerable job opportunities for local youth and would directly raise the living standard of their families.

The main purpose of this concept is to accelerate economic development and investments, both foreign and local. This in turn will increase the port traffic and thus spur industrial development.

Gwadar was officially handed over to the state-owned China Overseas Port Holding Company Limited in February this year for the Port's construction and operation.

According to the contract signed between the two countries, a full-fledged commercial port will be constructed with an initial Chinese investment of \$750 million.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a recent meeting with President China Overseas Port Holding Company Limited Sun Ziyun in Beijing stressed no delay in the infrastructural development of Gwadar.

He assured Pakistan government's full cooperation to the Chinese companies engaged in the port's development.

The President of China Overseas Port Holding Company Limited told Prime Minister Sharif that financial assistance for this project would be sought from China Development Bank.

China will also assist Pakistan in the construction of an airport of international standard in Gwadar.

One of the accords inked during Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to China and also witnessed by Premier Le Keqiang envisages the establishment of an Economic Corridor between Gwadar and Kashgar-the historic Silk Road city in western Xinjiang region of China, connected to Gilgit-Baltistan through the 15,397 feet altitude Khunjerab Pass. The ambitious Pakistan-China Economic Corridor plan involves an estimated cost of \$18 billion.

Gwadar would help bring Balochistan's coastal areas into socio-economic mainstream and serve as a catalyst for fast track development of the province. It would also contribute more rapidly to employment generation in the province.

Gwadar will benefit both Pakistan and China. Sixty percent of China's oil comes from the Gulf by ships travelling over 16,000 kilometres in two to three months to its commercial port, Shanghai. Gwadar will reduce the distance to a mere 2,500 kilometres and will also serve round the year.

Gwadar can be termed as 'the future of Pakistan'. app

All Day

Gwadar envisioned getting 'Hong Kong splendour' -- THE NEWS

SLAMABAD - The government is considering giving Gwadar a status similar to Hong Kong in terms of special business incentives - a vision that aims to turn tides on the region's economic horizon.

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Gwadar can be termed as "the future of Pakistan". Due to its location on the conduit of Central Asia, Middle East and Asia, it can turn into a place of business conversion for the whole world. The Chinese assistance in the development of this port is significant in bringing a positive impact on Pakistan's overall economy.

All Day

Accords, MoUs to expand Pak-China partnership scope -- BR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's decision to choose China as the destination for his first foreign visit after coming to power signifies the closeness and warmth which characterize Pak-China exemplary relations.

The visit, which can be termed a "success story", was indeed a prudent step, which has successfully expanded the scope of Pakistan's strategic partnership with one of its most trusted friend.

It is often said that Pakistan's relationship with China is "higher than the Himalayas" and this visit has in many ways manifested these words into a tangible form in the shape of bilateral agreements and memorandums of understandings (MoUs) signed by the two countries.

The Prime Minister held constructive meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang and discussed with the Chinese leadership how to address the country's energy problem and development of infrastructure.

The two sides signed eight MoUs and agreements following the meeting of the Prime Minister with Premier Li Keqiang, including Pakistan-China Economic Corridor accord.

Based on these agreements and MOUs, a comprehensive framework outlining a roadmap to upgrade and expand the economic, trade, cultural and strategic ties between Pakistan and China, can be laid down.

Some of the projects, which will start as a result of these agreements, certainly have the potential to revolutionize the bilateral trade activity and also transform the entire economic landscape of the region.

According to experts, in today's world where relations between countries are increasingly being shaped by trade diplomacy, the future of Pakistan-China relations will also be defined by trade and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit presented a real opportunity for Pakistan and China to take their economic ties to a new zenith.

Especially when like Pakistan, a new leadership has taken the reins of power in China too. This was an important juncture for both the countries.

As an experienced leader with vision, Nawaz Sharif was able to recognize this important opportunity quite quickly and this was evident from the discussions he held with Chinese premier Li Keqiang when they first met in Islamabad in May.

The warm welcome by the Chinese leadership for the Prime Minister is a clear indicator of the importance China attaches to its relations with Pakistan.

During the visit, both the sides not only identified key areas of cooperation but also signed important agreements. China showed its keenness to play a key role to help Pakistan meet its energy needs and this has been a major success of the visit.

The Prime Minister's plan for economic revival of Pakistan has Karachi at its center, and this was evident from his discussions in almost every meeting. His interest to have briefings on metro and subway systems in China shows that he is very keen to provide a good and reliable transport system to the residents of Karachi.

Information technology will also be at the heart of Pakistan's journey towards economic revival. In this area, the two countries agreed to expand their cooperation too and lay down a sophisticated network of fiber optic connectivity, which is the need of the modern times.

Agreements in textiles as well as health sectors were also signed and the cooperation between Pakistan and China will continue to grow.

The key to the success will be the follow up of agreements implementation, and it is heartening to note that a "China Cell" has been established in the Prime Minister's Office for the purpose.

The Prime Minister also held detailed meetings with heads and chief executives of banks, financial institutes and corporate leaders in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

The Chinese leadership in meetings with the Prime Minister, agreed to waive off the condition of insure cover on Chinese projects.

The Prime Minister also met with Chairman National People's Congress Zhang Dejiang. Both the leaders exchanged views on bilateral relationship and means to cement it further.

He visited Shanghai in state-of-the-art High Speed Train and during the journey held a number of meetings and got details about the train operation and cost.

At these meetings arranged in the train, a number of Chinese companies evinced

keen interest in the construction of various projects, including power plants, high speed train, Basha dam, optic fiber and motorways.

The Prime Minister also met with the Governor of Guangdong province, Zhu Xiaodan, and discussed bilateral relations, including promotion of tourism between the two sides.

Later, in a joint statement, both the countries vowed to promote policies, aimed at advancing the cause of peace, cooperation and harmony creating a win-win situation in the region. In order to promote cultural and social ties, the two sides agreed to encourage their cities and provinces to establish twinning relationships. It is quite evident that the visit of Prime Minister Nawaz has provided further impetus to the existing Pak-China partnership, which is a source of peace, stability and prosperity of the two countries as well as the region.

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All Day

New Gwadar airport construction to generate jobs: Zahid Hamid -- APP
ISLAMABAD, Jul 15 (APP): Minister for Science and Technology Zahid Hamid said that construction of an international airport and access roads in Gwadar will generate job opportunities for thousands of locals. Talking to a private news channel, Zahid Hamid hailed the prospect of cross-country motorway and said the feasibility of the project is expected to be completed in mere three months followed by concrete steps to start the project. He said on completion the motorway would further generate additional employment opportunities besides facilitating the commuters and transporters in the country. The minister said the traders and decision-makers of both countries are optimistic that trade between the two countries will increase to fifteen billion dollars in next three years after Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's successful visit to China.

All Day

China to speed up PoK hydropower project to meet Pak demand -- APP

The Chinese firm building the Rs 274.88-billion Neelum-Jhelum hydropower plant in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, plans to deploy more personnel to expedite completion of the project.

The Chinese company building the Neelum-Jhelum mega hydropower plant has decided to deploy more engineers and technical staff to expedite work on the 969 MW project, Pakistan's state-run APP news agency reported.

Image used for representation only.

India has been expressing concern over China taking up infrastructure projects in PoK, considering its disputed

Officials of the China Gezhouba Group of Companies (CGGC), the project contractor, held talks in Beijing with a Pakistani team and briefed them about deployment of additional Chinese technical staff, the report said adding that the induction of additional work force will help completion of the project before the given timetable.

The meeting was held as a follow-up to the recent visit of Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif here during which the progress of the project construction was reviewed.

The company had informed Sharif that the project was expected to be completed by June 2016. However, in view of its acute energy crisis, Pakistan wants the mega hydropower project to be completed before the given time frame.

Before embarking on his visit to China, Sharif had visited the site of the project and directed the authorities concerned to expedite construction work and make it functional by 2014-15 to overcome Pakistan's crippling power shortage.

Timely completion of the project would reduce the gap between demand and supply of power in Pakistan.

Moreover, it has strategic importance as with its early completion the government of Pakistan can claim water rights of river Neelum, the report said.

The project which is in the vicinity of PoK's capital Muzaffarabad envisages the diversion of Neelum river water through a tunnel and after producing power, water will flow into the Jhelum river.

All Day

A new era of ever expanding, versatile ties – Pak-China cooperation -- APP

A new era of ever expanding, versatile ties – Pak-China cooperation

ISLAMABAD - The development projects committed under the eight memorandums of understanding (MoU) signed during Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif's visit to China and the establishment of a 'China Cell' at the PM's office to oversee the smooth execution of projects carried out by Chinese firms, are both hoped to give an impetus to the national economy.

The bilateral agreements signed during the PM's five-day visit included a trade corridor featuring the 2000-kilometer road and rail link between Kashgar and Gwadar, the construction of the Lahore-Karachi Motorway and extending technical and political cooperation between the two friendly states. In reference to the Pak-China trade corridor, Nawaz said that it would uplift the socio-economic conditions of the Pakistanis.

He said that steps would be taken for turning the Gwadar Port into a trade hub. He also termed the impending cooperation in the energy and infrastructure sectors between the two countries as a new era of ever expanding multifaceted ties.

Realizing the significant presence of Chinese companies in Pakistan, Nawaz decided to set up the 'China Cell' for supervising projects that were to be executed with Chinese cooperation.

He said the cell would oversee the execution of the development projects to steer the country out of the present crisis.

The PM said that both the sides had constituted a taskforce to ensure speedy completion of the projects.

He assured all-out support to Chinese companies willing to work in Pakistan on hydro power projects, mass transit systems in Karachi and Lahore and on high speed trains.

In order to boost the confidence of Chinese companies, Nawaz categorically said the country did not require civil servants and officials, who were not pushing forth the completion of development projects. Rather, fresh and talented blood having missionary zeal and possessing realization of the significance of such projects should be injected through the civil service.

Former Ambassador Javed Malik said that some of the projects to be launched as a result of these accords would revolutionize bilateral trade activity and transform the region's economic landscape.

He observed that Pakistan's strategic location was a major strength, adding that some south Asian states, the oil rich Gulf economies and the economic giant China were all in its immediate vicinity, making it a major strategic trade gateway. Karachi was already providing access to the Arabian Sea but now all eyes were fixed on the Gwadar port, he added.

Pakistan and China also inked an agreement on economic and technical cooperation and moreover, two letters of exchange on training courses for textile, flood relief, disaster management and provision of equipment for eradication of polio were also signed.

Another document was signed between the Strategic Communication Organization of Pakistan and the Huawei Company of China for laying optic fiber cables and for setting up a communication link between the two countries.

In regard to the Lahore-Karachi motorway project Nawaz said that its feasibility study would be completed within three months and that it would be executed within two and-a-half years. After completion, the project would reduce travel time drastically and it would also enrich business activity in the area.

- See more at: <http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2013/07/17/news/profit/a-new-era-of-ever-expanding-versatile-ties-pak-china-cooperation/#sthash.Slnzgn4J.dpuf>

All Day

Pak, China sign protocol paving way for mango export to China -- APP

Pak, China sign protocol paving way for mango export to China

BEIJING: Pakistan and China have signed a protocol paving a way for a significant breakthrough for market access of Pakistani mangoes in China.

The document signed between Pakistan's Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR) and General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection

and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of China.

The protocol on phytosanitary requirements for export of mangoes from Pakistan was signed here on Monday.

The protocol, signed by Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Masood Khalid on behalf of the Ministry of National Food Security, and the Chinese Minister Mr. Zhi Shuting on behalf of AQSIQ, envisages export of fresh mango fruit from Pakistan to China in compliance with plant quarantine and phytosanitary regulations.

According to the protocol, all the packing-houses, storage facilities intending to export mango fruit to China shall meet the protocol requirements and would have the necessary systems in place.

The protocol shall remain in force for two years, and would be automatically extendable for a further period of two years.

Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Masood Khalid described the inking of the protocol as a significant breakthrough for market access in China for Pakistani mangoes.

He expressed his optimism that the relevant departments would synergize their efforts for reinvigorating the processes expeditiously and in compliance with Chinese quarantine and phytosanitary requirements.

He pointed out that the protocol was a step forward as it incorporated Hot Water Treatment (HWT) through which mangoes produced in Pakistan could be easily treated.

He hoped that the Pakistani mango exporters would achieve greater market access and ensure penetration into the Chinese market.

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All Day

Pak-China Economic Corridor to usher in new era of economic development, prosperity -- Pakistan Today

Pak-China Economic Corridor to usher in new era of economic development, prosperity

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor will usher in a new era of economic development and prosperity in the underdeveloped areas of the country by connecting maximum number of population through a network of highways and railways.

The prime minister expressed these views while taking a briefing from the officials of the ministries of Planning, Communications and Railways at the Pakistan Secretariat on Thursday.

Terming the Pak-China Economic Corridor as the future of the world, Nawaz said three billion people, which was almost half of the world's population, from China, South Asia, and Central Asia would benefit from this economic corridor, adding that it should be so designed that maximum number of people of the country benefit from it.

Nawaz was briefed at length about the proposed alignments and lines from Khunjrab to Gwadar that would be constructed as part of the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor.

Emphasising on ensuring the good quality and transparency, the prime minister directed the authorities concerned to explore more options keeping in view factors such as terrain, population and social cost of the project in the form of population dislocations while drawing the areas through which this corridor would be passing.

Nawaz said the Lahore-Islamabad Motorway should be taken as a model and that its quality and standard need to be kept in view while constructing the Pak-China Economic Corridor.

Taking strong exception to the poor condition of motorways and roads in the country, the prime minister said motorways, highways and road networks were national assets and their repair and maintenance must be given the top most priority.

He lamented the fact that projects had never been completed on time and not completing them on time had almost become a national character.

"Without setting our priorities right and without moving in the right direction, we cannot attain the goal that we have in our mind for the people of Pakistan," Nawaz said.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the briefing, the prime minister gave one week to the Ministry of Communications to complete its work and arrange a follow-up briefing.

- See more at: <http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2013/07/18/news/national/pak-china-economic-corridor-to-usher-in-new-era-of-economic-development-prosperity/#sthash.F1pauyv.dpuf>

All Day

PM terms Pak-China economic corridor as future of world -- The News
PM terms Pak-China economic corridor as future of world

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Thursday said that the Pakistan-China economic corridor will open up the underdeveloped areas of the country to a new era of economic development and prosperity by connecting the maximum number of population through a network of highways and railways.

He expressed these views while taking a briefing from the officials of Ministries of Planning, Communications and Railways at the Pakistan Secretariat.

Terming the Pak-China economic corridor as the future of the world, the prime minister said that three billion people, which is almost half of the world's population, from China, South Asia, Central Asia could benefit from this economic corridor and added that it should be so designed that maximum number of people of the country could benefit from it.

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Taking a strong exception to the poor condition of motorways and roads in the country, he said that motorways, highways and road networks are national assets and their repair and maintenance must be given the top-most priority.

He further said that we should have constructed many more motorways till now but lamented the fact that development of roads and motorways had been a low priority area in the country. He said that projects had never been completed on time and not completing them on time had almost become a national character. "Without setting our priorities right and without moving in the right direction, we cannot attain the goal that we have in our mind for the people of Pakistan," the prime minister added.

Expressing his dissatisfaction over the briefing, the prime minister gave one week to the Ministry of Communications to complete its work and ordered to arrange a follow-up briefing after that.

He further directed the ministries of communications, railways and planning to keep their homework up-to-date to take the process of cooperation with China on the Pak-China economic corridor to next level of implementation. He also gave his approval in principle for the restructuring of the Planning and Development Division. Under the restructuring plan, the Planning Division will get the status of a think tank for the highest policy input and the Ministry of Planning and Development will be renamed as Planning, Development and Reforms Division.

Minister for Finance Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Information Pervaiz Rashid, Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafiq, Special Assistant to the PM Tariq Fatimi and senior officials of the Ministries of Planning, Railways and Communications attended the briefing.

All Day

LNG terminals -- The Nation

LNG terminals

The approval by the Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals at Karachi is an essential preliminary to the import of LNG from Qatar. However, the terminals approved have a total capacity of 1000 million cubic feet a day (mmcf), against the agreement of 500 mmcf, which means that more LNG can be imported, whether from another exporter, or by expanding the current agreement. The three projects, costing a total of between \$425 million and \$490 million, would be completed in between 22 and 30 months. Engro and SSGC will have dedicated terminals, which shows that the imported LNG will have two distinct uses; domestic use and urea production. Pakistan is already having to import urea, with the committee noting that the Industries Ministry had floated two tenders for importing 100,000 tonnes of urea on emergency basis, with one being opened on Monday. This means there will be less pressure on the use of Iranian gas, and it will be easier to destine it for transmission to the power plants, which will use it in place of oil, and thus will be able to generate much-needed power cheaper. While Iran is the subject of American ire, this is not the case with Qatar, which is accounted one of its closest allies in the region. The USA thus is supportive of the LNG import, just as much as it opposes the IP gas pipeline. It is interesting that the ECC considered this issue at the same time as the Prime Minister stressed the utility of the Kashgar-Gwadar Economic Corridor, because it showed that, while the corridor is seen both in terms of road and rail, it should also be seen as providing multiple options. It is generally known that China needs Middle Eastern hydrocarbons, and it is not hidden from anyone that Gwadar plays an important role in this. Gwadar is also a second port for Pakistan, so any new facilities at Karachi will not have to be built at Gwadar, and will thus mean that China can use the port all the more. At the same time, it also has to be ensured that the Pakistani hydrocarbon network, of fuel and petrol lines, is capable of playing its due role in the economic corridor, which the Prime Minister was right in characterising as the future.

The LNG projects show that there may be infrastructural issues in any agreement, and they must be removed. Till these projects are completed, it will not be able to import LNG from Qatar. That LNG might play a preliminary role in resolving the energy shortage, but it is nevertheless a crucial role.

All Day

Xinjiang-Gwadar: Economic corridor task force formed -- Dawn

Xinjiang-Gwadar: Economic corridor task force formed

ISLAMABAD, July 20: Pakistan and China have formed a task force on implementation of a MoU for construction of an economic corridor between Silk Road city of Xinjiang and Gwadar, Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning and Development, said here on Saturday.

The minister further informed that the said task force would meet in Islamabad in August.

Chairman, National Development and Reform Commission, Xu Shao, would lead the Chinese delegation at the task force meeting. Mr Iqbal, who signed the agreement together with Mr Shao during the recent visit of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif would lead the Pakistan side to review implementation of the agreement.

The strategic value project has been estimated to cost \$18 billion requiring construction of a number of tunnels is to be built through Khunjerab Pass in Gilgit-Baltistan.

The minister told newsmen that the task force would review development since the signing of the agreement on July 5, and would take decisions according to the terms of reference of the project implementation.

A number of surveys, including seismic surveys, would be carried out by experts from both the countries. "We have to finalise the project in one year," he added.

He said that the prime minister has approved alignment of the motorway between Lahore and Karachi.

“The project would be completed in three years and would serve as a parallel trade corridor. The government plans to complete the six-lane each motorway on a fast track basis, and the National Highway Authority has been instructed to initiate the process,” he said. Mr Iqbal further said that the prime minister has approved construction of motorways between Karachi and Hyderabad as well as Pindi Bhattian-Lahore and Hasanabdal-Mansehra on the basis of BOT.

Source: Dawn

All Day

Special units to be set up in 'new' planning ministry -- The Express Tribune

Special units to be set up in 'new' planning ministry

In the task force meeting of China's National Development and Reforms Commission, a comprehensive roadmap for the next one year will be prepared in order to undertake geological surveys and seismic studies on the Gwadar-Kashgar project. PHOTO: FILE

ISLAMABAD:

As a Chinese delegation is coming to Pakistan to hold first meeting of the task force on Gwadar-Kashgar initiative, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has approved restructuring of the Ministry of Planning for setting up special units for Pak-China cooperation and improving the country's global ranking.

The meeting of the task force on Gwadar-Kashgar rail and road project would be held in Islamabad after Eid, said Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of Planning and Development here on Saturday.

He was speaking to the media on the government's decision to restructure the Planning Division and Planning Commission.

Iqbal said the head of China's National Development and Reforms Commission would visit Pakistan to co-chair the task force meeting. In the deliberations, a comprehensive roadmap for the next one year will be prepared in order to undertake geological surveys and seismic studies on the Gwadar-Kashgar project. Terrain of the route was very tough and prone to dangers like floods and avalanches, he said.

Iqbal said in parallel to the Gwadar-Kashgar project, Karachi-Lahore Motorway would be built on a fast track on the build, operate and transfer (BOT) model.

He said the PM also approved completion of six-lane Karachi-Hyderabad motorway, Hasanabdal-Mansehra motorway and expansion of Pindi Bhatia-Faisalabad motorway, all on BOT model.

Under the restructuring of the planning ministry, the Strategic and Regional Initiative Unit will be set up that will work on setting up the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and enhancing regional trade.

Iqbal spoke at length about plans to restructure his ministry and the reasons behind the decision. "In the last 14 years, the country has faced the worst kind of lack of planning," he added.

The restructuring of the Ministry of Planning and Development to make the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms and also restructuring of the Planning Commission will be done to meet all development requirements of the country.

Had the PML-N's Vision 2010 been implemented in the last 14 years, the country would have generated up to 28,000 megawatts of electricity by 2010, he said.

Iqbal said future of the country hinged on economic and governance reforms and the restructuring would play a pivotal role. He was of the view that current economic fundamentals were not in line with modern economic requirements.

In the restructured ministry, seven new units will be set up. Strategic Planning and Policy Unit will be responsible for preparing Vision 2025, develop five-year annual plan and also short-term annual plans.

It will also be responsible for coordinating with different ministries for developing sector-specific strategies and will identify key challenges.

Performance Delivery Unit will be responsible for implementing the party's manifesto. It will develop key national and economic areas and monitor performance indicators assigned to each ministry on a monthly basis.

Iqbal said monthly progress reports of all ministries would be shared with the prime minister.

Reform and Innovation in Government Unit will promote and conduct research on institutional reforms and innovations and coordinate with and support ministries in undertaking reforms.

Pakistan Competitive Unit will continuously assess and promote Pakistan's global rankings in the areas of competitiveness, doing business, governance, fragility indicators, transparency and anti-corruption.

Development Communication Unit will work for the promotion of development dialogue in the media, raise awareness of development issues and suggest solutions. It will also promote international best practices through the media.

Social Capital Unit will promote and incentivise development of education, health

services and communities as well as cultural exchanges, social harmony and poverty alleviation.

Accordingly, the government has approved three additional posts for members of the Planning Commission. These are member private sector development and competitiveness, member governance, innovation and reforms and member development communication.

Iqbal said the government would soon give advertisements to hire eight members, as contracts of some of the present members had expired.

He said under Vision 2025, Pakistan would become one of the fast growing economies in Asia and the goal behind this was to make Pakistan a developed country by 2047.

Published in The Express Tribune, June 21st, 2013.

July 22, 2013

Mon

All Day

Sino-Pak railway deal inked -- APP

Sino-Pak railway deal inked

LAHORE, July 22: A Chinese firm and a subsidiary of the Pakistan Railways have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the development of a strategic corridor from Khunjrab to Gwadar Port and other projects in Pakistan.

Under the MoU, signed between Pakistan Railways Advisory and Consultancy Services (PRACS) and M/s China Gezhouba Group International Engineering Company Ltd (CGGC), both parties would share their expertise for the execution of the projects, said a spokesman on Monday.

CGGC would join PRACS in participating in bidding for the projects. The CGGC would introduce Chinese railway design institute jointly with PRACS to strengthen its capacity, especially during tender preparation and project execution, if needed.

CGGC Chief Representative in Pakistan Jin Bin and PRACS Managing Director Zahoorul Haq Khattak inked the MoU. —Staff Reporter

All Day

Economic corridor to connect Kashgar with Gwadar: Ambassador -- APP

ISLAMABAD, Jul 29 (APP): Chinese Ambassador, Sun Weidong Monday said that the landmark agreement on the construction of an economic corridor stretched over a thousand Kilometer would connect Kashgar with Gwadar. The Chinese Ambassador called on Federal minister for Finance, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar here and said that the corridor will have great impact on the trade and bilateral relations between the two countries, besides economic impact on the region. He termed the recent visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to China very successful. The Ambassador said that it was unprecedented that the Prime Minister of China and the Prime Minister of Pakistan met twice within six weeks, "We cherish our friendships with Pakistan which has lasted for decades" he added.

Sun Weidong said that China was keen to work closely with Pakistan on infrastructure and energy projects and informed about his meetings with provincial authorities in Punjab.

The Chinese Ambassador said that establishment of economic zones along the corridor will help create employment and generate economic activity which will be mutually beneficial.

In this connection a high level Chinese delegation including representatives of Chinese financial institutions is expected to visit Pakistan shortly to discuss the project with their counterparts in Pakistan.

China has always done its utmost and extended all possible cooperation to Pakistan, he emphasized.

While talking to Chinese Ambassador Senator Ishaq Dar said that both the Chinese and Pakistani Prime Ministers are on the same length and we admire the vision of the Chinese leadership.

He thanked Chinese leadership and government for waiving off 6% compulsory insurance which speaks volumes of the friendship between the two nations and Chinese cooperation and assistance to Pakistan.

Senator Ishaq Dar said that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has already chaired a high level meeting on the economic corridor as this project was very close to his heart.

Senator Ishaq Dar appreciated the idea of creation of economic zone along the economic corridor and said that this will be a win-win situation for both countries.

Senator Ishaq Dar accepted an invitation to participate in the Euro-Asia Forum which is being hosted by China and would be held in September, this year. Senior officials of Ministry of Finance and Chinese Embassy also attended the meeting.

All Day

'Kashgar-Gwadar corridor to open huge trade avenues' -- BR

Trade activities between Gilgit-Baltistan and the Southern regions of China would boost up after the construction of Kashgar-Gwadar economic corridor. Pakistan and China have already signed a Memorandum of Understanding in this regard few days ago, it was learnt on Wednesday.

Deputy Director, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Gilgit, Sabz Ali Khan when contacted said that Kashgar-Gwadar economic corridor was going to change the fortune of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan in near future. He said that TDAP would make efforts towards motivating people to earn money through exporting different items. An official at TDAP's Karachi office said that China was focusing on boosting trade with its neighbouring countries including Pakistan, Afghanistan, India and Kyrgyzstan etc, for which it had planned to make Kashgar city an economical hub within seven years.

Raheel Rao, Focal Person, 'China Focus Cell', while talking to Business Recorder, said that TDAP's Director General Rabia Javeeria was concentrating on China as the country had an enormous trade potential. He said that the China Cell was established on the instructions of the Director General and it would monitor trade and economic activities between the two countries besides exploring new trade avenues in China.

He further said that Kashgar-Gwadar economic corridor would play a key role in boosting tourism sector of Gilgit-Baltistan, generating huge job opportunities for the local people. Sabz Ali Khan said that G-B was known for its fruit and vegetable varieties, which were also in great demand in China. "It would be a great opportunity for the G-B businesspeople to earn valuable income by exporting organic products to China," he added.

He further said that most people in G-B were engaged in conventional farming due to lack of awareness about modern techniques. The local people could generate good revenue if the farming system in the region was developed, he added. To a query, he said that transportation system in G-B was badly affected after the land sliding incident in Ata Abad, which turned the Hunza River into a huge artificial lake submerging roads and villages. Now the reconstruction work of roads had almost completed and the imports and exports activities through Sost border had resumed, he added.

All Day

Pakistan-China Economic corridor; a back bone connecting China with South Asia: Think Tank -- APP

BEIJING, Aug 1 (APP): Highlighting the importance of Pakistan-China Economic Corridor, a Chinese think tank has said this corridor will be the backbone that interconnects China with South Asia, and will play a significant role in weaving together the networks of trade and transportation in this area. It was back in 2006 that a proposal was tabled for building a "strategic economic corridor" with China. Seven years later, both countries signed a series of agreements and a memorandum of understanding (MoU), which officially kicked off the construction of the economic Corridor, writes Wu Zhaoli, assistant research fellow at the National Institute of International Strategy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in influential Global Times. Both the countries signed the agreement on the corridor, when Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif paid his first overseas visit to China early July.

This corridor has gone through a long but stable process from proposal to practice, mapping out requirements for further cooperation between the two neighboring countries.

China and Pakistan have maintained a long-term friendship and mutual trust, which has however largely focused on politics instead of economy.

However, this MoU about the economic corridor will rectify this lopsided practice to make sure the further cooperation between both countries develops in a comprehensive, stable and balanced manner.

Referring to India that holds a negative stance toward the corridor, Wu said that India should know that this corridor will have a positive influence on the economic development of Kashmir.

The economic corridor is a practical choice for Pakistan to fully tap Gwadar's potential.

Although still at an embryonic stage, it has started to function as a lever to skillfully deal with existing problems in this area, especially the demand to address issues such as poverty and turmoil.

Not only will it optimize the distribution of economic interests between China and Pakistan, but it will also aid to strike a balance of power in the region, Wu added.

All Day

Pak to get multiple benefits from China's optic fiber project -- APP

BEIJING, Aug 2 (APP): Pakistan will be greatly benefited in terms of security and revenue from the state of the art optic fiber project between Pakistan and China for which a prominent Chinese telecom firm "Huawei" has been assigned the task. The agreement to lay optic fiber between the two sides was signed during Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif official visit to China early July. A source at Huawei, a leading global information and communications technology (ICT) solutions provider told APP that based on the requirement and plan in contract, it prepares a plan to implement it section wise.

The optic fiber will be laid between Rawalpindi to Khunjarab, a distance of 820 KM, the source said.

The project will cost \$ 44 million and will be completed within a span of two years. From this project, Pakistan will get enormous benefits, the source said adding that at present, Pakistan's international connectivity with the world is through undersea cables SEA-ME-WE 3&4 and IMEWE, and Pakistan is connected through spurs only.

This dependency is not only a risk but also entails security concerns. The voice/data and internet traffic can be monitored and disturbed easily.

To offset such a threat, through this project, a link will be created between Pakistan and Trans-Asia Europe (TAE) cable in China, which would enable both Pakistan and China to have alternative routes for their international telecom traffic.

Successful implementation of the project would provide Pakistan with a direct telecom access to China and the Central Asian States.

On completion, the project will also facilitate trade, tourism and IT awareness in the region and generate economic opportunities particularly in Gilgit-Baltistan. Apart from security assurance, the project is expected to generate revenue, approximately Rs 1.5 billion in the first three years and, in the fourth year, the financial dividends are likely to grow.

At present, Pakistan's international connectivity with the world is through undersea cables SEA-ME-WE 3&4 and IMEWE, and Pakistan is connected through spurs only.

The climatic conditions warrants initiation of project from Sust to Khunjarab section on top priority due to a very limited time-period left available in summer the year.

However, other than this section, the project will be executed simultaneously in different sections (cities/towns).

On Huawei's contribution towards Pakistan social sector, since year 2002 up till now, it has cooperation with UTE Lahore Campus for setting up a Huawei-UET IT and telecommunications joint R & D center and training base.

In all Huawei contributed more than \$ 8 million to help train Pakistani talented youths. Total number is more than 3500 students.

In 2011, Huawei provided Cloud computing equipment to NUST and data equipment to UTE.

As regards the internet connectivity in China, an important characteristic of the Chinese internet is that online access routes are owned by the Chinese government, and private enterprises and individuals can only rent bandwidth from the state.

The major national networks, namely CSTNET, ChinaNet, CERNET and CHINAGBN, are the "backbone" of the mainland Chinese Internet. In addition, some telecom providers also prov

All Day

Pak to get multiple benefits from China's optic fibre project -- Daily Times

BEIJING: Pakistan will be greatly benefited in terms of security and revenue from the state of the art optic fiber project between Pakistan and China for which a prominent Chinese telecom firm 'Huawei' has been assigned the task.

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The major national networks, namely CSTNET, ChinaNet, CERNET and CHINAGBN, are the 'backbone' of the mainland Chinese Internet. In addition, some telecom providers also provide Internet services. However, public Internet services are usually provided by provincial telecom companies. app

All Day

\$44m Pakistan-China optic fibre project -- APP

BEIJING: Pakistan will greatly benefit in terms of security and revenue from the Pak-China optic fibre project, a source at the Chinese telecom firm Huawei said.

The agreement to lay optic fibre between the two sides was signed during Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif official visit to China in early July and Huawei has been assigned the task in this regard.

Talking to APP, the source said that based on the requirements and plan in contract, it prepares a plan to implement it section wise.

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On completion, the project will also facilitate trade, tourism and IT awareness in the region and generate economic opportunities particularly in Gilgit-Baltistan.—APP

All Day

Punjab signs deal with ZTE for cooperation in energy sector -- The Nation

LAHORE - An agreement was signed between Punjab government and prominent Chinese company in energy sector ZTE for cooperation in setting solar power plant, on Sunday, says a press release

Chief Minister Punjab Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Secretary Energy, President of Chinese company Yu Yong and other officials were present on the occasion.

Secretary Energy and Vice President of ZTE signed the document. Under the agreement, the Chinese company will set up a 500 megawatt solar power plant. Initially, the Chinese company will establish a 300 megawatt solar power plant which will later be extended to 500 megawatt capacity. ZTE will set up solar power plant in Quaid-i-Azam Solar Park Cholistan and the project will be completed within a year. Punjab government will extend all out assistant and facilities to the Chinese company for this purpose.

Addressing the ceremony, Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif said that Pakistan Muslim League-N government is taking speedy measures for resolving energy crisis and agreements are being reached with several Chinese companies for launching power generation projects while steps would be taken expeditiously for their implementation.

He said that the arrival of Chinese companies and investors to Pakistan after the visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to China is a good omen and investment by Chinese companies and investors in energy sector augurs well.

Shahbaz Sharif said that China is a trusted friend of Pakistan and has supported Pakistan in every hour of need. He said that the cooperation of China in energy sector is a glorious example of Pak-China friendship. The Chief Minister said that five memorandums of understanding were signed with Chinese company.

He said that agreements show that Pak-China friendship is higher than Himalayas, deeper than seas and sweeter than honey. He said that former rulers displayed criminal negligence by disregarding energy sector and therefore the nation is plunged in darkness today while agriculture, industrial and economic sectors are facing negative effects. He said that PML-N government made solution of energy crisis its top priority and steps are being taken on war footing for resolving this issue. He said that electricity is essential for investment in the country. He said that PML-N government will fulfill its promise made to the nation of resolving energy crisis. President ZTE, Yu Yong said that all out cooperation will be extended to Pakistan in energy sector and rapid progress will be made towards implementation of the agreement. Later, Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif hosted a dinner in honour of the members of ZTE delegation.

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has said that energy crisis has left a negative impact on economic and trade activities and the government is taking measures on war footing from the very first day for resolving this problem. He said that electricity is essential for foreign investment and prosperity of the country. He said that Punjab government has evolved a comprehensive roadmap for the speedy implementation of power generation projects and rapid progress is being made in this direction. He said that foundation stone of Quaid-i-Azam Solar Park to be set up over an area of 7500 acre in Cholistan will soon be laid which will not only bring about a revolution in solar energy sector but all out facilities will also be available to foreign investors.

All Day

CPEC will usher in new era of economy: Pak envoy -- Pakistan Today

BEIJING - Pakistan's Ambassador to China Masood Khalid on Tuesday said China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was network of road and rail links starting from China's Xinjiang to Pakistan's Gwadar port which would promote trade and economic activities in the region. Addressing a symposium organised by the Pakistan China Institute in collaboration with the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) in Beijing, the ambassador said the China-Pakistan economic corridor would transform Pakistan into a hub of trade and commerce as this project envisages establishing several economic zones and physical links connecting Pakistan and China as well as the region. He said that a task force and secretariat had been established while team of Pakistan would visit China soon for further discussion on this project. The ambassador said the CPEC was both a long-term and short-strategic plan of China Pakistan envisaged by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang. The China-Pakistan economic corridor was a mega project with a cluster of industrial parks and economic zones, he noted. He said that the visit of Chinese premier to Pakistan and reciprocating visit by the Pakistani prime minister in July 2013 showed the interest and strong political will of the two governments to implement this strategic project. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Pakistan China Institute, who led Pakistani delegation, highlighted the geo-strategic situation and emphasised that China was a driving force of the Asian century, adding that China-Pakistan economic corridor would initiate a new era of strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China. He said the road and rail links would further strengthen the existing bond of brotherhood. Speaking on this occasion, Dong Manyuan, Vice President CIIS, said China Pakistan Economic Corridor from Kashgar to Gwadar would integrate the economies of the two friendly countries. Lin Dajian from the NDRC highlighted the security issues and challenges that could impede the speed of project. She also added that the project would help bring investment and boost trade and commerce not only in China and Pakistan but also in the region. Ahmed Bilal, President PILDAT, and Muhammad Arif, Editor Nihao-Salam, were also part of the Pakistani delegation while the Chinese delegation consisted Dong Manyuan, Vice President China Institute of International Studies, Lin Dajian, Vice Director General, Department of International Cooperation, National Development and Reform Commission, Zhou Gang, former Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, Liu Pengfei, Department for Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC and Lan Jianxue, Li Qingyan, Wang Youming, Xu Hangtian, Zheng Ruixing, Research Fellows at CIIS. Other scholars also highlighted various aspects of China Pakistan corridor from the vision to political will, from feasibility to implementation and from opportunities to challenges. The participants were of the view that China Pakistan economic corridor could benefit new emerging regional cooperation in greater South Asia driven primarily by economy and energy, and building of pipelines and ports with roads rail infrastructure, all which can transform the lives and future of the region. - See more at: <http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2013/08/06/news/profit/cpec-will-usher-in-new-era-of-economy-pak-envoy/#sthash.jiregXIP.dpuf>

August 8, 2013

Thu

All Day

Economic Corridor to change fate of region -- Observer

Thursday, August 08, 2013 - EXPERTS at a symposium, jointly organized by Pakistan-China Institute and China Institute of International Studies, expressed the confidence that the proposed China Pakistan Economic Corridor, linking China's Xinjiang to Pakistan's Gwadar Port through rail and road, will promote trade and economic activities in the region. They rightly pointed out that the project has the potential to transform Pakistan into a hub of trade and commerce as it envisages establishing several economic zones and physical links connecting the two countries as well as the region.

The mega project, the idea of which was mooted by Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang, envisages a cluster of industrial parks and economic zones, and will also serve as beginning of a new era of strategic cooperation between Pakistan and the emerging economic super power of the world. The project is as big as China but given the interest and commitment of the Chinese leadership, it will surely translate into reality. It is this possibility that has apparently attracted attention of the enemies of Pakistan and China and they have started hatching conspiracies to compel the two countries to stop moving towards its implementation or at least delay it. The sudden upsurge in violence and acts of terrorism in Balochistan is not without reason and there is every likelihood that the forces whose interests would be hurt by this fantastic project have become instrumental in creating law and order situation. These forces are using Afghanistan as launch pad for activities aimed at destabilizing Pakistan, Iran and China and therefore, a joint strategy should be adopted to counter them. We would also urge leadership of Pakistan and China to expedite implementation of the project as it will truly be a game changer in the region.

All Day

China giving Pakistan a powerful hand -- Pakistan Today

Whether it's the \$6 billion that CWE Investment Corp would be investing in Kohala and Karot hydropower projects; the \$3 billion that Lightening Africa is creating as solar energy fund; the construction of a 930,000 MW power plant utilising sugarcane byproduct agreed by Shanghai Marine Diesel Engine Research Institute or the signing of the MoU for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, China has vowed to give Pakistan a powerful hand in a wide gamut of power generation manoeuvres. Furthermore, the planned transformation of Gwadar port from a treasure awaiting exploration to being polished to its true value is going ahead under Chinese supervision as well. Pakistan's "All Weather Friend" is helping its energy starved chum weather the storm and in turn expanding its fiscal hegemony over the region. Even so, the security concerns and the volatility of the regions wherein most of the construction work is taking place, still slashes a veritable question mark over the safety of the projects and even their feasibility. About this time last year, nine Chinese workers employed on the Gomal Zam Dam project by WAPDA were kidnapped that stopped the progress in the construction of the dam. The work had earlier hit a massive stumbling block when in October 2004 a few militants kidnapped two Chinese engineers who were involved in the project. With dams like the Gomal Zam Dam being constructed in the north west of Pakistan, within proximity of the Afghan border which is the hub of terrorist organisations in the country, and Gwadar itself located in Balochistan, where separatist organisations like the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) have made the security situation severely iffy, this powerful handshake between Pakistan and China doesn't herald a cakewalk by any stretch of the imagination. But since both the parties have so much to gain, their respective enthusiasm is understandable. After this emphatic triumph in the May elections, one of the first steps that Nawaz Sharif took after coming to the PM house was planning a trip to Beijing to hobnob with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang. The meeting with Chinese officials and energy firms has been peddled as a massive triumph on the energy front and a step in the right direction as far as overcoming the energy deficit in Pakistan is concerned. The National Power Policy that was sanctioned last month complemented the deals signed with the Chinese firms, since there was a lot of emphasis on utilising alternative energy sources in the new energy policy. And while positives for Pakistan in this Sino-Pak energy cooperation are pretty conspicuous, China has a lot to gain as well. The deals between the two countries aim to escalate the development of a trade corridor that links the Indian Ocean to Kashgar in Xingjaing. And the outlet for this corridor would be Gwadar Port. This "trade and energy corridor" would help China link itself to the Middle East. With refineries established at Gwadar, the oil from the Middle East would be refined and then transported to China, via an enhanced transport system. Within proximity of Central Asia and Strait of Hormuz, Gwadar can link China to three of the most pivotal regions in the world today: Central Asia, Middle East and South Asia. This would further cement China's position as the global economic and geo-strategic frontrunner, especially in the region. As mentioned above, for this plan to work for Pakistan and China, the security situation in the region is going to be the key. If Pakistan can somehow tame its militants and curb terrorism in the region, the Sino-Pak cooperation bodes well for the long term uplift of both the countries. The writer is Energy and Finance Correspondent, Pakistan Today. Email:khulduneshahid@gmail.com; Twitter @khuldune

All Day

Pak-China ties: Gawadar port one part of a larger plan -- The Express Tribune

"This port will be facilitating China's exports as well as Pakistan's own economic development and activities," Jadmani said. The port needs to be effectively utilised, and the operation is expected to pick up speed, he added.

"Clearly, the Pakistan-China relationship needs to be further enhanced for mutual benefit, and this is a project that would help us out," he said.

A "peaceful neighbourhood" including India and Afghanistan is what Pakistan prioritises in its diplomatic guidelines, Jadmani said.

He described bilateral cooperation in infrastructure projects as "salient", saying many Chinese engineers have given their lives for the Karakoram Highway that connects the two countries.

Bilateral trade reached more than \$12 billion last year, and Islamabad is "working in the direction" of raising this figure to \$15 billion by 2015.

China is a very "strong emerging market", he said.

During his visit to Pakistan in May, Premier Li Keqiang proposed helping Pakistan to cultivate 1,000 Chinese language teachers with the aim of facilitating people-to-people exchanges.

Jadmani said various projects contracted or operated by the Chinese in Pakistan had contributed to a growing enthusiasm for learning Mandarin. "If you know the language, it is very helpful to further cement the bond of friendship.

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ملکی معیشت کی ترقی گوادر پورٹ سے جڑی ہے“ -- ایکسپریس

عالمی تناظر میں دیکھا جائے تو بندرگاہیں کسی بھی ملک کی نہ صرف معاشی ترقی بلکہ دفاعی حوالے سے بھی بڑی اہمیت رکھتی ہیں۔

ہر ملک کی خواہش ہوتی ہے کہ اس کے پاس موجود سمندر کو زیادہ سے زیادہ استعمال میں لاکر بندرگاہیں بنائی جائیں اور اس سے معاشی و دفاعی فوائد اٹھائے جائیں۔ پاکستان نے ہمیشہ کوشش کی کہ اپنے سمندری پانیوں کو بہتر انداز میں استعمال میں لایا جائے۔ گوادر کی بندرگاہ بھی اسی سلسلے کی ایک کڑی ہے اور یہ بندرگاہ بڑی اہمیت کی حامل ہے۔ گوادر بندرگاہ کی اہمیت اور اس سے پاکستان کو حاصل ہونے والے فوائد اور پہلے موجود بندرگاہوں کو بہتر انداز میں زیادہ سے زیادہ مفید بنانے کے لئے موجودہ حکومت کی حکمت عملی جاننے کیلئے روزنامہ ایکسپریس نے وفاقی وزیر برائے پورٹ اینڈ شپنگ سینیٹر کامران مانیکل کے ساتھ ایک خصوصی نشست کا اہتمام کیا جس میں وفاقی وزیر پورٹ اینڈ شپنگ نے اپنی وزارت کے حوالے سے تفصیل سے اظہار خیال کیا، وفاقی وزیر کی گفتگو نذر قارئین ہے۔

پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی کا رازگوادر پورٹ میں مضمر ہے، چین کے پاس صرف گوادر پورٹ کو فنکشنل کرنے کے حقوق ہیں یہ اصل ملکیت پاکستان کے پاس ہی رہے گی، ماضی کی حکومتوں کی کرپشن کے باعث وزارت پورٹ اینڈ شپنگ کی کمر ٹوٹ چکی ہے ہمارے پاس صرف 3 اٹل ٹینکرز رہ گئے ہیں، مسلم لیگ ن کی حکومت اس وزارت کو اپنے پیروں پر کھڑا کرنے کیلئے دن رات کام کر رہی ہے اور بہت جلد 4 نئے بحری جہاز خرید رہے ہیں۔

پاکستان کی 97 فیصد ایکسپورٹ اینڈ امپورٹ پورٹ اینڈ شپنگ سے وابستہ ہے، اگر اس کو درست سمت میں لایا جائے تو سیر حاصل نتائج حاصل ہوسکتے ہیں۔ ملک کو معاشی بحران سے یہ وزارت نکال سکتی ہے۔ پچھلے دو ادوار میں یہ وزارت ایم کیو ایم کے پاس رہی ہے۔ مسلم لیگ ن کے پاس یہ وزارت موجودہ حکومت میں آئی ہے۔ اور ہم اس نتیجہ پر پہنچے ہیں کہ ملک کی معاشی حالت کو درست کرنے کیلئے اس وزارت کی بہت اہمیت ہے۔ ہم نے کچھ چیزوں پر فوکس کیا ہے، اس وقت اس وزارت میں پورٹ قاسم، کراچی پورٹ ٹرسٹ، پاکستان نیشنل کارپوریشن، باربر فشریز اور گوادر پورٹ شامل ہیں۔

ایک وقت تھا کہ پاکستان میں 89 بحری بیڑے تھے پوری دنیا میں ہماری ایک اہمیت تھی۔ افسوس کی بات ہے کہ اب یہ وقت آگیا ہے کہ پاکستان کے پاس صرف 3 اٹل ٹینکرز رہ گئے ہیں، ہماری کمر ٹوٹ چکی ہے، لیکن مسلم لیگ ن کی حکومت نے ملک کی معاشی صورتحال کو بہتر بنانے کا فیصلہ کر لیا ہے اور ہم بہت جلد 4 نئے اٹل ٹینکرز خریدنے جارہے ہیں۔ تجارت کو فروغ دینے کیلئے غیر ملکی سفیروں سے بات چیت جاری ہے اس حوالہ سے سری لنکن سفیر سے بات چیت ہوئی ہے، ہم ان کو آمادہ کر رہے ہیں کہ سری لنکا ہمارے جہازوں کے ذریعے تریڈ کرے۔

رواں ماہ سری لنکن تجارتی ٹیم پاکستان آرہی ہے۔ ہالینڈ کے سفیر گوادر گئے ہیں ان سے فشریز کے متعلق بات چیت ہوئی ہے، گوادر میں ٹائیگر پورن دنیا کی بہترین اور طاقت ور مچھلی ہے۔ ہالینڈ کے سفیر نے اس بات کا اعادہ کیا ہے کہ فٹ انڈسٹری کو فروغ دینے کیلئے ہمارے مچھیروں کو بیڑے دینے جائیں گے جس سے وہ شکار کریں گے۔ بیلجئم کے سفیر نے گوادر میں اٹل سٹوریج بنانے کا منصوبہ بنایا ہے اور ان کی کیپسٹی بلڈنگ کی جائے گی۔ وہ پیکنگ کے لئے پاکستان کو مشینیں فراہم کریں گے۔ اس سے پہلے پاکستان کی مچھلی یورپ تک نہیں پہنچتی ہم اپنی فٹ پراڈکٹ کو یورپی منڈی تک رسائی دلائیں گے، اس حوالہ سے بہت جلد ایم او یو سائن کریں گے جس کے بعد کروڑوں ڈالر زر مبادلہ پاکستان آئے گا۔ ملکی معیشت ترقی کرے گی اور پاکستان کو وزیراعظم نواز شریف کے ویژن کے مطابق ایشین ٹائیگر بنایا جائے گا۔

ہمارے پاس جہازوں میں ٹیکنیکل کام کرنیوالے لوگوں کی کمی ہے، جہازوں پر کام کرنیوالے لوگوں کی کیپسٹی بلڈنگ کیلئے انہیں بیرون ملک بھیجا جائے گا۔ کراچی اکیڈمی کو میرین یونیورسٹی کا درجہ دیا جا رہا ہے، جس کا جلد افتتاح ہوگا۔ ہمارے پاس کھلا اور گہرا سمندر ہے، پوری دنیا یہاں پر آکر سرمایہ کاری کرنا چاہتی ہے، اصل مسئلہ صرف ان کی تحفظ فراہم کرنا ہے اور تجارت کو بڑھانے کیلئے ضروری ہے کہ گوادر سے کاشغیر تک سڑک کی تعمیر ہو جائے گی تو تمام پورٹس فنکشنل ہوجائیں گی۔ گوادر پورٹ پاکستان کی ملکیت ہے چین کو صرف اسے فنکشنل کرنے کے حقوق دیئے گئے ہیں، اب تک 221 جہاز گوادر پر لنگر انداز ہوچکے ہیں، یہ آگے بڑھنے کی ایک کوشش ہے۔

تجارت کو بہت آگے تک بڑھانے کیلئے سڑک کی تعمیر اشد ضروری ہے، وہاں پر اٹل سٹی بن رہی ہے، یہاں سے مختلف ملکوں کو تیل سپلائی ہوگا اور ملک میں معاشی تبدیلی آئے گی، جہاں سے یہ اٹل گزرے گا اس کے ارد گرد اٹل ریفائنریاں بنیں گی۔ پاکستان کی ترقی کا راز گوادر پورٹ سے جڑا ہوا ہے لیکن ہمارے دشمن کو یہ بات برداشت نہیں ہے اس لئے وہ ملک میں دہشت گردی کروا رہے ہیں۔ مسلم لیگ ن کی حکومت نے فیصلہ کیا ہے کہ بلوچوں کے رائٹس دینے جائیں گے یہی وجہ ہے کہ اسی علاقہ سے وزیراعلیٰ بلوچستان کو لیاگیا ہے اب گوادر پورٹ کا چینز مین بھی بلوچستان سے لیا جا رہا ہے اور وہاں پر زیادہ کام کے مواقع بھی بلوچوں کے پاس ہوں گے۔

جب میں نے وزارت سنبھالی تو بہت سارے معاملات میں کرپشن اور بے ضابطگیوں سامنے آئیں ہیں جس پر ایکشن لیا گیا ہے ہم سے پہلے لیز پر پرانے شپ خریدے جارہے تھے جس کی پڈنگ ہم نے منسوخ کردی ہے اور اب نئے جہاز لیز پر خریدنے جارہے ہیں جن کی قیمت وہی ہوگی۔ اس منصوبہ کیلئے بلی کاپٹر خریدنے کا منصوبہ بھی ختم کر دیا گیا ہے ہمیں ریسکیو کیلئے بلی کاپٹر کی ضرورت نہیں ہمارے پاس بہترین ریسکیو ٹیمیں موجود ہیں۔ ہماری میرینز اور نیول فورسز بروقت پہنچ کر ریسکیو کا کام سرانجام دیتی ہیں۔ قوم کو اندھیروں سے نکالنے کیلئے ہمیں بولڈ فیصلے کرنا ہوں گے۔ ماضی میں بہرتی کئے گئے پورٹ قاسم پر 600 لوگ تنخواہیں لے رہے لیکن وہ کام پر نہیں آتے ہم حاضری کیلئے ہائیو میٹرکس سسٹم متعارف کروا رہے ہیں اب جو کام کرے گا اسی کو تنخواہ ملے گی۔

بیرونی اور اندرونی سرمایہ کاروں کو تحفظ دیں گے اس حوالہ سے پورٹ قاسم پر 1325 ایکڑ رقبہ پر انڈسٹریل زون بنایا جا رہا ہے اس علاقہ میں مکمل تحفظ ہوگا اور بہتہ خوری بھی نہیں ہوسکے گی اس کے علاوہ پورٹ قاسم پر ٹیکسٹائل سٹی کو بھی متعارف کرایا گیا ہے۔ تمام پورٹس کے بورڈ آف گورنرز کو تبدیل کیا جا رہا ہے ماضی میں بورڈ ممبروں کے ذریعے کرپشن کی گئی، نئے بورڈ ممبران میں اس کام کے متعلق ماہر لوگوں کو شامل کیا جائے گا اس حوالہ سے سمری وزیراعظم پاکستان کو بھیجی جارہی ہے۔ کرپٹ افسران کو فارغ کیا جائے

گا اور اس محکمہ کو کرپشن سے پاک کریں گے۔ کارگو ویلیج میں 70 طیارے روپے کی لاگت سے ہاربر برج بنائے جارہے ہیں، وہاں پر ٹرین کا ٹریک موجود ہے اگر چار انجن خرید لئے جائیں جن کی مالیت تقریباً 1 ارب بیس کروڑ روپے بنتی ہے تو مسئلہ حل ہوسکتا ہے اس منصوبہ میں وزارت ریلوے کو بھی شامل کیا جائیگا۔ پورٹ اینڈ شپنگ کے لاہور آفس میں عملہ 10 سال سے بغیر کام کے تنخواہیں موصول کر رہا ہے ان کیخلاف ایکشن لیا گیا ہے۔

پورٹ انڈسٹری اپنے وسائل خود پیدا کرتی ہے۔ وزیراعظم پاکستان کو گواہ پورٹ کیلئے ایک ارب روپے کی سماری بھیجی ہے جس سے پورٹ کی صفائی کی جائے گی کیونکہ بین الاقوامی قوانین کے تحت صفائی کا ایک معیار مقرر ہے جس کے بعد جرمانہ عائد کیا جاتا ہے۔ اب تمام ٹینڈر اور ٹھیکے شفاف طریقہ سے دینے جائیں گے اور اس میں میڈیا کو بھی شامل کیا جائے گا۔ شہر قائد میں کشت و خون قومی معیشت پر شب خون مارنے کے مترادف ہے۔ پاکستان درآمدات اور برآمدات میں گڑبڑ کا متحمل نہیں ہوسکتا۔ معاشی سرگرمیوں کی راہ میں کسی قسم کی رکاوٹ برداشت نہیں کی جائے گی۔ کراچی میں امن وامان کی صورتحال بہتر بنانے کیلئے سندھ حکومت اپنا اپنی کردار ادا کرے۔ پیپلز پارٹی شریسنده عناصر کی سرکوبی یقینی بنائے۔

ملک عزیز میں معاشی استحکام کاراستہ بلاشبہ کراچی میں قیام امن سے ہوکر جاتا ہے معیشت کی بحالی اور پائیداری وزیراعظم میاں نواز شریف کی قومی ترجیحات میں سرفہرست ہے۔ وزیراعظم میاں نواز شریف کے تاریخی دورہ چین کا براہ راست قومی معیشت پر انتہائی مثبت اثر پڑے گا۔ درآمدات اور برآمدات کیلئے ٹرانسپورٹ کی محفوظ آمدورفت پر سمجھوتہ نہیں کیا جاسکتا۔ میناپنی وزارت کی طرف سے کراچی بندرگاہ کے اطراف والی آبادیوں اور ماڑی پور روڈ کو ریڈ زون قرار دینے کیلئے وزیراعظم میاں نواز شریف کو باضابطہ تجویز پیش کروں گا کیونکہ اس نازک وقت میں ہمارا ملک قیمتی وقت اور دستیاب وسائل کا ضیاع برداشت نہیں کرسکتا۔ وزیراعظم میاں نواز شریف انٹرنیشنل مارکیٹ میں پاکستان کی ساکھ بحال اور مضبوط تر بنانے اور بیرونی سرمایہ کاروں کا اعتماد بحال کرنے کیلئے دن رات کوشاں ہیں۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان توانائی سمیت مختلف شعبوں میں ہونیوالے اٹھ معاہدے ملک و قوم کیلئے نوید انقلاب ہیں۔

وزیراعظم میاں نواز شریف دورہ چین کے دوران انتہائی سنجیدگی سے پاکستان کے مفادات کی وکالت کرتے ہوئے دوست ملک کے سرمایہ کاروں کا اعتماد بحال کرنے میں کامیاب رہے۔ ہمارے دل میاں نواز شریف اور میاں شہباز شریف کے ساتھ دھڑکتے ہیں۔ مسلم لیگ (ن) کی جہاندیدہ اور سنجیدہ قیادت ایک نئے جوش و جذبہ کے ساتھ پاکستان کو تعمیر و ترقی کی شاہراہ پر گامزن کرے گی۔ عوام کا تجربہ کار، مخلص اور اہل قیادت کو منتخب کرنا ان کے سیاسی شعور کا آئینہ دار ہے۔ پاکستان میں ایک نیا دور شروع ہونے پر عوام مبارکباد کے مستحق ہیں۔ 11 مئی کے دن ووٹ کی طاقت سے آنے والی تبدیلی چاروں صوبوں میں خوشحالی کا سنگ میل ہے۔ عوام کا مسلم لیگ (ن) کی قیادت اور اصولی سیاست پر اعتماد کا اظہار ہمارا سرمایہ افتخار ہے۔ مسلم لیگ (ن) عوام کی مشاورت اور شراکت سے پاکستان کی تقدیر بدل دے گی۔ عنقریب پاکستان سے اندھیرا چھٹ جائے گا اور اب ہمارے ہنرمند نوجوان بیروزگار نہیں رہیں گے۔

پاکستان میں اقلیتوں کے ساتھ کوئی امتیازی سلوک نہیں ہو رہا ہے، عیسائیوں، سکھوں سمیت تمام اقلیتوں کو برابر کے حقوق دئیے جارہے ہیں خاص طور مسلم لیگ ن اقلیتوں کے حقوق کی علمبردار ہ

All Day

BBC -- چین کو گواہ سے ملانے والی نئی شاہراہ کی منظوری

وزیراعظم میاں نواز شریف کی زیر صدارت ایک اعلیٰ سطحی اجلاس میں چین کو گواہ کے ساتھ منسلک کرنے والی نئی شاہراہ بنانے کے علاوہ بعض دیگر اہم شاہراہوں کی تعمیر کی اصولی منظوری دے دی گئی ہے۔ اسی بارے میں

پریس ریلیز کے مطابق منصوبہ بندی کمیشن میں ہونے والے اس اجلاس میں وزیر خزانہ اسحاق ڈار، منصوبہ بندی کے وفاقی وزیر احسن اقبال، وزیر اطلاعات پرویز رشید، وزیر ریلوے خواجہ سعد رفیق اور وزیراعظم کے مشیر طارق فاطمی شریک تھے۔

وزیراعظم کے دفتر سے جاری ہونے والے ایک اعلامیے کے مطابق جن نئی سڑکوں کی منظوری دی گئی ہے ان میں سر فہرست پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کے نام سے ایک نئی شاہراہ ہے جسے قراقرم ہائی وے کے متبادل کے طور پر بھی دیکھا جا رہا ہے۔ اس سڑک کو چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان مختصر اور زیادہ قابل اعتماد راستہ قرار دیا جا رہا ہے۔

خنجراب کے مقام سے شروع ہونے والی یہ سڑک قراقرم ہائی وے کے روایتی راستے کے بجائے جلاس، بابو سر ٹاپ، کاغان، ناران اور بالاکوٹ سے ہوتی ہوئی مانسہرہ پہنچے گی۔

وزیراعظم نے بابو سر کے مقام پر سارا سال اس سڑک کو قابل استعمال بنانے کے لیے سرنگ بنانے کی بھی منظوری دی ہے۔

اس سڑک پر فاصلہ مزید کم کرنے کی غرض سے وزیراعظم نے حویلیاں اور اسلام آباد کے درمیان ایک نئی سڑک بنانے کی ہدایت بھی کی ہے۔

وزیراعظم نے اسی شاہراہ سے ایک ذیلی سڑک بھی تعمیر کرنے کی منظوری دی جو گڑھی حبیب اللہ سے ہوتی ہوئی، بالاکوٹ اور مظفر آباد کو ملانے گی۔

اجلاس میں مظفر آباد اور میرپور کے درمیان بھی ایک سڑک بنانے کی منظوری دی گئی جو ان دونوں شہروں کا فاصلہ ڈیڑھ سو کلومیٹر کم کرنے کے علاوہ انہیں دینہ کے مقام پر جی ٹی روڈ سے بھی منسلک کر دے گی۔

وزیراعظم کو کراچی لاہور موٹروے کے روٹ میں ترمیم کے بارے میں بھی بریفنگ دی گئی جس کے مطابق اب ایم ٹو نامی یہ سڑک خانیوال، ملتان، سکھر، خیرپور اور دادو سے بھی گزرے گی۔

وزیراعظم نے پاک چین اقتصادی شاہراہ، انڈس ہائی وے، موٹرویز اور جی ٹی روڈ کے درمیان رابطہ سڑکیں بنانے کی بھی ہدایت کی۔

بیان کے مطابق وزیراعظم نے ان شاہراہوں کی تعمیر کے دوران ماحولیاتی آلودگی کو بھی کم سے کم رکھنے کی ہدایت کی۔

All Day

Jang -- وزیراعظم نے پاک چائنا گواہ راہداری منصوبے کی منظوری دے دی

وزیراعظم نواز شریف نے پاک چائنا گواہ راہداری منصوبے کی منظوری دے دی ہے، ان کا کہنا ... اسلام آباد ہے کہ منصوبے سے خطے کی تقدیر بدل جائے گی۔ وزیراعظم نواز شریف کی زیر صدارت اسلام آباد میں اعلیٰ سطح کا اجلاس ہوا، جس میں پاک چائنا گواہ راہداری منصوبے کی منظوری دے دی گئی۔ اجلاس سے خطاب میں وزیراعظم نواز شریف کا کہنا تھا کہ منصوبے سے خطے میں معاشی سرگرمیوں میں اضافہ ہوگا اور خطے کی تقدیر بدل جائے گی۔ وزیراعظم نے ہدایت کی کہ منصوبے کو مزید مؤثر اور کم لاگت بنایا جائے اور بابو سر ٹاپ کے علاقے سے سرنگ اور شاہراہ کی تعمیر کا کام جلد از جلد شروع کیا جائے۔

All Day

Pak-China Trade Corridor: Prime Minister approves proposed alignment -- BR

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Friday terming the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor as future of the country said it will provide connectivity with the Central Asian Republics and make it a regional hub for transit trade.

Chairing a meeting to discuss the Trade Corridor from Kashgar to Khunjerab and Gwadar, the Prime Minister, in principle approved the proposed alignment of the Corridor, with directions to further evaluate the proposal in terms of time and cost efficiency, after a detailed briefing.

The meeting attended by Minister for Finance Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Information Pervaiz Rashid, Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafiq, Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatmi and other officials, also discussed an alternative and shorter route along the Karakoram Highway, connecting Chilas with Mansehra through the Babusar Top.

Prime Minister directed that this route should be developed on priority and said a tunnel can be made across the Babusar top to make it accessible throughout the year.

He directed that the route be connected with Muzaffarabad through a road from Balakot and Garhi Habibullah. The distance must be reduced by building connecting bridges and tunnels by using latest technologies and equipment, the Prime Minister said.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also directed to prepare feasibility for constructing a road between Hawalian and Islamabad to provide a shorter route to Islamabad to commuters from Gilgit, Mansehra and Abbottabad.

The Premier stressed the need for mitigating environmental impacts during the construction of these roads.

The meeting also approved construction of Muzaffarabad - Mirpur road that will reduce the distance between the two cities by 150 kms and give Mirpur a direct access to G.T road at Dina.

During the briefing the Prime Minister was told that the alignment for Lahore-Karachi Motorway will start from Babo Sabo Interchange on M-2 and connect with Karachi passing through Khanewal, Multan, Sukkur, Khairpur and Dadu.

Addressing the meeting, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also directed provision of inter connectivity and linkages between Pakistan Economic Corridor, Indus Highway, Motorways and Grand Trunk Road to provide impetus to the economic activity in the country and easier travel facilities to the commuters.

All Day

تیز رفتار ترقی میں ”چہیتے بھائی“ ہمسفر۔ گوادر سے کاشغر

ہمسفر۔ گوادر سے کاشغر ’چہیتے بھائی‘ تیز رفتار ترقی میں

اسلام آباد (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) پاکستان نے برق رفتار ترقی کا خواب شرمندہ تعبیر کرنے اور گوادر تا کاشغر سبک رفتار کیلئے نئی شاہراہ بنانے کا فیصلہ کیا جس کی باقاعدہ منظوری بھی دیدی گئی ہے۔ یہ منظوری وزیراعظم میان نواز شریف کی زیر صدارت ایک اعلیٰ سطحی اجلاس میں دی گئی ہے۔ چین کو پاکستان کے ایک آخری کونے گوادر سے منسلک کرنے والی نئی شاہراہ بنانے کی منظوری کیلئے منعقد ہونے والے اجلاس نے کچھ دیگر اہم شاہراہ بنانے کی بھی منظوری دی ہے۔ وزیرخزانہ اسحاق ڈار، منصوبہ بندی کے وفاقی وزیر احسن اقبال، وزیر اطلاعات پرویز رشید، وزیر ریلوے خواجہ سعد رفیق اور وزیراعظم کے مشیر طارق فاطمی بھی اجلاس میں شریک تھے۔ بی بی سی نے سرکاری ذرائع کے حوالے سے بتایا ہے کہ منظور کی جانے والی سڑکوں میں پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کے نام سے ایک نئی شاہراہ سر فہرست ہے جو قراقرم ہائی وے کے متبادل کے طور پر بھی دیکھی جا رہی ہے۔ اس سڑک کو چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان مختصر اور زیادہ قابل اعتماد راستہ قرار دیا جا رہا ہے۔ خنجراب کے مقام سے شروع ہونے والی یہ سڑک چلاس، بابو سر تاپ، کاغان، ناران اور بالاکوٹ سے ہوتی ہوئی مانسہرہ پہنچے گی جبکہ وزیراعظم نے یہ سڑک سارا سال قابل استعمال بنانے کیلئے بابو سر کے مقام پر سرنگ بنانے کی منظوری بھی دی ہے۔ اس سڑک پر فاصلہ مزید کم کرنے کی غرض سے وزیراعظم نے حویلیاں اور اسلام آباد کے درمیان ایک نئی سڑک بنانے کی ہدایت بھی کی ہے، وزیراعظم نے اسی شاہراہ سے ایک ذیلی سڑک بھی تعمیر کرنے کی منظوری دی جو گڑھی حبیب اللہ سے ہوتی ہوئی،

بالاکوٹ اور مظفر آباد کو ملانے گی۔ اجلاس میں مظفر آباد اور میرپور کے درمیان بھی ایک سڑک بنانے کی منظوری دی گئی جو ان دونوں شہروں کا فاصلہ ڈیڑھ سو کلومیٹر کم کرنے کے علاوہ انہیں دینہ کے مقام پر جی ٹی روڈ سے بھی منسلک کر دے گی۔ وزیراعظم کو کراچی لاہور موٹروے کے روٹ میں ترمیم کے بارے میں بھی بریفنگ دی گئی جس کے مطابق اب ایم ٹیو نامی یہ سڑک خانیوال، ملتان، سکھر، خیرپور اور دادو سے بھی گزرے گی۔ وزیراعظم نے پاک چین اقتصادی شاہراہ، انڈس ہائی وے، موٹرویز اور جی ٹی روڈ کے درمیان رابطہ سڑکیں بنانے کی بھی ہدایت کی۔

All Day

Sach TV -- گوادر کا کاشغر سے ملاپ، پاک چین تجارتی راہداری منصوبے کی منظوری

وزیراعظم محمد نواز شریف نے گوادر کو خنجراب کے راستے کاشغر سے ملانے کے پاک چین تجارتی راہداری کے مجوزہ منصوبے کی منظوری دے دی ہے۔

وزیراعظم کی زیر صدارت اجلاس میں پاک چین تجارتی راہداری منصوبے، شاہراہ قراقرم کے ساتھ چلاس کو بابوسر ٹاپ کے راستے مانسہرہ سے ملانے کے لیے متبادل راستے پر غور کیا گیا۔ اجلاس نے مظفر آباد، میرپور روڈ تعمیر کرنے کی بھی منظوری دی، جس سے ایک سو پچاس کلومیٹر فاصلہ کم ہو جائے گا، میرپور کو دینہ سے جی ٹی روڈ تک براہ راست رسائی مل جائے گی۔ اجلاس میں لاہور، کراچی موٹروے کا کام ایم ٹیو پر بابوصاحبو انٹرچینج سے شروع کرنے پر بریفنگ دی گئی، وزیراعظم نے بابوسر ٹاپ پر سارا سال رستہ کھلا رکھنے کیلئے سرنگ تعمیر کرنے سمیت سڑک کو بالاکوٹ اور گڑھی حبیب اللہ سے مظفر آباد تک ملانے کی ہدایت کی، وزیراعظم نے گلگت، مانسہرہ اور ایبٹ آباد کیلئے اسلام آباد اور حویلیاں کے درمیان سڑک کی تعمیر کے احکامات جاری کئے۔

All Day

Making Pakistan true of trade -- Frontier Post

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, in a meeting held in Islamabad on Friday, approved a proposed alignment of the Pak-China Trade Corridor starting from Kashgar to Khunjerab and Gwadar that, he believed, will make Pakistan a hub of transit trade in the region. The proposed 2,000-kilometre road and rail link connecting Chinese city Kashgar to Pakistani seaport of Gwadar is likely to cost \$18 billion. Apart from connecting two neighboring states, the proposed transit trade route also envisages several economic zones in various cities that otherwise are relatively under-developed as compared to the rest of the country.

Taking keen interest in the new international trade link, the Prime Minister directed further evaluation of the proposal in terms of time and cost efficiency. In the given geo-political situation, the project, no doubt, can guarantee a new lease of life to the fragile stability of the country. Connecting China, Central Asian Republics and Afghanistan with Pakistan may form a new regional economic bloc that will change fortune of millions of the people living in extreme poverty. Pakistan, striving hard to manage its tattered economy, is likely to struggle in coping with the massive outlay of the project. The expected cost of the project is far bigger than the total foreign reserves that Pakistan carries today.

To meet the financial constraints associated with the execution of the project, the country had to rely either on the international financial institutions, or had to form consortium with partners or the beneficiaries of the project. In the given political scenario, the project may hit the snags, and to avoid the hiccups, political leadership may have to stand a test of its life. It had to tread carefully in managing the finances.

Apart from the Pak-China Economic Corridor, an alternate and shorter route along KKH through Babusar Top, construction of Muzaffarabad - Mirpur Road, Lahore-Karachi Motorway and many other link roads had also been discussed in the meeting. The agenda to develop road network envisaged by the federal government seems a bit ambitious if not exaggerated because the serious financial crunch the government facing today has jeopardized provision of basic amenities like power, education, health-care and clean drinking water to the masses. Hence the construction of extensive road network is a difficult proposition. In the previous term, the PML-N constructed an expensive Lahore-Rawalpindi Motorway that consumed substantial amount of foreign reserves piled up mainly with remittances of the expatriate Pakistanis that was then termed as the robbery in the State Bank of Pakistan that works under the Constitutional guarantee. Pakistan got the motorway but in the absence of basic necessities, the country's economy had been derailed, forcing more people to live below the extreme poverty-level. The GDP growth rate has become stagnant particularly it is considered in proportion with the rate of population growth. Motorways and highways do improve the interconnectivity and linkages that provide easier travel facilities to commuters but it does not substantiate efforts to run the industry smoothly and efficiently that well and truly provides job opportunity for the masses.

Too much reliance on the foreign financial institutions and even on the multi-national companies plunged the members of the ASEAN in late 90s into severe economic crisis. Hence Pakistan should not do too much experimentation rather it must rely on improving its indigenous resources to attain economic stability and the development. For the sustainable economy and prosperity, the government should first strive for maintaining law and order, eliminating extremism and militancy as no foreign investment is forthcoming unless the country guarantees security and protection to the life and property.

The harsh taxation without ensuring judicious return can render the government unpopular that ultimately may derail the system for which the masses have offered huge sacrifices. Thus the energies should be spent on the issues of the prime concern at the earliest that can make Pakistan a true hub of trade and commerce rather than targeting transit trade.

Nawa-e-Waqat -- چین کی سب سے بڑی تعمیراتی کمپنی کے وفد کا گوادر پورٹ کا دورہ

چین کی سب سے بڑی تعمیراتی کمپنی کے وفد کا گوادر پورٹ کا دورہ

اسلام آباد (ریاض اختر/خصوصی رپورٹر) پاکستان کی طرف سے گوادر کو چین کے سپرد کرنے کے تاریخی کے (COPHC) معاہدے کے بعد چین کی سب سے بڑی تعمیراتی کمپنی چائنا اوورسیز پورٹ ہینڈلنگ لمیٹڈ سربراہ کی قیادت میں چینی وفد نے گوادر پورٹ کا روزہ دورہ کیا۔ دورے کے دوران وفد نے پورٹ ایریا اور نان پورٹ ایریا کی صورتحال کا جائزہ لیا۔ باخبر ذرائع کے مطابق پاکستان چین کے درمیان ہونے والے معاہدے کے تحت چینی کمپنی 40 سال تک پورٹ ایریا کی تعمیر و ترقی اور لینڈ سکیورٹی کے تناظر میں انقلابی اقدامات کرے گی۔ چینی وفد آئندہ چند ہفتوں میں گوادر ٹویلپمنٹ کے حوالے سے حتمی سفارشات سے وزارت پورٹس اینڈ شپنگ کو آگاہ کریگا۔ اس سے قبل جمعہ المبارک کو پورٹس اینڈ شپنگ منسٹری میں جوائنٹ سیکرٹری ڈاکٹر پرویز عباس کی قیادت میں، چینی وفد اور وزارت داخلہ کے نمائندوں کی مشترکہ میٹنگ ہوئی۔ دو گھنٹے پر محیط رہنے والی اس غیر معمولی میٹنگ میں پاکستانی حکام نے مہمان وفد سے معاہدے کے تحت پورٹ ایریا جس کی تعمیر و ترقی اور سکیورٹی کی ذمہ داری چینی کمپنی کے ذمہ ہے۔ ایف سی بریگیڈنر اور پولیس یونٹ کی موجودگی اور فرائض کی بارے میں آگاہ کیا گیا۔ یہ بھی بتایا گیا آپریشنل سکیورٹی پلان کے حوالے سے دونوں فورسز کی خدمات کا معاوضہ چینی کمپنی کو ادا کرنا پڑیگا۔ وفد سے کمرشل پلان طلب کیا گیا ہے جس کے تحت کام کی نوعیت پر سکیورٹی معاملات طے کئے جا سکیں۔ وزارت داخلہ کے نمائندوں نے مہمان وفد کو ممکنہ سکیورٹی پر وفاقی و صوبائی حکومتوں کی طرف سے مکمل تعاون کی یقین دہانی کرائی۔ وزارت پورٹس اینڈ شپنگ نے کاشغر سے گوادر تک اقتصادی کوریڈور کے لئے وزارت مواصلات سے مشاورت کی بھی تجویز دی۔ میٹنگ میں گوادر پورٹ اتھارٹی کے چیئرمین درانی خان بھی موجود تھے جنہوں نے مختلف امور پر بریف کیا۔ چینی وفد کراچی سے خصوصی چارٹر طیارے کے ذریعے گوادر پہنچا تھا۔

All Day

Chinese team visits Gwadar port -- Dawn

QUETTA: A high-level delegation of the China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) headed by its chairman visited Gwadar on Monday to review arrangements for making the port fully functional.

The six-member delegation reached Gwadar aboard a special plane where they were received by officials of the Gwadar Port Authority and local administration.

Strict security measures were made for the visit of the Chinese delegation.

Pakistan has already handed over the task of handling Gwadar Port to the CHEC. The company which is responsible to make the port fully functional took over it at the beginning of this year.

Sources said that the CHEC delegation held a meeting with the officials of Gwadar Port Authority in which security and other issues were discussed.

They said the meeting also reviewed the pace of work on the construction of roads which would link the Gwadar Port with coastal highway.

The sources said that the Chinese company would soon start work for making the port fully functional and according to the plan warehouses, an export processing zone and other facilities would be added to the port.

The government has already agreed to allot required land for these purposes.

After the meeting, members of the CHEC delegation visited the port.

The delegation was comprised of CHEC chairman Mr Lee, vice-president Mr Tang, manager investment Mr Young, senior official of port operation Mr Lio and senior officials Mr Wang and Mr Wahoo.

The Chinese delegation will soon visit Gwadar again to finalise measures for starting work to make the port fully functional.

All Day

Oil pipeline: Chinese team arriving to hold crucial talks -- Tribune Biz

Oil pipeline: Chinese team arriving to hold crucial talks

Pakistan and China are set to engage in crucial talks this week on laying an oil pipeline from Gwadar Port to western China – an attempt that will allow Beijing to diversify and speed up import of crude oil.

A Chinese team is expected to reach Islamabad on August 22 to hold talks on energy issues including the oil pipeline, sources say. China had expressed interest in investing in Gwadar after Pakistan handed over control of the port to Beijing. The negotiations will be the follow-up to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to Beijing in early July, when he floated the idea of constructing an oil pipeline from Gwadar Port to western China for the transport of oil.

"Now, the two sides will discuss modalities of the project and undertaking a feasibility study to assess technical and financial viability of the pipeline," an official said.

Later, officials said, the oil pipeline could be extended and connected with Iran which has already offered to lay a pipeline from its territory to Gwadar for supply of crude oil.

Iran had also announced its intention to set up an oil refinery with oil production capacity of 400,000 barrels per day at Gwadar Port during the tenure of previous government.

"This proposal may be feasible after the Chinese take operational control of Gwadar Port," the official said, adding Gwadar was quite close to the Persian Gulf from where nearly 40% of the world's oil supply passes.

According to the officials, China meets 50% of its oil demand through imports from the Middle East. Oil supplies come via Dubai-Shanghai-Urumqi route covering over 10,000 kilometres.

“Crude oil processed and refined at the Gawdar oil refinery can be exported and transported to Urumqi through the shortest possible route – Dubai-Gwadar-Urumqi covering about 3,600 kilometers – by laying an oil pipeline through the envisaged energy corridor up to western China via Karakoram Highway and Khunjrab bypass,” the official said.

Hurdles in the way like high altitude, freezing temperatures and a difficult terrain can be overcome with the help of technological advancements. Many countries have successfully completed similar pipeline projects under extreme conditions and at high altitude such as Atacama gas pipeline, Trans-Alaska pipeline and Trans-Asia gas pipeline.

Coastal Oil Refinery

China will also discuss the feasibility of setting up an oil refinery at Gwadar in talks with Pakistani authorities. Islamabad has already pressed for reviving the stalled Coastal Oil Refinery project, which had been shelved by China in 2009-10 after the control of Gwadar Port was given to Singapore Port Authority. Global recession proved another stumbling block in the way of resuming work on the project.

Coastal Oil Refinery, which was designed to process up to 60,000 barrels of crude oil a day, was part of China's plan to invest \$12 billion in multiple projects in Pakistan.

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All Day

-- گوادر پورٹ معاہدے سے بلوچستان میں ترقی کی نئی راہیں کھلیں گی -- Daily Pakistan

گوادر پورٹ معاہدے سے بلوچستان میں ترقی کی نئی راہیں کھلیں گی

س و لاہور (سپیشل رپورٹر) پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی کے مرکزی سیکرٹری جنرل اور سینیٹ کے لیڈر آف دی ہا س لاہور کے وجہانگیر بدر نے گوادر پورٹ کو چین کے حوالے سے معاہدے کا خیر مقدم کیا ہے۔ بلاول با مے ڈے افس سے جاری ہے ان میں انہوں نے کہا کہ اس معاہدے سے بلوچستان میں ترقی کی نئی راہیں کھلیں گی جس سے لاکھوں کی تعداد میں روزگار کے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے اور گوادر دنیا کی مصروف ترین بندر گاہوں کے باوجود جمہوری حکومت نے زمین شامل ہوجائے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بعض بین الاقوامی طاقتوں کے دبا ایک ایسا دور رس فیصلہ کیا ہے جس سے پاکستان کے معاشی اور سلامتی مفادات کو مستقبل میں زبردست فروغ حاصل ہو گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ مقام افسوس ہے کہ پچھلی حکومت نے گوادر پورٹ کو سنگاپور کی ایک شپنگ کمپنی کو دیدیا جس نے طویل عرصے تک اس بندر گاہ کے توسیعی منصوبوں پر معاہدے کے باوجود کوئی سرمایہ کاری نہیں کی جس سے گوادر پورٹ کی معاشی افادیت پر سوال اٹھنے شروع ہو گئے۔ انہوں نے کہا چین کی حکومت کے تعاون سے گوادر پورٹ پراجیکٹ دوبارہ زندہ ہو گیا ہے اور یہ پاکستان کی ترقی میں اہم کردار ادا کرنے لگی۔

All Day

MoU for Punjab-China Garments industrial zone signed -- The Nation
MoU for Punjab-China Garments industrial zone signed

LAHORE - An MoU signing ceremony between Punjab government and China Textile & Apparel Council was held here on Wednesday for the promotion of cooperation in textile, garments and knitting industry. Under the agreement, Punjab-China Garments Industrial Zone would be set up in Punjab where Chinese investors will establish garments and knitting industries. Punjab Industrial Estate Development and Management Company and China Knitting Industry Association will extend cooperation for the promotion of garments and knitting industry. Secretary Industry Irfan Ali on behalf of Punjab government while representative of China Knitting Industry Association signed the agreement. Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Vice President and Secretary General of CNTAC Gao Yong, Assistant President and Chairman China Industrial Association Yang Shibin, other office-bearers, Chairman Planning & Development, Secretaries of Industry, Finance and Information Departments, Vice Chairman Punjab Investment Board and other concerned officials were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Shahbaz Sharif said that vast opportunities of investment in garments industry exist in Pakistan. He said that Pakistan and China are reliable friends and this great friendship has stood in every hour of trial. The Chief Minister said that with the establishment of industrial zone, Pakistani youth would get an opportunity to benefit from Chinese expertise in textile sector. He said that all possible facilities would be provided to Chinese investors for investment in Pakistan. Shahbaz Sharif disclosed that an investment conference is going to be held in China next month in which a delegation from Punjab will also participate. Vice President CNTAC Gao Yong said that Pak-China friendship has always stood in test of time. He said that China and Pakistan are strategic partners. He said that we would motivate Chinese companies to invest in special industrial zone in Punjab. He said that this industrial zone will play an important role for further promoting Pak-China friendship.

All Day

Urdu Times -- کاشغر اور گواد رابداری سے دنیا کا مستقبل وابستہ ہے

کاشغر اور گواد رابداری سے دنیا کا مستقبل وابستہ ہے

اسلام آباد : وزیراعظم میاں نواز شریف نے کہا کہ کاشغر اور گواد اقتصادی راہ داری سے دنیا کا مستقبل وابستہ ہے اس منصوبے سے دنیا کی مصنوعات کی برآمدات میں وقت کی بچت ہو گی اس منصوبے سے خطے کے تین ارب عوام کو بھی فائدہ حاصل ہو گا۔ میڈیا رپورٹس کے مطابق وزیراعظم میاں نواز شریف نے کاشغر گواد راہ داری کے منصوبے پر بریفنگ دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ حالیہ چین کے دورے میں کاشغر گواد اقتصادی راہ داری منصوبے پر دستخط ہوئے اور چین کے وفد پیر کو اقتصادی راہ داری منصوبے کا جائزہ لینے کیلئے پاکستان پہنچے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ کاشغر گواد منصوبہ پاکستان کی تاریخ میں انتہائی اہمیت کا حامل ہے اور اس منصوبے کے تحت خطے کی تین ارب آبادی کو فائدہ حاصل ہو گا وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ اس وقت دنیا کا مستقبل کاشغر گواد اقتصادی راہ داری سے وابستہ اور منصوبے سے دنیا کی مصنوعات کی برآمدات میں وقت کی بچت ہو گی انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ منصوبے سے بالخصوص بلوچستان میں معاشی ترقی ہوگی بلکہ یہ منصوبہ گلگت بلتستان سمیت چار صوبوں کو بھی ملانے گا وزیراعظم نواز شریف نے کہا کہ گواد کو بانگ کانگ کی طرز پر فری پورٹ کا درجہ دیا جاسکتا ہے اور گواد کی بندرگاہ اپنی جغرافیائی محل وقوع کی وجہ سے بھی انتہائی اہمیت کا حامل ہے وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ گواد کیلئے قوانین میں تبدیلی کرنا پڑی تو کریں گے انہوں نے کہا کہ ہمیں توانائی سمیت دہشت گردی کے مسائل کا سامنا ہے اور ہمیں چیلنجز سے نمٹنا ہو گا انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ وہ کراچی اور لاہور میں انٹر گرانوٹ میٹرو کے حوالے سے چین سے بات چیت کر چکے ہیں اور اس حوالے سے چین نے بھی دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا ہے۔

News Cate

- See more at: <http://www.urdutimes.com/content/51226#sthash.Sb4Dwuun.dpuf>

All Day

Islam Times -- گواد پورٹ کو ہانگ کانگ کی طرح فری پورٹ کا درجہ دیا جاسکتا ہے۔

اسلام ٹائمز۔ وزیراعظم میاں محمد نواز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ گواد پورٹ کو ہانگ کانگ کی طرح فری پورٹ کا درجہ دیا جاسکتا ہے۔ چین نے کراچی اور لاہور میں انٹر گرانوٹ میٹرو منصوبے میں دلچسپی ظاہر کی ہے۔ اسلام آباد میں سینئر صحافیوں سے بات کرتے ہوئے وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ جہاں بھی جاتے ہیں وہاں پاکستان کی سکیورٹی پر سب سے زیادہ سوال ہوتے ہیں۔ دہشت گردی اور توانائی بحران جیسے مسائل سے نمٹنا ہے۔ دنیا میں بہت سے معاملات بات چیت سے حل کیے گئے ہیں۔ وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ گواد منصوبے سے پورے خطے کو فائدہ ہوگا۔ اگر گواد کو فری پورٹ بنایا جائے تو بہت فائدہ ہوگا۔ گواد پورٹ قوانین میں تبدیلی کی جاسکتی ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ گواد کو وہی حیثیت دی جاسکتی ہے جو ہانگ کانگ کو دی گئی ہے۔ ہانگ کانگ میں غیر ملکیوں کو کام کرنے کے لیے خصوصی درجہ دیا گیا ہے

All Day

گواد فری پورٹ بننے کی مکمل صلاحیت رکھتا ہے، اقتصادی رابداری بلوچستان کی ترقی**Nawa-e-Waqat -- میں سنگ میل ثابت ہو گی: وزیراعظم**

گواد فری پورٹ بننے کی مکمل صلاحیت رکھتا ہے، اقتصادی رابداری بلوچستان کی ترقی میں سنگ میل ثابت ہو گی: وزیراعظم

اسلام آباد (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) وزیراعظم میاں نواز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ گواد پورٹ میں فری پورٹ بننے کی پوری صلاحیت ہے، اگر گواد کو فری پورٹ بنایا جائے تو خطے کی تین ارب آبادی بالخصوص بلوچستان کو بہت فائدہ ہو گا۔ وزیراعظم نواز شریف کی زیر صدارت اقتصادی رابداری سے متعلق اجلاس ہوا جس میں کاشغر سے گواد تک اقتصادی رابداری سے متعلق وزیراعظم کو بریفنگ دی گئی۔ اجلاس کے بعد میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے وزیراعظم نواز شریف نے کہا کہ دنیا کا مستقبل کاشغر گواد رابداری منصوبے سے وابستہ ہے، گواد منصوبے کا فائدہ پورے خطے کو پہنچے گا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ گواد میں خلیجی بندرگاہوں اور دہلی پورٹ سے زیادہ صلاحیت ہے اور گواد فری پورٹ بننے کی پوری صلاحیت رکھتا ہے، اگر گواد کو فری پورٹ بنا دیا جائے تو اس سے خطے کی تین ارب آبادی کو فائدہ ہو گا۔ وزیراعظم نے بتایا کہ چین کے دورے میں کاشغر گواد رابداری کے منصوبے پر دستخط ہوئے جبکہ چین چند سالوں میں اس کی لاگت بھی ریکور کر سکتا ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ کاشغر گواد رابداری سے برآمدات کو فروغ ملے گا جبکہ یہ رابداری بلوچستان کی ترقی میں سنگ میل ثابت ہو گی۔ میاں نواز شریف نے کہا کہ کاشغر گواد اقتصادی رابداری کا جائزہ لینے کیلئے چین وفد پیر کے روز پاکستان آئے گا۔ وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ گواد کو وہی حیثیت دی جا سکتی ہے جو ہانگ کانگ کو دی گئی ہے۔

All Day

گواد کو ہانگ کانگ جیسی حیثیت دی جا سکتی ہے، نواز شریف

گواد کو ہانگ کانگ جیسی حیثیت دی جا سکتی ہے، نواز شریف

اسلام آباد: وزیراعظم محمد نواز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ گواد، دہلی اور سنگا پور جیسی صلاحیت رکھتا ہے اور غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کی ترغیب کیلئے اسے ہانگ کانگ جیسی خصوصی حیثیت دی جاسکتی ہے۔

وہ جمعہ کو وزیراعظم آفس میں کاشغر سے گواد تک اقتصادی رابداری پر غور کیلئے منعقدہ اجلاس سے خطاب کر رہے تھے۔

اجلاس کے دوران وزیراعظم نے کراچی اور پشاور کے درمیان موجودہ ریلوے ٹریک کو دو ارب 70 کروڑ ڈالر

کی لاگت سے اپ گریڈ کرنے کی اصولی منظوری دی۔ دو سالہ منصوبے کے تحت اس ٹریک پر 120 کلومیٹر فی گھنٹہ کی رفتار سے چلنے والی ٹرینیں چل سکیں گی۔

اس سے کراچی سے لاہور کے درمیان سفر 18 گھنٹے سے کم ہو کر 12 گھنٹے اور کراچی سے پشاور کا سفر 27 گھنٹے سے کم ہو کر 17 گھنٹے رہ جائے گا۔

وزیر اعظم نے روات میں اسلام آباد کیلئے نئے ہوائی اڈے کی بھی تجویز دی۔ تاہم وزیر اعظم کا کہنا تھا کہ ملک میں اقتصادی سرگرمیاں اسی صورت میں ہوسکتی ہیں جب امن ہو۔

اقتصادی راہداری کا حوالہ دیتے ہوئے وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین دونوں اس منصوبے میں گہری دلچسپی لے رہے ہیں جس سے پورے خطے کو فائدہ ہوگا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ یہ منصوبہ ملک کا مستقبل ہے۔

وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ گوادر بندرگاہ سے چینی برآمدات کی مسافت 16 دنوں سے کم ہو کر 4 دن رہ جائے گی جس سے لاگت بھی کم ہو جائے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس منصوبے سے ملک کے کم ترقی یافتہ علاقوں کو فائدہ پہنچے گا اور چاروں صوبے اس منصوبے سے جڑ جائیں گے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ سالانہ 250 ارب روپے ریونیو کمانے کیلئے موجودہ موٹر ویز کو نجی شعبے کے حوالے کیا جاسکتا ہے جس سے نئی سڑکوں کی تعمیر کیلئے فنڈز دستیاب ہو جائیں گے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ اسلام آباد کو ہری پور کے ساتھ ملانے کیلئے مجوزہ سرنگ سے گلگت بلتستان، ایبٹ آباد اور مانسہرہ کو مختصر روٹ مل جائے گا۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ اسلام آباد ایکسپریس وے کو مظفر آباد تک توسیع دی جائے گی جبکہ لوئر ٹوپہ- حویلیاں پورشن جلد تعمیر کیا جائے گا۔

انہوں نے نشاندہی کی کہ فتح جنگ کے قریب زیر تعمیر نئے ہوائی اڈے کے ڈیزائن میں خامیاں ہیں اور روات کے قریب ایک نئے ہوائی اڈے کی ضرورت ہے۔

ان کا کہنا تھا کہ کراچی اور لاہور میں زیر زمین ٹرین سروس سمیت اس طرح کے منصوبے تیار کئے جاسکتے ہیں۔ چین نے اس طرح کے منصوبوں کیلئے فنڈز دینے میں گہری دلچسپی ظاہر کی ہے۔

انہوں نے بتایا کہ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب اس طرح کے منصوبے پر پہلے ہی غور کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس طرح کے منصوبے قابل عمل ہیں جو قومی معیشت کو فائدہ پہنچا سکتے ہیں۔

وزیر خزانہ اسحاق ڈار نے نشاندہی کی کہ پاکستان اکنامک کوریڈور کی تیاری میں مستقبل کے پن بجلی کے منصوبوں کو مدنظر رکھا جائے تاکہ آئندہ ان کے ڈیزائن میں تبدیلی کی ضرورت نہ پڑے۔

نیشنل ہائی وے اتھارٹی کے چیئرمین نے اپنی بریفنگ میں کہا کہ بنجراب گوادر روڈ کی نئی الانٹنٹ کی تجویز ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ شاہراہ قراقرم پر پلوں اور سرنگوں کی تعمیر سے فاصلہ کم کیا جاسکتا ہے۔

اجلاس کو بتایا گیا کہ بابوسرٹاپ کے قریب 15 کلومیٹر طویل سرنگ تعمیر کی جاسکتی ہے جس سے شاہراہ قراقرم کا فاصلہ 150 کلومیٹر تک کم ہو جائے گا۔

اجلاس میں وزیر خزانہ اسحاق ڈار، وزیر منصوبہ بندی و ترقی احسن اقبال، وزیر اطلاعات پرویز رشید، وزیر ریلوے خواجہ سعد رفیق، وزیر اعظم کے معاون خصوصی طارق فاطمی اور دیگر اعلیٰ حکام نے شرکت کی۔

All Day

-- گوادر کو ہانگ کانگ کے طرز پر فری پورٹ کا درجہ دیا جا سکتا ہے، میان نواز شریف

APP

- گوادر کو ہانگ کانگ کے طرز پر فری پورٹ کا درجہ دیا جا سکتا ہے، میان نواز شریف

اسلام آباد (قدرت نیوز) وزیر اعظم میان نواز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ کاشغر سے گوادر اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے سے خطے کی 3 ارب آبادی کو فائدہ ہوگا، گوادر کو ہانگ کانگ کے طرز پر فری پورٹ کا درجہ دیا جا سکتا ہے، ہمیں ملک میں دہشت گردی اور توانائی جیسے مسائل سے نمٹنا ہے، چین کا وفد پیر کو اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کا جائزہ لینے پاکستان پہنچے گا، چین نے زیر زمین میٹرو بس سروس میں دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا ہے وہ جمعہ کو کاشغر سے گوادر اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے بارے بریفنگ سے خطاب کر رہے تھے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ اس منصوبے سے دنیا کو پاکستانی مصنوعات کی برآمدات میں وقت کی بچت ہوگی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گوادر میں خلیجی بندرگاہوں کے مقابلے میں زیادہ صلاحیت ہے۔ انہوں نے منصوبے کے بارے مزید کہا کہ اقتصادی راہداری کا یہ منصوبہ گلگت و بلتستان اور چاروں صوبوں کو ملانے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گوادر کی بندر گاہ اپنے جغرافیائی محل وقوع کی وجہ سے انتہائی اہمیت کی حامل ہے۔ اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے سے خطے کی 3 ارب آبادی کو فائدہ ہوگا۔ میان نواز شریف نے کہا کہ گوادر کو ہانگ کانگ کے طرز پر فری پورٹ کا درجہ دیا جا سکتا ہے۔ ہمیں ملک میں دہشت گردی اور توانائی جیسے مسائل سے نمٹنا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ چین کا وفد پیر کو اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کا جائزہ لینے پاکستان پہنچے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کے ساتھ لاہور اور کراچی زیروزمین میٹرو سروس پر بات ہوئی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کے دورے میں اقتصادی

راہداری منصوبے پر دستخط ہوئے

All Day

Dunia News -- گوادر کو وہی درجہ دے سکتے ہیں جو چین نے ہانگ کانگ کو دیا

(دنیا نیوز) وزیراعظم نواز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ گوادر میں فری پورٹ بننے کی پوری صلاحیت ہے۔ گوادر کو وہی درجہ دے سکتے ہیں جو چین نے ہانگ کانگ کو دے رکھا ہے اس کیلئے قوانین میں تبدیلی بھی کر سکتے ہیں۔

اسلام آباد میں وزیراعظم نواز شریف کو کاشغر ، گوادر اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے پر بریفنگ دی گئی ، جس میں بتایا گیا کہ منصوبے کا جائزہ لینے کے لیے چینی وفد پیر کو پاکستان پہنچے گا۔ وزیراعظم نواز شریف کا کہنا تھا کہ کاشغر گوادر راہداری منصوبے کا فائدہ پورے خطے کو ہوگا۔ اس منصوبے سے دنیا کا مستقبل وابستہ ہے ۔ گوادر میں خلیجی بندرگاہوں سے زیادہ صلاحیت ہے۔ وزیراعظم کا کہنا تھا کہ گوادر پورٹ سے پاکستان اور خاص طور پر بلوچستان کو معاشی فائدہ ہو گا۔ اس میں فری پورٹ بننے کی پوری صلاحیت موجود ہے۔ اسے ہانگ کانگ والا اسٹیٹس دے سکتے ہیں ۔ ضرورت پڑی تو قوانین میں تبدیلی لائے جائے گی ۔ وزیراعظم نواز شریف نے کہا کہ حکومت کو توانائی اور دہشت گردی جیسے مسائل سے نمٹنا ہے۔ چین کے ساتھ کراچی اور لاہور میں زیر زمین میٹرو بس کی بات بھی ہوئی ہے۔

All Day

Radio Pakistan -- وزیر اعظم:کاشغر،گوادراقتصادی راہداری منصوبے پربریفنگ

وزیر اعظم:کاشغر،گوادراقتصادی راہداری منصوبے پربریفنگ آج وزیراعظم نواز شریف کوکاشغر سے گوادر اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے پر بریفنگ دی گئی۔

بریفنگ کے دوران وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ اس منصوبے سے دنیا کو پاکستانی مصنوعات کی برآمدات میں وقت کی بچت ہوگی۔گوادر میں خلیجی بندرگاہوں کے مقابلے میں زیادہ صلاحیت ہے۔

انہوں نے منصوبے کے بارے میں کہا کہ اقتصادی راہداری کا یہ منصوبہ گلگت و بلتستان اور چاروں صوبوں کو ملانے کا۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ گوادر کی بندر گاہ اپنے جغرافیائی محل وقوع کی وجہ سے انتہائی اہمیت کی حامل ہے۔اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے سے خطے کی 3 ارب آبادی کو فائدہ ہوگا۔

میاں نواز شریف نے کہا کہ گوادر کو ہانگ کانگ کے طرز پر فری پورٹ کا درجہ دیا جا سکتا ہے۔ ہمیں ملک میں دہشت گردی اور توانائی جیسے مسائل سے نمٹنا ہے۔

وزیراعظم نے بتایا کہ چین کا وفد پیر کو اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کا جائزہ لینے پاکستان پہنچے گا

All Day

Gwadar can become free port: PM -- Pakistan Today

Gwadar can become free port: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said on Friday that the Gwadar Port could be awarded a special status on the pattern of the Hong Kong port.

The prime minister said that the Gwadar-Kashgar corridor will generate employment opportunities and bring prosperity to the country. He said the Gwadar Port had the potential to become a free port. He said that Gwadar Port had more potential than Hong Kong, Singapore, and Dubai ports.

He said this while speaking at a briefing here on Friday, as reported by the state-run Radio.

The prime minister said that the Gwadar-Kashgar economic corridor would bring progress and prosperity and generate employment opportunities in the country. He said that about three billion people of the region would benefit from this project.

The prime minister said that the corridor would provide China an easy access to the Middle East and Europe, which would also benefit Pakistan. Nawaz Sharif said that it would help save time, cost and freight charges, as it was the shortest route between China, the Middle East and European countries through the Gwadar Port.

Referring to the security situation in Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif said that the menace of terrorism should be eliminated to put the country back on the path of peace and progress. A Chinese delegation is arriving in Islamabad on Monday to review the proposed economic corridor project.

The prime minister said that special economic zones would be established along the economic corridor. He said the Chinese companies had shown their willingness to set up industries in the economic zones.

He also proposed to set up a new airport at Rawat near Islamabad. He said the Muzaffarabad-Mangla Road would be constructed, linking it with the Grand Trunk Road. Nawaz Sharif directed the Pakistan Railways to propose new routes to benefit the maximum number of people.

The briefing was attended by ministers for finance, information, planning and development, railways, religious affairs, opposition leader in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly and other senior officials.

August 25, 2013

Sun

All Day

HK-Gwadar reflect PM's vision of Pakistan -- Observer

HK-Gwadar reflect PM's vision of Pakistan

Sunday, August 25, 2013 - THERE is no doubt that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has a grand vision to turn Pakistan into a fast moving economy and a fully developed country where motorways, fast railway network, industrial zones and skyscrapers provide the modern day facilities to the people.

Chairing a briefing on Kashgar to Gwadar Economic Corridor, Mr Nawaz Sharif said Gwadar had a potential like Dubai and Singapore and it could be given a special status like Hong Kong to attract foreign investment and boost national economy. In line with his vision, the Prime Minister also approved upgradation of the existing railway track between Karachi and Peshawar at a cost of \$ 2.7 billion. He has also proposed the construction of new tunnels, train links and roads across the country as he believes that infrastructure is key to development. These are mega projects and once their implementation starts, they would boost economic activity leading to more jobs and higher domestic industrial output. The idea of turning Gwadar into a free port like Hong Kong would be welcomed by the business community as it would accelerate movement of goods from all over the world and thus add to the development of industrial zones. We have seen this successful model as pointed out by the Prime Minister in Hong Kong, Singapore and Dubai and needs to be emulated in Gwadar. Due to its geo-strategic location as a crossroads, Pakistan can get maximum benefits of Gwadar Port for being the shortest possible route that the project has to provide for transportation of oil and gas to the energy starved countries. Besides, the proximity of the Port to the Gulf and Central Asian Republics would provide a unique opportunity for Pakistan to capitalize on them through better diplomatic ties with Arab States and Central Asian Republics. The port can help promote trans-shipment of containerized cargo in addition to unlocking the development potential for the resource rich Balochistan. That will open up huge avenues for Pakistanis to benefit from the port, particularly with the development of infrastructure. We are confident that if all goes well, the Government is able to deal with distracting issues and Prime Minister's overtures to promote peace in the region are reciprocated, Pakistan can certainly move on the road to progress and prosperity.

All Day

کاشغر تا گوادر اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کا جائزہ لینے کے لئے چینی وفد آج اسلام آباد
Nawa e Waqat -- پہنچے گا

کاشغر تا گوادر اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کا جائزہ لینے کے لئے چینی وفد آج اسلام آباد پہنچے گا

اگست 26 0 2013

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) کاشغر تا گوادر اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کا جائزہ لینے کے لئے چین کا اعلیٰ سطحی وفد (آج) پیر کو اسلام آباد پہنچے گا۔ وفد وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی و ترقی احسن اقبال سے تفصیلی ملاقات کرے گا۔ خنجراب تا حویلیاں روٹ کا بغور جائزہ لے گا۔ اس منصوبے کے تحت موجودہ شاہراہ قراقرم کو چوڑا کیا جائے گا اور ریلوے ٹریک بھی بچھایا جائے گا۔

All Day

Radio Pakistan -- پاک چین کے اقتصادی راہداری کمیشن سیکرٹریٹ کا افتتاح ہو گیا

پاک چین کے اقتصادی راہداری کمیشن سیکرٹریٹ کا افتتاح ہو گیا

پاکستان اور چین کے اقتصادی راہداری سیکرٹریٹ کا اسلام آباد میں باضابطہ طور پر افتتاح کر دیا گیا ہے۔

وفاقی وزیر برائے ترقی و منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال اور چین کے قومی ترقی اور اصلاحات کے کمیشن کے وائس نے مشترکہ طور پر سیکرٹریٹ کا افتتاح کیا۔ Zhang Xiaoqiang چیئرمین

اس سے پہلے پاکستان اور چین کی اقتصادی راہداری کمیشن کے بارے میں مشترکہ تعاون کمیٹی کا افتتاحی اور مختلف وزارتوں کی نمائندگی احسن اقبال Zhang Xiaoqiang اجلاس ہوا جس میں چینی وفد کی قیادت نے کی۔ احسن اقبال نے اپنے افتتاحی کلمات میں کہا کہ راہداری صرف ٹرانسپورٹ کا رابطہ نہیں ہے بلکہ توانائی اور ٹیلی مواصلات کی راہداری بھی ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین اقتصادی راہداری کمیشن کے بھارت افغانستان اور ایران سے دوطرفہ رابطے ہوں گے جس سے جنوبی ایشیا اور مشرق وسطیٰ میں ترقی کا عمل تیز ہوگا۔

احسن اقبال نے کہا کہ گوادر سے نہ صرف پاکستان اور چین بلکہ دنیا بھر کو سٹریٹجک مواقع میسر آئیں گے۔

نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین مستقبل میں اقتصادی تعاون کے حوالے Zhang Xiaoqiang چینی وفد کے رہنما سے بھرپور صلاحیت رکھتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس سے نہ صرف تجارت کو فروغ حاصل ہوگا بلکہ خطے میں روزگار کے مزید مواقع کے ذریعے استحکام بھی آئے گا۔

All Day

APP -- پاکستان پاک چین دوستی کو بہت زیادہ اہمیت دیتا ہے

پاکستان پاک چین دوستی کو بہت زیادہ اہمیت دیتا ہے، ترقیاتی منصوبوں میں چینی کمپنیوں کی سرمایہ کاری میں دلچسپی قابل تحسین ہے، پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری، موٹروے اور توانائی کے منصوبہ جات کو اولین ترجیح دیتے ہیں وزیراعظم محمد نواز شریف کی چین کے قومی ترقی اور اصلاحات کمیشن کے وفد سے گفتگو

اسلام آباد - 28 اگست (اے پی پی) وزیراعظم محمد نواز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان پاک چین دوستی کو بہت زیادہ اہمیت دیتا ہے، ترقیاتی منصوبوں میں چینی کمپنیوں کی سرمایہ کاری میں دلچسپی قابل تحسین ہے۔ انہوں نے یہ بات بدھ کو چین کے قومی ترقی اور اصلاحات کمیشن (این ڈی آر سی) کے وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کیانگ کی قیادت میں وزیراعظم سے ملاقات کی۔ وزیر وکپی جس نے کمیشن کے وائس چیئرمین ژانگ چا خزانہ اسحق ڈار، وزیر منصوبہ بندی و ترقی احسن اقبال، وزیر ریلوے خواجہ سعد رفیق، وزیر پانی و بجلی خواجہ محمد آصف، وزیراعظم کے معاون خصوصی طارق فاطمی اور سینئر افسران بھی اس موقع پر موجود تھے۔ وزیراعظم نے مختلف منصوبہ جات کے نظام الاوقات پر زور دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری، موٹروے منصوبہ جات اور توانائی کے منصوبہ جات کو اولین ترجیح دیتا ہے۔ وزیراعظم نے ان منصوبہ جات میں دلچسپی ظاہر کرنے پر وفد کا شکریہ ادا کیا جو پاکستان کی اقتصادی نمو کے لئے ضروری ہیں۔ وزیر منصوبہ بندی و ترقی احسن اقبال نے وزیراعظم کو حکومت پاکستان اور این ڈی آر سی کے درمیان تفصیلی اجلاسوں کے بارے میں آگاہ کرتے ہوئے بتایا کہ مشترکہ ورکنگ گروپ اور مشترکہ ماہرین گروپ تشکیل پا چکے ہیں اور دونوں اطراف کے درمیان باقاعدگی سے اجلاس ہوں گے۔ وائس چیئرمین این ڈی آر سی نے کہا کہ چینی کمپنیوں میں جوش و خروش کی لہر پائی جاتی ہے اور وہ پاکستان میں منصوبہ جات پر کام کرنے کی خواہاں ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بجلی کی پیداوار کے منصوبہ جات کے علاوہ چین بجلی کی ترسیل و تقسیم کے منصوبہ جات میں بھی دلچسپی رکھتا ہے۔ انہوں نے یقین دلایا کہ منصوبہ جات مقررہ مدت کے اندر مکمل کئے جائیں گے۔ چینی وفد نے لاہور اور گوادر میں منصوبہ جات کے مقامات کے دورے کی خواہش ظاہر کی تاکہ تعاون کی مزید نئی راہیں تلاش کی جا سکیں۔ بعد ازاں وزیراعظم نے چینی وفد کے اعزاز میں ظہرانہ دیا

All Day

پاکستان چین اقتصادی راہداری سیکرٹریٹ کا افتتاح، منصوبے کے حوالے سے مشاورتی**Nawa-e-Waqat -- اجلاس**

پاکستان چین اقتصادی راہداری سیکرٹریٹ کا افتتاح، منصوبے کے حوالے سے مشاورتی اجلاس

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) اسلام آباد میں پاکستان، چین اقتصادی راہداری سیکرٹریٹ کا افتتاح کر دیا گیا۔ دونوں ملکوں نے ریلوے لائن بچھانے، سڑکیں بنانے اور توانائی اور صنعتی زونز کے قیام پر اتفاق کیا ہے۔ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری سیکرٹریٹ کا افتتاح وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال اور ان کے چینی ہم منصب مسٹر زینگ نے کیا۔ اس سے پہلے پاک چین مشترکہ کوآپریشن کمیٹی کا اجلاس بھی ہوا۔ اس حوالے سے احسن اقبال نے میڈیا کو بتایا کہ اجلاس میں چین نے پاکستان کی جانب سے ریلوے لائن بچھانے، سڑکوں کی تعمیر، سوانائی اور صنعتی زونز کے قیام سے متعلق تمام تجاویز سے اتفاق کیا ہے۔ ان منصوبوں پر عملدرآمد کیلئے مشترکہ گروپ اور کمیٹیز بنائی جائیں گی جن کی تیار کردہ رپورٹس فنڈنگ مالیاتی اداروں کو پیش کی جائیں گی۔ اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کے تحت اٹل پائپ لائن اور ریفرنریز بھی قائم کی جائیں گی جب تک چین کے پاکستان کے ریلوے نظام کی بہتری کے لئے بھی مدد دینے کا وعدہ کیا ہے اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے پر اگلا

اجلاس جلد بیجنگ میں ہوگا۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان اقتصادی و تجارتی راہداری منصوبے کے حوالے سے مشاورتی اجلاس پلاننگ کمشن میں ہوا۔ مذاکرات میں وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی و ترقی احسن اقبال نے پاکستانی وفد جبکہ چین کے ڈپٹی چیئرمین نیشنل ڈویلپمنٹ اینڈ ریفارمز کمشن نے چینی وفد کی قیادت کی۔ مذاکرات میں اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کے تحت کاشغر کو گوادر سے ملانے اور اس سے متعلق منصوبوں پر غور کیا گیا۔ پلاننگ کمشن ذرائع کے مطابق اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے پر 18 ارب ڈالر لاگت آئیگی اور منصوبے کے تحت 200 کلو میٹر طویل سرنکیں بھی تعمیر کی جائیں گی۔ انڈس ہائی وے، موٹر وے اور قراقرم ہائی وے کو اس منصوبے سے منسلک کی جائیگا۔ کاشغر اور گوادر کو ریل لنک اور سڑکوں کے ذریعے ملایا جائیگا۔ اجلاس کے دوران پاکستان نے چین سے منصوبوں کیلئے فنڈنگ کی حد تین ارب ڈالر سے بڑھا کر دس ارب ڈالر کرنے کی درخواست کی۔ اجلاس سے خطاب میں وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال نے کہا کہ پاک چین اقتصادی کوریڈور کی تعمیر سے خطے میں اقتصادی استحکام آئیگا اور روزگار کے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے۔ افغانستان سے امریکی انخلاء کے بعد پیدا ہونے والے خلا کو پر کرنے کیلئے اقتصادی ترقی ضروری ہے جس میں یہ کوریڈور اہم کردار ادا کرسکتا ہے۔ انہوں نے منصوبوں کیلئے گارنٹی کی شرط ختم کرنے پر چینی وزیراعظم کا شکریہ ادا کیا اور چینی بینکوں کی طرف سے فنڈنگ کی حد 3 ارب سے بڑھا کر 10 ارب ڈالر کرنے کی درخواست چیانگ نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان کو توانائی، وکی۔ اجلاس میں شریک چینی وفد کے سربراہ زانگ سیا ٹرانسپورٹیشن، مواصلات اور ایکسپورٹ پرموشن میں معاونت فراہم کریگا جبکہ فنڈنگ میں اضافے کے مطالبے کے حوالے سے چینی حکومت کو آگاہ کریں گے۔ علاوہ ازیں پاک چین اکنامک کوریڈور سیکرٹریٹ کی افتتاحی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی و ترقی احسن اقبال نے کہا ہے کہ کاشغر تا گوادر ریلوے لائن کی تعمیر سے جنوبی ایشیا اور مشرق وسطیٰ کیلئے نئے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے، یہ صرف پاک چین مواصلاتی رابطہ ہی نہیں اس سے نہ صرف توانائی اور ٹیلی کام کے شعبے کی ترقی بلکہ پاکستان کی مجموعی اقتصادی ترقی جڑی ہوئی ہے، اس شاہراہ کے ساتھ خصوصی اقتصادی زون بنائے جائیں گے۔

All Day

گواڈر پورٹ کی ترقی اور اسے وسطی ایشیا سے ملانے والی شاہراہ کی تعمیر کے بعد ملک میں اقتصادی اور معاشی ترقی کا نیا باب شروع ہوگا۔ -- نوائے وقت

کراچی: گواڈر پورٹ کی ترقی اور اسے وسطی ایشیا سے ملانے والی شاہراہ کی تعمیر کے بعد ملک میں اقتصادی اور معاشی ترقی کا نیا باب شروع ہوگا۔

ان خیالات کا اظہار پورٹ قاسم اتھارٹی کے چیئرمین آغا جان اختر نے دوسری انٹر ٹرانس ملٹی موڈیل ٹرانسپورٹیشن اینڈ لاجسٹک نمائش کے موقع پر منعقدہ کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بندر گاہوں کی کارکردگی میں بہتری اور شپمنٹ باربرداری کے نظام کو بہتر کرنے کے لیے ٹرانسپورٹیشن سے متعلق تمام اداروں بشمول شپنگ پورٹ، ریلویز، ایئرویز، نیشنل ہائی وے اتھارٹی اور کسٹمز کے درمیان مکمل ہم آہنگی اور تعاون ضروری ہے، انٹر ٹرانس نمائش و کانفرنس مقصد کے حصول کا بہترین ذریعہ ہے، اسے تواتر کے ساتھ منعقد ہونا چاہیے۔

نمائش کے منتظم پیگاسس کنسلٹنسی کے منیجنگ ڈائریکٹر عامر خانزادہ نے کہا کہ اب یہ نمائش اور کانفرنس سال میں دو بار ہوگی اور اس کا انعقاد لاہور، اسلام آباد اور دیگر شہروں میں بھی ہوگا، نیشنل سینٹر فار میری ٹائم پالیسی ریسرچ کے ڈائریکٹر جنرل وائس ایڈمرل (ریٹائرڈ) آصف ہمایوں، انٹرنیشنل چیمبر کے چیئرمین طارق رنگون والا، کمشنر سندھ ریونیو بورڈ دائود پیرزادہ، سول ایوی ایشن ایئرپورٹ منیجر افسر ملک اور دیگر ماہرین نے بھی خطاب کیا۔

All Day

'Pak, China have entered into strategic economic cooperation' -- Daily Times

'Pak, China have entered into strategic economic cooperation'

* Ahsan Iqbal says stability must to transform Pakistan into a knowledgeable economy

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Professor Ahsan Iqbal said that Pakistan and China's cooperation has entered into a new era of strategic economic cooperation.

He said this while speaking to media on the occasion National Development and Reforms Commission, China's Vice Chairman and Minister Zhang Xiaoqiang's visit to Gwadar port.

"While both Pakistan and China enjoy closest political relations we failed to translate this goodwill into a strong economic cooperation. The volume of trade between the two countries is meagre \$12 billion. The present leaderships of both the countries are committed to fixing this imbalance. We must learn lessons from Chinese experiences. The link between reforms, development and stability is most critical in developing any economy. In order to transform Pakistan into a knowledgeable economy we must ensure stability and become a symbol of hard and quality work in the world," he added.

He said Gwadar Port has great economic potential in the development of this region. Its development will bring job opportunities and economic development to Balochistan. We hope that under Chinese company the work of Gwadar Port development will speed up. Projects to connect Gwadar Port with road network are being fast tracked. Balochistan is Pakistan's largest province with rich natural resources. In the past lip service was paid to development of Balochistan but present government believes in actions. Development of Balochistan is one of key objectives of Pakistan 2025 Plan. The future belongs to education and knowledge. Unfortunately, Balochistan is lagging behind other provinces in education indicators. Those targeting teachers in Balochistan are doing biggest disservice to Balochs by denying Baloch youth opportunities of quality education which is the key to a prosperous future.

He said we wholeheartedly welcome Akhtar Mengal's taking oath as Member of Balochistan Assembly. Resolution of all political disputes can be found with strengthening of democratic institutions. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is committed to bringing an end to bloodshed in Balochistan. Those who are helping to promote terrorism and violence in Balochistan are not friends of the Baloch, they are enemies of Pakistan and using some elements inside Balochistan for their ulterior motives.

He said during previous regime of PML-N Makran Coast Development Master Plan was developed under Pakistan 2010 Programme, which was scrapped by Musharaf government. Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms has been directed to revive the plan. Makran coast offers great opportunities for development. The 750 kilometres stretch of coastline can bring enormous opportunities for local population. We invite all political forces in Balochistan to join us in transforming Balochistan into a developed province through education, infrastructure building and good governance.

All Day

Malik, ministers welcome Chinese delegation in Gwadar -- The News

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping, Senator Kamran Michael, and Balochistan Chief Minister, Dr Muhammad Malik, welcomed the Chinese delegation in Gwadar accompanied by Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal. A statement issued here on Thursday said that the purpose of the delegation to visit Gwader was to analyse the development activities and on ground situation for future projects in Gwader. It said that the Chinese delegation was led by Vice

Chairman NDRC, Zhang Xiaoqing, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Sun Weidong and CEO COPHL (China Overseas Port Handling Limited). Balochistan Chief Minister gave a detailed briefing about overall development related activities in that province. While emphasising on the importance of Gwader, he mentioned that the area has strategic importance as it is the key route to all Central Asian States and China. Minister for Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal discussed overall policy framework and potential opportunities for Chinese investment. He declared Gwader the gateway to economic corridor. Dr Malik mentioned four areas of interest to seek Chinese assistance including education, health, jobs for the local people and port development. The Chinese Vice Chairman NDRC, mentioned his interest in communication sector, particularly roads, railways and port development. --APP

All Day

China to invest in Gwadar projects -- Dawn

QUETTA: China has shown interest in investing in projects pertaining to communications, port, education and solar energy in the port city of Gwadar.

At a meeting held in Gwadar on Thursday, a delegation of the China National Reforms and Development Commission offered assistance for the development of Mirani dam command area in Kech district and execution of a solar energy project in Gwadar, besides bringing investment in other sectors in Balochistan.

Balochistan Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch, Federal Minister for Development and Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Port and Shipping Kamran Michael and provincial Chief Secretary Babar Yaqoob Fateh Mohammad attended the meeting. The Chinese delegation comprised commission's Vice Chairman Zhang Xiao Jiang, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Wei Dong and a Chinese consular based in Karachi, Ma Yaou.

The meeting mulled over a number of projects, including launching of Karachi-Pasni-Gwadar ferry service in collaboration with China, construction of low-cost or free of cost housing schemes for the people of Gwadar, provision of loans to government employees in Balochistan and technical assistance for running water pumps and boats with solar energy.

Members of the Chinese delegation said China would extend technical support for the establishment of small industries in Gwadar and units for boat manufacturing and processing of fish and dates. Education projects would be initiated for local youths.

The meeting was informed that Chinese doctors would frequently visit Gwadar for providing medical facilities to local people.

It was decided that local people would be provided employment in industries and other projects to be carried out by Chinese investors.

The meeting was informed that China would construct dams for the preservation of rainwater and establish marble-cutting factories.

The chief minister said the planned railway track from Kashgar to Gwadar would boost trade and economic links between Pakistan and China and general employment opportunities in the region.

He said the local people of Gwadar would be main beneficiary of these projects.

All Day

No issues with construction of Gwadar port by China: US -- APP

No issues with construction of Gwadar port by China: US

Hina Mahgul Rind
Sunday, September 01, 2013

KARACHI: The US government has no objections to the construction of a harbour at the Gwadar Port by China as it sees it as another world-class port, generating new avenues for the development of the province, a US official said on Saturday.

Addressing the entrepreneurs at the Startup Cup business competition, US Consul General Michael Dodman said, the United States that the US has no issues with this progress.

"It is great to have another world class port, which will generate new avenues for the development of the people of Balochistan. It will help develop the region and create new jobs and opportunities in the country.

He said that his government has no objection to the harbour construction rather he will like to have some firms of his country to invest in the projects there.

Dodman said that the port will serve as a transit point to the supplies for Afghanistan and Central Asian states. "It is great to have another world class port," he added.

The US military's exit from Afghanistan will increase transportation of army and other cargoes through Pakistan, which serves as the transit route, he said, adding that the US Embassy in Islamabad is in close cooperation with the government of Pakistan and the Karachi Port authorities to handle the flooding supplies expected in 2014.

He said the US is interested in improving bilateral trade ties with Pakistan and for that the US is trying to tap those opportunities.

The US believes that fast growing businesses are the key to the Pakistan's economic future, Dodman said.

Under the Startup Cup competition, young entrepreneurs from across the region are receiving training and guidance for their businesses.

The event was organised by the Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Islamabad Chapter and funded by the United States Department of State. The aim of the programme was to help identify and assist aspiring young entrepreneurs to transform their ideas into successful businesses.

Dodman said that small and medium businesses are the key drivers of the economy and Pakistan. The US has designed a new economic plan for Pakistan called Venture Capital Fund for small scale entrepreneurs, which will be launched later this year.

Later talking to newsmen, he said a new initiative of generalized system of preferences (GSP) has been undertaken to help underpin Pakistan's economy through zero-rated facility to access the US markets for exports.

He expressed the hope that the startup cup will open new opportunities in Pakistan to generate jobs and bring about fresh investment to boost the country's economy.

All Day

Pak-China Economic Corridor to bring prosperity in region -- The Nations

ISLAMABAD - Pak-China economic corridor is the most significant project as it would usher in a new era of economic progress and prosperity for both countries and would benefit this region as well as the whole world.

These remarks were made by Li Sahao Tong, Commercial Counselor, Embassy of China, while exchanging views with local businessmen at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

He said economic corridor offers bright future to Pakistan and China and investors of both countries should take advantage of this opportunity for make investment and start joint ventures. He said China Airlines is soon going to start its flights from Beijing to Islamabad and Karachi and it would facilitate businessmen of both countries to exchange visits for exploring trade promotion and mutual cooperation. He said launch of direct flights by Rayyan Air between Islamabad and Kashgar would also help in improving Pak-China bilateral trade.

He stressed that entrepreneurs of both countries should meet frequently to explore all avenues of bilateral cooperation and strengthen commercial relations. He said ICCI should invite a delegation of China Chamber of Commerce & Industry to Islamabad to promote direct interactions.

He assured that Chinese Embassy would try its level best to facilitate Pakistani entrepreneurs in grant of visa so that they could visit China for business promotion. In his welcome address, Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry, said Pak-China economic corridor has created a new hope in business community for better business prospects.

He was of the view that this corridor would not only improve bilateral trade and economic relations, it would also promote goodwill between the two nations.

He said construction of roads and railway links from Gwadar to Kashgar would take time and as a short term strategy, both countries should give priority focus to connecting their major cities through direct air links to facilitate two-way trade. It would also help in laying the foundation for long-term economic relations between Pakistan and China.

He said China should grant multiple visas to Pakistani businessmen so that they could frequently visit China. He said both countries should adopt liberal visa policy to promote commercial ties up to the potential. He said currently Pakistani businessmen have to go to Guangzhou via Hong Kong which is costly and time wasting and China should start a direct flight from Guangzhou to Lahore to facilitate enhanced exchange of trade delegations.

He assured that ICCI would work closely with Chinese Embassy for promoting bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries.

All Day

**Pak-China economic corridor a significant project: Chinese official --
The News**

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All Day

'PNS Aslat' a testament of Pak-China ever-lasting friendship -- Business Recorder

KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday said the construction of F-22P frigate 'Aslat' with China's assistance was a testament of the everlasting bond of friendship between the two countries.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan deeply valued the resolute Chinese support in all domains and expressed confidence that cooperation on defence would strengthen for improving peace and stability in the region.

Addressing at the ceremony of commissioning of the country's first indigenously-built frigate PNS Aslat at Karachi Shipyard here, the Prime Minister said Pakistan's foreign relations with China form a pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy.

He said Pakistan's strategic location could be only exploited to its advantage through development of maritime sector and a capable navy.

He said Pakistan Navy was effectively defending and acting as a source of security for international trade plying off the country's coast.

The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction that the construction of Aslat frigate was completed within the contractual timeline.

He said bringing all four frigates into service within eight years was a remarkable achievement for a programme of this complexity and scale.

He commended the dedicated workers, engineers, technicians of Karachi and Hudong shipyards for their hard work, professionalism and dedication.

He appreciated the contribution of Ministry of Defence Production and Project Directorate at Naval Headquarters, who worked purposefully to make this programme a success.

He thanked the team of China Shipbuilding Trading Company for their support and particularly Wang Dieje, Assistant President of China Shipbuilding Trading Company for his dedication and expert handling of the construction of fourth frigate in Pakistan.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said the government was fully cognizant of the needs of Pakistan Navy and the maritime sector and assured that the government would explore all avenues to enhance their capabilities.

He said that Pakistan and China share a close and time-tested relationship stretching back to the 1950s. He said Pakistan viewed its relationship with China as enduring, multidimensional and deep rooted.

He mentioned former Chinese president Hu Jintao who described the Pak-China friendship as "higher than the highest mountains and deeper than the deepest oceans".

The Prime Minister said that Pakistan was located at the crossroads of major civilizations and trade routes, and its geo-strategic and geo-economic importance in the present times demanded concerted efforts with regards to regional and global security.

"We are, therefore, engaged and are contributing effectively to fight the forces that are out to destabilize and destroy international order," he said.

He appreciated the efforts of Pakistan navy in safeguarding Arabian Sea - the conduit for vital shipping lanes that are jugular veins of global economy.

He said Pakistan Navy's efforts in combating international terrorism and piracy despite limited number of ships were commendable.

Nawaz Sharif said warships are nothing more than just a metal structure, but it is their crew that gives them heart and soul.

He asked the commissioning crew at the ship to ensure excellence and uphold these standards for others to emulate.

The Prime Minister acknowledged Chinese cooperation in development of Gwadar Deep Water Port which he said has strengthened the maritime infrastructure in Pakistan and opened new vistas of economic growth and prosperity in Baluchistan. He expressed hope that the port would become a major game changer vis-à-vis the trade and the economy of the region when rail and road routes from Makran coast to the Western region of China through Khunjab are developed.

Naval Chief Admiral Muhammad in his welcome speech said Pakistan's defence policy was based on peaceful co-existence with other states. He said the country had no aggressive designs against any other country.

He said that Pakistan Navy was fully prepared to safeguard the country's maritime interests.

He said the commissioning of indigenously-built PNS Aslat was a commitment of

Pakistan Navy to augment its capabilities through self-reliance. The Naval Chief presented a memento of PNS Aslat to the Prime Minister. Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, Minister for Defence Production Rana Tanveer Husain and Governor Sindh Dr Ishratul Ibad were present. Earlier, the Prime Minister reviewed the guard of honour. A contingent of Pakistan Navy presented salute to him.
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All Day

Pak, China Think Tanks moot heralds a new chapter in friendship -- Business Recorder

BEIJING: Ambassador Masood Khalid has said that the inauguration of China-Pakistan Think Tanks forum heralds the opening of a new chapter in the fields of intellectual and people-to-people exchanges.

Addressing the First Annual meeting of the China-Pakistan Think Tanks that concluded here on Sunday, Ambassador Khalid said that the purpose of the meeting was to celebrate Pakistan-China friendship, to recount what we have achieved in the past and to look towards what more we can achieve in the future. Pakistan and China, Ambassador said are bound together by unique fraternal ties that have withstood global and regional upheaval, and remained impervious to political changes taking place within our own countries.

"In fact, we have seen this inherent strength of the relationship on display when the near-simultaneous change of leadership in China and Pakistan was followed almost immediately by high-level visits," he observed.

First, newly-elected Chinese Premier Li Keqiang paid a visit to Pakistan in May when he embarked on his first overseas trip. Then, Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif made China his first port of call to China after assuming office. Both these visits have, he said reaffirmed the permanent and strategic nature of our ties.

Indeed, Prime Minister Sharif's visit in July has helped strengthen the relationship by putting economic cooperation at the centre of our bilateral agenda. This is a historic change of course; a reorientation, he noted.

He pointed out that the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor would be the flagship project for this new phase in the growth of our relationship.

He was delighted to note that discussions in the forum devoted a lot of time to Gwadar, a landmark project.

By linking the Gwadar port via Karakoram Highway with Xinjiang, he said the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor will be a transformational project for our two economies.

It dovetails perfectly with the Chinese government's strategy for developing China's inland provinces. It will spur bilateral trade and investment and allow us to make better use of the elaborate institutional architecture already in place to support an enhanced economic engagement, he added.

He said it will invigorate mechanisms like the Pakistan-China FTA, Pakistan-China Joint Energy Working Group and the Pakistan-China Joint Investment Company.

Finally, as an engine for economic integration, the Economic Corridor could act as a game-changer for the whole region, he said.

He maintained that mindful of this opportunity to forge a new destiny, our two governments are actively working together to ensure speedy implementation of this project.

In this connection, he said that just recently, a high-powered delegation led by Vice Chairman Zhang Xiaohang of the National Development and Reform Commission visited Pakistan to meet with their Pakistani counterpart agencies and performed the initial spadework.

They had fruitful discussions and have returned with a better understanding of what needs to be done for the Corridor project to take off the ground.

He said that on bilateral cooperation in the cultural, people-to-people and education spheres, this has been a relatively neglected facet of our relationship.

While the high degree of mutual trust seen at the leadership level between Pakistan and China and is matched by the depth of love and affection among our two peoples, there exist few forums that bring together students, thinkers, artists and young entrepreneurs from the two countries on one platform. In that sense, the inauguration of this annual event is a step in the right direction. But there is need to do more. It is especially important that the rich narrative of our friendship is

transmitted to our young people.

Ambassador Khalid lauded the splendid work being done by the Pakistan Study Centers at Tsinghua and Peking Universities here, at the Fudan University in Shanghai and the Sichuan University in Chengdu for doing outstanding job in promoting education and cultural exchanges between the two countries. He also shed lights on Pakistan's pivotal role in regional and international affairs and noted that as time for withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan is getting closer, therefore there is need for closer coordination between Pakistan and China is greater than ever.

Both Pakistan and China share the same aspirations for Afghanistan.

Pakistan will continue to support China on all its core issues whether these pertain to Taiwan, Tibet or Xinjiang, he observed.

Maintaining close strategic cooperation with China on all bilateral and global issues, Ambassador said, has been and will remain the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy.

Ambassador Khalid on the occasion highly praised Professor Li Xiguang, Director Tshingua University Centre for Pakistan Culture and Communication Studies.

He said without his tireless efforts successful holding of this forum would not have been possible.

Professor Li has rendered extraordinary services for the promotion of Pakistan-China relations, he added.

Ambassador Masood Khalid termed Professor Li, as a true friend of Pakistan. China-Pakistan economic corridor for energy, trade, transport, and industrial development, equity-based economic growth, regional geopolitics, foreign policy challenges, scientific and technological cooperation, higher education, cultural cooperation were the major topics discussed at the forum.

The two day meeting was hosted by China's Tsinghua University Centre for Pakistan Culture and Communication Studies, China-Pakistan Joint Think Tank, the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) and the Academy of China and World Agendas.

On the occasion, Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman of Pakistan-China Institute was given award for outstanding contribution towards Public Diplomacy.

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All Day

52,000 tons of urea to reach Gwadar port tomorrow -- Business Recorder

The first shipment of 52,000 tons of urea, imported by the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP), will reach Gwadar port on Friday. In July this year, the Economic Co-ordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet had directed the TCP to import urea on an urgent basis aimed at ensuring sufficient urea supply during upcoming crop season.

The TCP was asked to import 0.3 million tons of urea to avoid any shortage in the domestic market, which is facing some shortfall due to slow production by the local fertiliser producers because of gas curtailment. Following the directives of the ECC, TCP successfully awarded tenders to the three different parties for the import of the said quantity. First consignment under this import is reaching here on Friday, 2013 from China, sources said.

As per schedule given by the supplier, the first ship namely "MV Global Brave" carrying about 52,000 tons of urea will reach Gwadar port on Friday evening. The ship has already sailed from China for Pakistan. Another shipment is scheduled to arrive on September 12, 2013 from China.

Besides import of urea from international market, the TCP is also importing the commodity from Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) against \$100 million credit grant of Saudi Fund for Development. Under the credit facility so far some 164,000 tons of urea has reached Pakistan, while remaining some 40,000 will arrive till December 2013.

All Day

FPCCI discusses projects for economic uplift of Balochistan -- Daily Times

KARACHI: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) has prepared proposals for the economic revival of Balochistan pertaining to trade facilitation, fisheries, agriculture and mining which were discussed in meetings held with representatives of the federal and provincial governments in Gwadar.

Mir Naveed Jan Baloch Vice President of FPCCI in meetings with Ahsan Iqbal Federal Minister for Planning and Development and Dr Abdul Malik Baloch Chief Minister of Balochistan briefed the government representatives about the need for creating greater opportunities for trade and transit trade with neighboring countries by opening Gwadar-Gabd, Mand-Pishin and Panjgur-Chedagi borders with Iran and Noshki border with Afghanistan for trade and immigration.

He said Gwadar Port should be activated with maximum involvement of the local community, in order to ensure stability and prosperity in the areas surrounding the Port.

Later a detailed presentation was made by FPCCI to the Balochistan Chief Secretary Babar Yaqoob Fateh Mohammad. Baloch said shrimp and fish farms should be set up on the coastal belt with the associated packing and processing infrastructure so that seafood might be exported directly from Balochistan instead of transporting it elsewhere.

He said foreign assistance might be sought for developing the fisheries sector, as well as for developing expertise in livestock and dairy farming. Similarly, slaughter houses and meat processing plants could be set up with foreign assistance in border areas (such as Chaman and Taftan) to facilitate exports to Iran and Afghanistan.

Baloch said he had asked the government of Balochistan to set up a Balochistan Stone Development Company on the pattern of Pakistan Stone Development Company, which would have equal representation from the public and private sectors and would be a more effective way of addressing issues pertaining to mining of marble, minerals and ores in Balochistan, which was now a provincial subject after the 18th Amendment.

He said the Chief Minister had assured him the government of Balochistan was also

working on the proposals FPCCI had submitted earlier for the uplift of the provincial economy.

The Balochistan government was planning to organise a Balochistan Forum shortly, which would serve the purpose of exploring opportunities for trade and investment in the province.

Regarding the possibility of new routes with neighboring countries, he said the Chief Minister had held discussion with the Iranian side already. The Chief Secretary asked FPCCI to maintain close coordination with the Balochistan government and said local and foreign investors would receive maximum support and protection from the government in any projects that would benefit the province. staff report

All Day

Govt, FPCCI discuss projects for economic uplift of Balochistan -- Pakistan Observer

Thursday, September 05, 2013 - Karachi—The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) has prepared proposals for the economic revival of Balochistan pertaining to trade facilitation, fisheries, agriculture and mining which were discussed in meetings held with representatives of the federal and provincial governments in Gwadar recently.

Mir Naveed Jan Baloch, Vice President of FPCCI said that in meetings held with Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning and Development and Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, Chief Minister of Balochistan, he briefed the government representatives about the need for creating greater opportunities for trade and transit trade with neighboring countries by opening Gwadar-Gabd, Mand-Pishin and Panjgur-Chedagi borders with Iran and Noshki border with Afghanistan for trade and immigration. He said that Gwadar Port should be activated with maximum involvement of the local community, in order to ensure stability and prosperity in the areas surrounding the port.

Later, in a detailed presentation that was made by FPCCI to the Balochistan Chief Secretary, Mr. Babar Yaqoob Fateh Mohammad, Mr. Naveed Baloch said that shrimp and fish farms should be set up on the coastal belt with the associated packing and processing infrastructure so that seafood may be exported directly from Balochistan instead of transporting it elsewhere. He said that foreign assistance may be sought for developing the fisheries sector, as well as for developing expertise in livestock and dairy farming. Similarly, slaughter houses and meat processing plants may be set up with foreign assistance in border areas (such as Chaman and Taftan) to facilitate exports to Iran and Afghanistan.

Mr. Naveed Baloch also said that he had asked the Government of Balochistan to set up a Balochistan Stone Development Company on the pattern of PASDEC, which would have equal representation from the public and private sectors, and would be a more effective way of addressing issues pertaining to mining of marble, minerals and ores in Balochistan, which is now a provincial subject after the 18th Amendment.

All Day

Urea consignment arrives -- Business Recorder

KARACHI: A ship "MV Global Brave" carrying 52,000 tons of urea, arrived Gwadar port on Saturday.

This urea consignment has been imported by Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) for domestic consumption to avoid nay shortage of commodity during up coming crop season.

"First urea consignment of 52,010 tons reached Gwadar port on Saturday morning and discharging of commodity has also started", TCP official confirmed. He aid that another shipment of 30,000 tons from China is expected to arrive on next Tuesday. Distribution, transportation and bagging of imported urea will be handled by M/s National Fertilizer Marketing Limited (NFML) to ensure timely availability of urea in the local market.

Following the directives of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet TCP is engaged to import urea on urgent basis aimed to ensure sufficient urea supply during upcoming crop season. Overall, state-owned grain trader has finalised deals for the import of 0.3 million tons of urea to avoid any shortage in the domestic market.

All Day

Corridor to bring Beijing and Islamabad closer -- REUTERS

Links between Kashgar in China's Xinjiang region and Pakistan have been historically strong through centuries with merchants from both countries travelling and trading via the Silk Road that connected the two countries. The bonds are set to get stronger with both governments --who consider

themselves "all-weather friends" -- having agreed to set up the ambitious economic corridor linking Kashgar in northwest China and Gwadar port in western Pakistan, off the Arabian Sea. (The port was built and is now managed by China.) The two countries are already linked by the Karakoram Highway that connects the Kashgar to Abbottabad in Pakistan.

Around 230 km from south of Kashgar lies the Khunjerab Pass which is the land border crossing between the two countries.

With the new economic corridor, modern links will strengthen older ones.

"It was a natural need for the two countries. When it takes off, the corridor, according to some estimates, could bring around \$ 80 billion to Pakistan in trade benefits to begin with," said Abdul Mujeeb Chaudhry, director, corporate and commercial, Rayyan Air, which operates the only international flight taking off from Kashgar connecting it to Islamabad.

The one-and-half hour flight became operational last August 14, Pakistan's Independence Day and so far is doing well, Chaudhry told HT in Kashgar this week.

Even now, a large number of Pakistani traders and businessmen frequent Kashgar, crossing the border into China in long-distance buses from various cities on the other side; some have had their bases in the city for years.

"Pani pilaye aapko?," (Can I offer you some water?) asked Ahmed, clad in a Pathan suite that set him apart from the local Uyghurs, as he delicately laid out golden earrings, rings, trinkets and tiny bottles of perfume from Pakistan on a tray in his little kiosk.

Around him the old bazaar of Kashgar was in thick flow last Sunday noon with sellers making a pitch for everything from Uyghur tea, mink coats (for about Yuan 3000), women's stockings, carpets and pillows and blankets with local-style embroidery on it.

Two shops down the crammed market, Rashid Khan was another Pakistani selling an identical assortment of women's jewellery and perfume. Business is okay, both said, as they enthusiastically broke into Hindi, a language rarely spoken in the city of Uyghurs, Tajiks, Kazaks, Kyrgyz, and course the Han Chinese.

Ahmed said he was from Faisalabad and was doing business in Kashgar for the last 10 years, selling his wares, which he claimed, were made in India. The corridor would further strengthen economic ties between the two countries and also generate employment in Pakistan, said Latif Khan, another Pakistani trader.

Kashgar's direct India connection has long been relegated to history. Till 1947, the British ran a consulate in the city, located close to the Id Kah mosque and behind the Qiniyabagh hotel. The Communist Party of China (CPC), according to the plaque outside the building, allowed India and Pakistan to jointly use it for a few years till the facility was revoked in the early 1950s.

The original colonial building still exists today but instead of diplomats and diplomatic cables it now has Chinese chefs and menu cards --it now houses a Chinese restaurant.

All Day

Chinese Companies ready to invest in Pakistan's energy sector: Lou Sang -- Business Recorder

ISLAMABAD: Many Chinese companies have shown interest to explore Pakistan's energy sector for making investment in hydro, solar and wind energy projects and help it in overcoming its energy problems, said Lou Sang, Vice Secretary of Sichuan Chamber of International Commerce during a meeting with Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Zubair Ahmad Malik, President, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry was also present at the occasion.

Lou Sang said they have come to Pakistan to explore Pakistani market for investment opportunities so that more Chinese companies could come to Pakistan for direct investment and joint ventures.

He said Pakistan fruits are quite famous in China, especially in Sichuan Province and Pakistan could further improve exports of its fruits to China by improving their packaging quality.

He said Sichuan Chamber of International Commerce is one of the biggest trade bodies of China and its main objective is to promote Chinese companies in the whole world.

He stressed for developing close liaison with Pakistani Chambers of Commerce to contribute positively to the promotion of trade and investment between Pakistan and China.

In his welcome address, Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said exchange of visits by the Pak-China Prime Ministers have opened a new chapter of thriving relations between the two countries.

He said business communities are very optimistic about the Pak-China economic corridor project as it would unravel a new phase of business and economic opportunities not only for two countries, but also for the whole region.

Zubair Ahmad Malik, President, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry said business community of Pakistan is quite upbeat to establish strong relations with Chinese counterparts and keeping in view this fact, FPCCI has opened its two representative offices in China, one in Chengdu and the other in Kunming.

The purpose of opening these offices is to promote direct connectivity between the private sectors of both countries so that they could expand bilateral trade relations in all potential areas.

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All Day

The Kashgar-Gwadar corridor -- The News

The prime minister recently held live televised proceedings on the likely alignments for the proposed Kashgar to Gwadar rail and road links. Since the two pre-feasibility studies on the subject were conducted during my tenure as chairman Pakistan Railways, I thought that such an important issue being aired live was pretty useful.

The rail route from Kashgar to Gwadar would have some strategic but phenomenal economic significance. In addition to serving as a commercial and trade conduit for the two countries the new route has the potential of opening up those areas of the country that have been denied rail connection even 65 years after Partition.

The primary reason Kohat, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, Dera Ghazi Khan and the interior of Balochistan have severely lagged behind the rest of the country is because of an absence of railway connection. Almost all of Sindh and Punjab have developed while only Nowshera, Mardan Peshawar, Haripur and Quetta-Chaman in the other two provinces have managed decent economic development. This is so because raw material and finished goods could be easily and cheaply transported by rail.

We should not forget that till the recent past the safest and quickest form of passenger communication was by rail and investors would shy away from cities that did not have railheads. Pakistan Railways has taken a severe beating over the last 20 years but it could be turned around – though not quite so easily.

It is, therefore, important to ensure that a route that serves the undeveloped parts of the country be selected for the rail and road corridor from Kashgar to Gwadar. It

would be a tragedy for the marginalised areas of Pakistan if the new alignment is superimposed on the existing railway and motorways east of the Indus. That would have adverse economic consequences for much of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Strategic considerations demand that the road and rail axis not be concentrated close to each other.

Two parallel but geographically apart road and railway networks should be developed on either sides of the River Indus. I propose the following alignment for both the new railway and highway.

The route from Kashgar could pass through either the Kilik and Mintaka passes, since these are closer to Kashgar, or else under the Khunjerab Pass. The former passes were the traditional caravan route and would provide an alternate communication link to Gilgit, perhaps through the Ghizr area, and then to the rest of the country in addition to the existing Karakoram Highway. The exact alignment would be determined by detailed studies; two prefeasibility studies have already been undertaken by the Pakistan Railways in 2006. These need to be converted into feasibility studies leading to a detailed engineering and design investigation.

This route would then pass close to Gilgit and lead to Jaghlot and Raikot. The Skardu traffic would take off from Jaghlot. Since the KKH from Raikot to Basha (105 kilometres) would in any case be inundated by the Diamer Bhasha lake a new rail/road alignment on the left bank of the Indus would need to be constructed so that a tunnel could be bored under the Babusar Pass. From there through tunnels, galleries and 'open to the sky' rail-road it would be aligned towards Mansehra, then Abbottabad and on to the Havelian Railhead which is already connected to Rawalpindi.

From Havelian the new railway line should follow the general route of the motorway to Peshawar by crossing the River Indus near Hund. This would lead to Mardan, Charsadda and Peshawar and then to Kohat, Serai Naurang, Dera Ismail Khan, Dera Ghazi Khan and Kashmore. There is an existing railway line from Kashmore to Dadu and Karachi which, of course, needs improvement.

We must appreciate that the present right bank of the Indus route has already reduced the distance from Peshawar to Karachi by nearly 300 miles and the new railway line would also be short. No new line should be constructed along the existing railways, east of the Indus, but instead these should be strengthened to speeds of 140-200 kilometres per hour from Rawalpindi to Lahore, Multan and Karachi. In these sections rail speeds have to be increased by track and signalling improvements rather than by duplicating rail services.

The need to extend the dual line from Lahore to Rawalpindi is of course a priority. This arrangement would be more cost effective as well. The new railway line from Kashmore should open up Balochistan and needs to pass through or close to Khuzdar, Turbat and Gwadar. It would link Quetta with the existing track for the minerals of Saindak, Reko Diq and other mines to be transported to Gwadar for export. More importantly central Balochistan would be opened for communication leading to rapid economic growth.

Only those people who have seen Turbat, Punjgur, Awaran, Kharan and Khuzdar know how under developed these areas are. They deserve a better deal from the state. In the years to come Dera Ismail Khan will be the breadbasket of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after the province starts utilising its full share of water. Today the bulk of the export and import trade to and from Afghanistan uses the right bank of the Indus route with the activation of the Bannu-Mir Ali road leading to the Ghulam Khan Customs Post on the border. A pre-feasibility study conducted by the Railways in 2005 for the right bank of Indus line is available.

In the years ahead this railway line could be extended to Afghanistan as well because the Torkham line has a very steep climb. The Quetta-Chaman line is more feasible though is not without its technical difficulties. A railway line from Dadu to Gwadar would be a waste of money – money that could be better utilised elsewhere for the railways. The existing Gwadar to Karachi Highway is adequate to cater to

the immediate needs of the port.

A decision is now due. What is required is getting the strategic vision correct even if it costs an extra year or two. The chief ministers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan need to remain on board.

The writer is a former chairman of Pakistan Railways and Wapda.

All Day

Pak-China joint exercise continues -- APP

Air operations are being conducted to validate joint air power employment concepts in the ongoing joint air exercise 'Shaheen-II', between Pakistan Air Force (PAF) and Chinese Air Force (PLAAF). The exercise involves complex air operations for mutual learning as well as improving the coordination and interoperability of both the air forces, said a PAF press release issued here on Sunday. The exercise 'Shaheen-II' is providing an opportunity to combat crew of both the air forces to acquaint themselves with applied tactics of air power in near real scenario. It is pertinent to mention that the first exercise of this series 'Shaheen-I' took place in March 2011 in Pakistan at an operational air base of PAF.

The PAF conducts such exercises on regular intervals both inland and abroad. It has been participating in a number of international air exercises with some of the best air forces of the world, including the United States Air Force (USAF), Italian Air Force, Turkish Air Force (TuAF), Royal Saudi Air Force, Jordanian Air Force and those of other allied countries.

All Day

Chinese firms ready to invest in energy sector -- The Nation

ISLAMABAD - Many Chinese companies have shown interest to explore Pakistan's energy sector for making investment in hydro, solar and wind energy projects and help it in overcoming its energy problems, said Luo Sang, Vice Secretary of Sichuan Chamber of International Commerce during a meeting with Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Zubair Ahmad Malik, President, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry was also present at the occasion.

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All Day

Why most Pakistanis are satisfied with the Sharif government's first 100 days -- Saudi Gazette

Why most Pakistanis are satisfied with the Sharif government's first 100 days

Irshad Salim

The majority of Pakistanis are satisfied with the first 100 days of the Nawaz Sharif government, a survey shows.

Prime Minister Sharif received 62 percent approval of the masses across the country for his government's performance during its first 100 days, a survey conducted by PILDAT revealed Sunday.

Sharif's policy of seeking harmony within state institutions and provincial governments was given the highest rate of approval. His reaching out on key foreign policy issues also received popular approval.

According to the survey, 46 percent of the people gave a good performance rating to the government in dealing with the issue of terrorism, while 52 percent gave it a positive rating for coping with the electricity shortage.

Regarding its performance on key foreign policy issues, including relations with the United States, China and India, the Sharif government was given a 57 percent positive rating.

In the last week of August, I listed some key factors that appeared to be going in favor of the government's performance indicator. These factors appear to complement the findings of the survey.

Some of these factors I considered to be politically mature, statesman-like and synergistic:

Political factors:

1. Letting PTI rule KP and NPP rule Balochistan.
2. Appointing a harmonious, go-getter team of cabinet members and ministers.
3. Curtailing the extravagance and showing off which was the symbol of the previous government.
4. Neutralizing MQM politically and selecting Mamnoon Hussain from Karachi for the presidential slot.
5. Visits to China and then Saudi Arabia to establish the point that Pakistan is in favor of regional solutions not the international big game.
6. Sharif's peace overtures to India in the belief that "you can change friends and enemies but not neighbors".
7. Maintaining good relations with the military and respecting the decisions of the judiciary while ignoring media criticism — all three of whom are key players in Pakistan today.
8. Understanding that the terror issue is a menace to the economy and announcing the formation of a high-level command and control authority forum.
9. No trace of corruption being used as an instrument to govern and appease political players.
10. Telling the US bluntly to stop the drones in exchange for facilitating a peaceful withdrawal by bringing the Taliban to the table.

11. No political handouts or compromises seem to have been made so far.

12. No policy of revenge or reactionary moves has been detected. The Sharif government's team appears serious and mature and is taking steps to conduct business. Ministers do not appear on daily talk shows.

13. In short, politics is being conducted on the basis of statesmanship and nationalistic fervor.

Economic factors:

1. The inclusion of Gwadar in the Chinese economic corridor will change the destiny of the nation as a whole as it will affect all four provinces allowing all ethnic groups to share in the benefits.

2. The Gadani Power Park is an excellent move which joins together China, Balochistan and Punjab as equity partners with Sindh supplying coal and equity as well.

3. Money will be borrowed from the IMF instead of begging for grants in exchange for political favors to appease international players active in the region.

4. The government announced that load shedding will not end soon, and backed it up by announcing measures to increase the power output. It also reached out to India and Iran to purchase power.

5. China has been brought into the Iran-Pak pipeline in an attempt to offset US pressure.

6. A motorway will be built from Karachi to Lahore and a subway constructed in Karachi and Lahore.

8. Steps have been announced to achieve 100 percent education in Punjab and to bring Mohammad Sarwar from the UK to serve as Governor of the largest province. This appears to have also immediately checkmated PTI's popularity in the UK and Punjab.

Notwithstanding the correlation between my observations and the results of the PILDAT survey, it must be noted that the Western media has yet to report adversely on issues of governance, performance, and corruption.

However, a worsening economy coupled with terrorism and sectarianism remain the focus of national and Western media for understandable reasons.

Implicit in the PILDAT survey results and my observations is the general opinion that the nation fully understands the Sharif government's predicament and the mess it is trying to tackle, and that it is willing to go along with the government as long as corruption, extravagant spending, favoritism, loot and plunder, cronyism, disregard for rule of law, provincialism, etc., all of which unfortunately were hallmarks of Zardari's government, are checkmated, if not fully eliminated during the next five years.

September 17, 2013

Tue

All Day

Pak-Turkey enjoy people-to-people contacts: Pervaiz Rasheed -- APP

Pak-Turkey enjoy people-to-people contacts: Pervaiz Rasheed

Federal Information and Broadcasting Minister Pervez Rashid has said that Turkey and Pakistan have people to people contacts as Pakistanis are warmly welcomed in their country. Talking to Radio Pakistan, Information minister said that Turkey has helped Pakistan especially in the building of its infrastructure. He said that Islamabad and Ankara will sign different agreements during the current visit of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to Turkey, He added that both the countries will jointly take steps for the economic development of Pakistan. He maintained that the incumbent elected government is determined to further strengthen Pakistan's ties with Turkey. To a question he said Pakistan is facing problems of poor economy, energy crisis and worst law and order situation and cooperation of Turkey in this regard will be beneficial for Pakistan.

All Day

Pak keen to be first to ride on China's man space mission -- APP

Pak keen to be first to ride on China's man space mission

BEIJING - Chairman of the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission Ahmed Bilal has said that if China starts taking foreign astronauts to outer space, we would like to be the first candidate.

"We also want to cooperate with China in remote sensing technology and educating the public about space," the China Daily quoted Bilal here.

He was in China to attend the five-day United Nations/China Workshop on Human Space Technology, which opened in Beijing on Monday.

A total of 150 participants from more than 20 nations and regions attended the conference. They are expected to discuss new space projects, microgravity research, international cooperation as well as awareness education for the public. "We would like to train astronauts from other countries and organisations that have such a demand, and we would be glad to provide trips to foreign astronauts," said Yang Liwei, Deputy Director of China Manned Space Agency. Yang said that China will also welcome foreign astronauts who have received training to work in our future space station.

China is willing to provide training and open the Chinese space station to foreign astronauts, he said.

Yang, country's first astronaut, who went into space in 2003, said many countries submitted proposals to the Chinese government during the development of the space station, hoping China would help train their astronauts and then send them to the station to conduct scientific experiments.

The purpose of including foreign participants in our space programmes is not only that these nations can send their people to outer space, but also that we will enable them to develop their own space projects, he added.

China has been involved in a host of cooperative projects with other nations, according to Yang.

Tracing the history of cooperation, he said that China and Russia have collaborated on astronaut training, spacecraft technology and extra-vehicular suits, and "we are cooperating with our French counterparts on a variety of experiments in astrobiology and space medicine."

Furthermore, he said that Chinese and German scientists also performed astrobiological experiments during the unmanned Shenzhou VIII mission in 2011. Receiving congratulations on the 10th anniversary of his space mission, Yang said China is also determined to assist other developing economies in the space flight, noting that existing cooperative projects between China and developing economies focus on the application of astronautic and space technologies, and training for professionals.

All Day

Pakistan plans to establish industrial parks and economic zones along the proposed Kashgar-Gwadar trade corridor -- The News

LAHORE: Pakistan plans to establish industrial parks and economic zones along the proposed Kashgar-Gwadar trade corridor that will connect China's western autonomous regions with Balochistan, official sources said on Thursday.

As per the alignment of Kashgar-Gwadar or Pak-China Motorway, this trade corridor will be around 2,000km long within the territory of Pakistan, crisscrossing snow-capped mountains, narrow valleys, lush green fields, sand dunes and dry hills.

In addition, this new trade corridor will provide Chinese traders a link to deliver their goods to the international markets through the Gwadar Port. If compared with the Chinese ports, this is the shortest possible route to the western provinces of China, the officials said.

The economic corridor is being developed as part of a strategic partnership between the governments of China and Pakistan, which was announced a few months ago. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Secretariat has formally been inaugurated in Islamabad with an aim to transform the strongest political relations in economic relations, they said.

Before getting approval of the industrial parks and economic zones from the federal

government, the Ministry of Industries & Production is in the process of giving final shape to the proposed plan that has been prepared by its subsidiary National Industrial Parks Development & Management Company (NIP), the officials said.

It is proposed to set up trans-freight stations along the Kashgar-Gwadar corridor to facilitate trucks / containers, carrying heavy goods. The plan to establish trans-freight stations has been prepared, keeping in view the importance of an organised transport sector for the development and welfare of the population.

When transport systems are efficient, it is observed, they provide economic and social opportunities and benefits that result in positive multipliers effects such as better accessibility to markets, employment and additional investments. Therefore, an efficient transport system is a key for developing this economic corridor, the officials said.

They said that the transport sector plays a pivotal role in the overall economic growth. It is observed that economies, which possess greater mobility are often those with better opportunities to develop than those suffering from scarce mobility.

Reduced mobility impedes development, while greater mobility is a catalyst for development. Mobility is, thus, a reliable indicator of development. It is also necessary as freight transport industry in Pakistan is highly fragmented, as per the plan.

Assessing various logistic aspects and other allied issues, it has been observed that the most suitable locations for setting up economic zones / industrial parks and trans-freight stations are the major exits of Kashgar–Gwadar corridor located close to the nearby cities. The size of the economic zone / industrial park will depend on the availability of the raw materials, agricultural production, mineral deposits, local skill set and overall connectivity, location advantages and economic strength of the particular area.

Each economic zone will target specific products and services, while analysing the availability of local raw material, workforce and other factors, according to the plan.

The proposed sites of freight terminals and industrial parks included Sust, Gilgit, Abbotabad, Loral, Kohlu, DG Khan, Bhakkar, Rajanpur, Kashmore, Jaccobabad, Khuzdar, Basima, Punjgur, Turbat and Gwadar.

All Day

‘Pakistan, China can collectively do wonders’ -- BR

‘Pakistan, China can collectively do wonders’

KARACHI: Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Muhammad Haroon Agar has expressed that Pakistan and China can collectively do wonders as the economic and commercial activities are now focusing towards Asia. With enhancement of Pak-China mutual economic and cooperation, regional trade and trading with SAARC, ECO and Central Asian blocs can multiply to manifolds. Exchanging views with the Consul General of China Excellency Ma Yaou during his maiden visit to KCCI, Agar urged fresh Chinese investment in energy, infrastructure, metro-railways, mass-transit, dams projects which are direly needed to uplift economy and further strengthen Pak-China friendly relationship and economic cooperation. staff report

All Day

Linkage of Gwadar Port with Karakorum Highway will multiply Pakistan -- Pak Observer

Tuesday, September 24, 2013 - Karachi—Ma Yaon, Consul General of China has said that linkage of Gwader Port with Karakorum Highway will support logistics. Present volume of bilateral trade is \$12 Billion; Chinese Exports to Pakistan are \$9 Billion while imports from Pakistan are \$3 Billion

Exchanging views on his visit to Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry he said that establishing direct banking channel between two countries he said that ICBC Bank of China has established its branch in Karachi while Pakistani banks can open their branches in China with the permission of concerned authority.

Consul General of China stated that China and Pakistan are great time-tested friends. Both countries have been committed to develop closer bilateral relations and further broaden their economic engagement for achieving common development. Opportunities for joint ventures in different sector do exist.

So far, China-Pakistani economic and trade cooperation has seen good progress. Pakistan is a safe haven for Chinese investment. Pakistan has very good potential in different fields. China is also giving new face to its industry with sector diversification. China-Pakistan's trade and economic cooperation has seen good progress.

He hoped that Pakistan's exports to China will multiply as China is a huge market to showcase brands of Pakistan. Pakistani textile products are also popular in China. Commenting on direct Air connectivity he stated that presently direct flights to Beijing are available only from Islamabad while direct flights to Guang Zhou and Shanghai will start soon. He stated that China holds immense tourist attraction and 20 million tourists visit China every year as the country holds an open tourism visa policy.

The Chinese Consulate General accords maximum consideration to business visas for KCCI members and visa is processed on priority. He informed that Chinese investment in Pakistan was mainly in the mines and energy. Saindak project is the flagship of Pakistan-China Friendship in mines. China has also invested in Energy projects of coal and wind in Pakistan, he said.

Muhammad Haroon Agar, President KCCI while speaking on the occasion said that Pakistan and China can collectively do wonders as the economic and commercial activities are now focusing towards Asia. With enhancement of Pak-China mutual economic and cooperation, regional trade and trading with SAARC, ECO and Central Asian blocs can multiply to manifolds.

Exchanging views with the Consul General of China Excellency Mr Ma Yaou during his maiden visit to KCCI, Haroon Agar urged fresh Chinese investment in energy, infrastructure, metro-railways, mass-transit, dams projects which are direly needed to uplift economy and further strengthen Pak-China friendly relationship and economic cooperation. He said that Chinese cooperation with Pakistan reached

high points with substantial investments from China in Pakistani infrastructure expansion, including the noted projects in the Pakistan deep water port in Gwadar and establishment of road and railway link from Gwadar till Kasghar via Karakorum Highway.

He added that in view of Pak China Friendship which is deeper than ocean, greater than Himalaya, growth in mutual cooperation is essential to uplift Pakistan's weakening economy. He said Karakorum Highway is a remarkable example of mutual cooperation and is the symbol of friendship and understanding. More than 11,000 Chinese engineers, technicians and workers are rendering their valuable services in progress and development of Pakistan. He said that Chinese investment in Pakistan increased many folds in key sectors including port development, roads, railways, mobile telephones communication technology, hydro and thermal power, mining, electronics, and nuclear energy.

A large number of Chinese companies are working in Pakistan in oil and gas, IT and telecom, power generation, engineering, automobiles, infrastructure and mining sector. Both countries have Free Trade Agreement and its first phase of five years is completed and negotiations for second phase for the next five years are in process. He urged that FTA should be effectively explored for mutual benefits of both friendly nations. Public as well private sector Pak-China joint ventures are need of time owing to immense investment potential in Pakistan.

All Day

Pakistan, China commit to broaden economic relations -- The Nation

KARACHI - Consul General of China Ma Yaou has said that Pakistan and China are committed to develop closer bilateral relations and further broaden their economic engagement for achieving common development.

During his visit to Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industries he said, opportunities for joint ventures in different sector do exist. So far, China-Pakistani economic and trade cooperation have seen good progress. Pakistan is a safe haven for Chinese investment.

China-Pakistan's trade and economic cooperation has seen good progress. He said that linkage of Gwadar Port with Karakorum Highway will support logistics. Present volume of bilateral trade is \$12 billion; Chinese exports to Pakistan are \$9 billion while imports from Pakistan are \$3 billion.

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China has also invested in energy projects of coal and wind in Pakistan.

KCCI's President Muhammad Haroon Agar while exchanging views with the Consul General of China urged fresh Chinese investment in energy, infrastructure, metro-railways, mass-transit, dams projects which are direly needed to uplift economy and further strengthen Pak-China friendly relationship and economic cooperation.

He said Karakorum Highway is a remarkable example of mutual cooperation and is the symbol of friendship and understanding. More than 11,000 Chinese engineers, technicians and workers are rendering their valuable services in progress and development of Pakistan.

President KCCI hoped that current China-Pakistan bilateral trade volume of \$12.4 billion will touch to \$15 billion during next few years.

Former President KCCI Anjum Nisar, Senior Vice President KCCI Shamim Firpo, Vice President Nasir Mehmood and Managing Committee Members also participated in the meeting.

All Day

Pakistan, China vow to enhance ties in defence production -- APP

Minister for Defence Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday said China has great potential in ship-building sector and Pakistan wants the Chinese to invest and extend technological support in this regard. In a meeting with visiting Chinese delegation headed by Zhang Jianhua, Vice Administrator from SASTIND, the Minister said Pakistan wants to raise the relationship status to a strategic level with its time-tested friend. The meeting reviewed all pending issues and problems and emphasized for their smooth redressal on priority. He said China and Pakistan enjoy deep and trusted relations and Pakistan considers the friendship deeper than the ocean.

Rana Tanveer highlighted that fast paced method for addressing issues of bilateral concern put in place in shape of Joint Committee Mechanism. This will ensure growth of Sino-Pak cooperation in field of Defence Production.

Earlier, in a meeting with the delegation, Secretary Defence Production, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Tanvir Tahir emphasized the need of streamlining matters of defence cooperation.

He said a system of forecasting potential problems needs to be put in place to ensure swift collaboration. Open competition between Chinese companies for laying down tenders was stressed upon to make Pakistan's procurement cost beneficial.

During the meeting, Vice Administrator SASTIND ensured that future talks and collaborations under Minister's patronage will surely flourish.

He praised far-sighted approach of the Minister for building of new shipyard.

A dinner was also hosted in honor of Vice Administrator and his visiting delegation Monday night. The dinner was attended by Secretary Defence Production, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Tanvir Tahir, Lt. Gen. Syed Wajid Hussain, Maj Gen Raza, Maj Gen Qaiser, AVM Asad Lodhi, Maj Gen Omer, Rear Admiral Adnan Nazir and officers from Pakistan side.

Chinese delegation included Mr. Yao Wen, Mr. Sun Tian, Ms Zhan Chunli, Sr. Col Pei Jianguo, Mr. Ma Wei Hua, Mr. Xu Bensheng, Lt Col Li Yingfeng and others.

The Chinese delegation also held meeting with Maj Gen Raza Muhammad.

Earlier in the day the delegation met senior officers at General Headquarters, Joint Services Headquarters, Air Headquarters and Naval Headquarters.

The meetings are termed as highly fruitful and hopefully the collaborations will further expand in future.

All Day

China CSG, Pak NTDC agree to cooperation -- Daily Times

LAHORE: As a follow-up visit of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to China in July this year, a five-member delegation of China Southern Power Grid Company Limited (CSG) under supervision of Wang Jiuling visited National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDCL) at the WAPDA House on Tuesday.

Nawaz had asked China to send its power sector experts to transfer their technical and professional prowess among Pakistani engineers.

NTDC Managing Director Muhammad Zia-ur-Rehman gave a detailed briefing about operations of NTDC, ongoing projects and future expansion plan. In addition, he proposed that NTDC would like to benefit from experiences and technical expertise of CSG in terms of network optimisation, introduction to new technologies, improvement in algorithms of control system and capacity building of engineers and technicians.

To achieve this objective, he proposed that in addition to training sessions, engineers of two companies might work together on projects, control systems and operation and maintenance assignments.

China CSG Vice President Wang Jiuling said that CSG was transmitting and distributing electricity in five provinces of China since 2002. The capacity of CSG into 2013 has risen to 263,000 megawatts (MW). CSG is comparatively a young company in China but has met demand of 230 million population spread over one million square kms. The demand in CSG is rising at 8.0 percent annually.

He agreed to the proposal of NTDC to have close relationship so as to assist NTDC in achieving its objectives that are difficult as well as complex. He proposed to hold further meetings to start work towards achieving these goals. CPPA General Manager Tahir Mahmood, Services Division GM Gulzar Ahmad Bhatti, Projects General Manager Mumtaz Ahmad Bhutta, GSO GM Abdul Qudoos Khan and NPCC Consultant Masood Akhtar were also present on this occasion.

Later the Chinese delegation visited Technical Services Group (TSG) NTDCL, where chief engineer Arshad Mirza informed the delegation that TSG was providing grid maintenance, operation and live line training to its staff. The head of Chinese delegation also offered advanced-training facilities in these areas in CSG Training Centre China.

Chinese delegation also met WAPDA Secretary Khalid Akhlaq Gilani, who briefed the delegation about the hydropower projects being implemented by WAPDA. There is a huge hydropower potential in the country and WAPDA is working on a number of projects in the hydel sector to develop this potential to meet the country's energy needs. Pakistan looks forward to friendly countries for investment, cooperation in capacity building and technology transfer to boost the share of hydel power production in the energy mix.

All Day

Pakistan, China determined to further strengthen strategic partnership: President -- APP

President Mamnoon Hussain on Monday said Pakistan and China were determined to further strengthen their all-weather and multifaceted friendship, that has always stood the test of time. "Our friendship is rooted in a shared history and cultural heritage. Our brotherly and fraternal ties have grown from strength to strength every year", the President said while speaking at a ceremony held here at the Chinese Embassy to celebrate the 64th anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China. The ceremony was attended among others by Federal Ministers, Members of the Parliament, diplomats, senior civil and military officers and media-persons.

The President said that the newly elected leaderships in both the countries were determined to take this strategic relationship further in the coming years.

"We are committed to forging stronger ties so that the extraordinary narrative of our friendship is transmitted to our next generations", he remarked.

The President said the highly successful visits of Premier Li Keqiang to Pakistan in May and Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to China in July this year have further cemented this relationship.

He said Pakistan looks forward to early progress on Pakistan-China Economic Corridor and building on existing cooperation in areas of mutual interest and by exploring new avenues for fruitful collaboration.

"Pakistan and China remain committed, as ever, to work together to fashion a better, more prosperous future for our children, and to ensure that they inherit a more peaceful and harmonious world", the President maintained.

Mamnoon said China's extraordinary rise over the past 64 years bears testimony to the wisdom of its leadership and the genius of its people.

"China has become a beacon of hope and a source of inspiration for the peoples of developing countries around the globe", he said, adding, Pakistan rejoices in China's phenomenal success and supports its efforts for the promotion of peace and harmony in the region and the world.

The President extended felicitations to Chinese Ambassador, the officials of the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad as well as to the government and people of China on the auspicious occasion of their country's founding day.

The President also availed the opportunity to ask Ambassador Sun Weidong to convey his best wishes for President Xi Jinping's good health and happiness; and for the continued progress and prosperity of the Chinese people. Ambassador Sun Weidong of China in his welcome remarks at the reception said China and Pakistan are close and friendly neighbors, and all-weather strategic partners.

The two peoples are not only friends, but also brothers, he said, adding, "China-Pakistan friendship is deeply rooted in our hearts, and has become a noble belief with the passing of time."

Ambassador Sun referred to the recent strong earthquakes in Balochistan, in which Pakistan suffered heavy casualties and property losses, and said Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang immediately expressed condolences to Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif respectively.

He said the Chinese people have always stood together with the people of Pakistan in time of need, adding, they speak from the bottom of their heart that, "iron brother, keep it up!"

Ambassador Sun said the emergency relief supplies provided by the Chinese government have arrived in Karachi, and the Red Cross Society of China has provided financial assistance to the Pakistani side, adding, the staff members of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan donated voluntarily for the people in quake-hit area of Pakistan.

"We are convinced that under the leadership of the Pakistani Government, the brave Pakistani people will surely overcome the disaster and rebuild their homes, and achieve lasting stability and economical development."

He said China and Pakistan have a tradition of mutual support and help, adding, the Chinese people will never forget that Pakistan has always stepped forward and given its precious support to China when it met difficulties.

Ambassador Sun mentioned an old Chinese saying that goes, "Friendship between chess playmates lasts less than a day. Friendship between diners lasts less than a month. Friendship based on power and influence lasts less than a year. Only

friendship based on shared values lasts a lifetime.”

He said China-Pakistan friendship based on shared values, adding, it will not only last a lifetime, but also endure from generation to generation and last forever.

The Ambassador said China-Pakistan relationship is an example of state-to-state relations, adding, this year, Premier Li Keqiang and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif have exchanged visits successfully within six weeks, reached a series of important consensus.

Currently, the two sides are actively implementing these important consensuses, and jointly planning and constructing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, he added. Ambassador Sun said the two sides attach more attention to the pivot projects of the transportation infrastructure, the energy and economic zones along the corridor, which will combine China’s “Western Development” strategy and “Opening up to the West” policy together with Pakistan’s blueprint for national development, and benefit the peoples of our two countries and the region.

The two sides will enhance the friendly exchanges in various fields and learn from each other, he said, adding, the two sides will strengthen coordination and cooperation in international and regional affairs, and jointly safeguard peace and stability of region and world.

Ambassador Sun recalled that the late Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai paid his first visit to Pakistan in December 1956 and during that visit, he said, “The people of China and Pakistan must live together in friendship, which shall grow with each passing day.”

“We are glad to see that, his predictions have come true after half a century. We believe that, with the joint efforts of both sides, our friendship and cooperation will have an even brighter future. Let’s work hand-in-hand to push forward China-Pakistan Strategic Cooperative Partnership to a new high”, he maintained.

Later President Mamnoon Hussain along with Ambassador Sun Weidong and other dignitaries cut the special cake to mark the Chinese founding day event.

All Day

Senate body for early completion of projects in Gwadar -- Radio Pakistan

The Senate Sub-Committee on Finance directed the authorities concerned to complete the ongoing projects as early as possible.

Convener of the committee, Senator Sardar Fateh Muhammad Muhammad Hasni said on the occasion that the bureaucracy is causing delay in the projects which results in increase of the cost of the projects.

Terming the Gwadar Water Plant Project as the world's most expensive project, Sardar Fateh Muhammad Muhammad Hasni said that the machinery of the project, which was initiated for the provision of clean drinking water to the people, has been rusted. He directed to identify the responsables and submit a report in this regard to the committee.

He said that the senate committees are important parts of the Parliament and its members are answerable to the people.

He said that the system can be put on the right path by taking strict action against the corrupt people.

Taking notice of the differences in briefing and written detail, Senator Fateh Muhammad said that the government departments are playing anti people role as not a single project was completed in time and by following delaying tactics, the original cost of the project increased manifold which caused a huge burden on the national exchequer.

The committee was informed that an amount of Rs. 984 million has been issued for the MGD water plant, Gawadar.

The installation of the machinery has been completed and after the completion of the project, five million gallon of clean water will be available on daily basis and the consumers will have to pay only 0.7 paisa per gallon.

Senator Kulsoom Perveen and Senator Humayun Mandokhel suggested that it would have been better to provide water to the Gawadar project by linking it with the Mirani Dam through pipes.

For the project of land erosion in Pasni town, Rs 125 million have been received out of total allocation of Rs 941 million.

It was also informed in the meeting that for the provision of water and land for industrial zone in Gawadar, only Rs 60 million were received out of total allocation of Rs 839 million.

An application has been sent in this regard to the ministry of water and power for the issuance of funds. The Planning Commission has informed that the required funds would be issued within three days, the committee was told.

The committee decided that all the members of the committee would visit all of the ongoing projects of Balochistan.

The committee also decided that Auditor General of Pakistan, Accountant General of Pakistan, all former chairmen of Balochistan Development Authority, Secretary Ministry of Finance and Secretary, Ministry of Law will attend the meeting.

All Day

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Tue

All Day

Gwadar Port vital for development of Balochistan -- APP

ISLAMABAD: Senator Humayun Khan Mandokhail has said that Gwadar Port is very important for development of the region especially for the people of Balochistan.

Talking to Radio Pakistan, he said although the capacities of small dams are low however, they help to raise the underground water level.

He added small dams should be constructed because they are very useful for Balochistan.

He maintained due to deteriorating law and order situation development works have been badly affected in Balochistan province.

He went on to say that militants don't create hurdles in the way of water projects because they know it is basic need of the people of Balochistan.

All Day

Mushahid to leave for China for enlightening usefulness of Pak-China economic corridor -- SANA

ISLAMABAD, (SANA) Chairman of Pakistan-China Institute, as well as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Defence & Defence Production, Senator, Mushahid Hussain, has been invited to deliver a keynote address at a major foreign policy conference in Beijing next month.

The invitation was personally delivered by Dr Hu Hao, Deputy Director General of the host think tank, China Center for Contemporary World Studies (CCCWS), which is holding the International Conference on 'Global Trends and China in the Next Decade'.

The conference convenes in Beijing on November 7-8. Senator Mushahid Hussain will also chair the concluding session of the Conference.

During the meeting with Dr Hu Hao, Senator Mushahid Hussain welcomed the recent visit of China's President Xi Jinping to Central Asia, where he announced China's support for the 'Central Asia Economic Belt', linking Chinese economic and trade cooperation with the region, and said the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor would weave in well with the concept of the Central Asia Economic Belt.

He said Pakistan's economic future, resolution of energy crisis and security and stability are linked to the success of the Economic Corridor with China. In this regard, Senator Mushahid expounded the concept of 'Greater South Asia' which was based on broadening of the South Asian subcontinent's regional linkages driven by energy and economic integration with China, Myanmar, Iran and Afghanistan, and which would eventually be linked on the east with Kunming and on the west with Kashgar.

Referring to the coming decade, the period till 2025, Senator Mushahid Hussain said this period would see the weakening of the use of force and military occupations, efforts to resolve long-standing conflicts like Kashmir, Korea and Palestine, the decline of the West, the rise of China, the resurgence of the 'Asian Century' and unraveling of the status quo in the Middle East.

He also hoped that Asian countries, particularly India, should resist the temptation to join a New Great Game with a return to a Cold War mindset, and he strongly opposed any 'containment of China' strategy as some in the West are suggesting.

Senator Mushahid Hussain, thanked Dr Hao for the honour to address the distinguished gathering in Beijing, where over 100 scholars, specialists, intellectuals and policy-makers from all over the world will apply their minds to the challenges and opportunities in the coming decade. Dr Hu Hao appreciated the role played by Senator Mushahid Hussain in promoting ties with China in his capacity as Chairman of the Pakistan-China Institute and also congratulated him on leading two successful delegations of parliamentarians from Pakistan to Afghanistan and Azerbaijan recently.

Ends-SANA-PR-AK

All Day

Gwadar Port to be made functional' -- BR

Gwadar Port to be made functional'

Staff Report

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping Senator Kamran Michael has said the Gwadar Port will be made fully functional in next five months, as almost 60 percent of development work on roads has been completed.

This port will connect gulf region and Middle East to Southeast Asia. It is vital for national growth and in securing economy of Pakistan.

The federal minister informed that government is striving to extend trade avenues and boosting business in the country. "We are going to buy four oil tankers for our fleet after which will be able to extend fleet of Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) up to 15 by the end of this year," he told.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural session of 3rd International Conference and Exhibition on Shipping, Logistics and Supply Chain Management 2013. Event was organised by the Publicity Channel in collaboration with Ministry of Ports and Shipping, Pakistan International Freight Forwarding Association, Pakistan Shipping Agents Association and Air Cargo Agents Association.

Michael told that ship-breaking industry is being moved to Port Qasim for which 170 acres of land is earmarked and development work is carried on. About 3,000 industries are being moved to Port Qasim. An uninterrupted electric supply will be ensured there for which 500 megawatts (MW) electricity will be produced through coal plant. British government will also help in producing another 600 MW with solid waste at Karachi Port, he added.

The federal minister said that IT database system is being installed and will be made functional within next month at all ports. This will help to track containers movement throughout and status of customs duty be also monitored.

Responding to questions of journalists about letter of Sindh government to port authorities with regard to possession of government land, Michael said that they have not taken any illegal possession of Sindh government land and in most of cases they have possession of their own land. Future of ports and shipping industry is very bright. We are trying our best to curb corruption in my ministry. We have identified more than 3,000 ghost employees in Karachi Port Trust after which we have installed biometric attendance machine to ensure transparency. We should all work together for the promotion of economy, he added.

Earlier in his welcome address Publicity Channel CEO Naeem Qureshi said that this event was aimed to share the latest information about developments and technical advancement in the sector all over the world, particularly in Pakistan. It will promote shipping and logistic industry through joint ventures, public private partnership, technology, investment and networking, he added.

Giving introduction about the event, conference director Mehmood Tareen said that logistic industry is critical for business enhancement but its needs are overlooked.

Transfreight Managing Director and FIATA Senior Vice President Babar Badat said that 95 percent of logistics is being done in containers through shipping globally. Ministry of Transport and Logistics is much needed in Pakistan. It shouldn't only be a ministry of shipping and ports. Now logistic is needed from its start point to consumers. Almost 45-50 percent trade of many countries is regional as part of their GDP, whereas our GDP trade is only 5.0 percent.

Talking on the topic of inter-regional trade potential of Pakistan, Agility Logistics Chief Executive Officer Moin A Malik said that regional trade is very important in today's world. Almost 44 million containers move in Asia between different ports

and its biggest volume is 4.5 million between Europe to Asia.

This industry is growing at fast pace. It was four billion worth trade a decade before which is increased by 86 billion in 2011. Almost 22 times growth is noticed within Asia alone. China global trade is estimated at 2.38 trillion dollars by 2012 and Central Asian trade was 104 billion dollars in 2012, he mentioned.

Pakistan is on a very important and strategic geographical location. We have potential through highways. Our current logistic trade is 0.3 percent of GDP which will be 2.3 percent in coming five years and this could be a game changer, Malik suggested and urged to address issues including improve logistic infrastructure, security, curbing corruption, difficult custom procedures and government policies.

He requested federal minister to take notice of zero performance of National Trade Corridor five years program as not a single target is achieved. Poor infrastructure, non-existed railway system, technology, legislation, regulatory mechanism, people and trainings are great impediments to the growth of this sector, he observed.

“We have generated Rs 20 million fund to initiate formal training program to develop human resource. We will generate another Rs 30 million in coming months. Government should support this initiative and provide land for this program,” Malik requested to federal minister.

Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) Chairman Muhammad Siddique Memon said that shipping has most important role in logistics and now it's growing. PNSC is now in business of oil and bulk carrier and now planning to add more tankers in its fleet. We are a profit earning organization now and have earned 1.9 million profits last year, he added.

Senator Abdul Haseeb khan in his address demanded federal minister to dissolve all boards of public enterprises and induct people of good repute in new boards including PIA, Pakistan Steel, KPT, Port Qasim, WAPDA etc, as they all are a great hurdle itself in progress of these organisations. He also requested prime minister to take notice of this situation.

All Day

LCCI for early revival of FTA with China -- BR

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) will play its role for early revival of Pak-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The LCCI President Sohail Lashari, Senior Vice President Mian Tariq Misbah and Vice President Kashif Anwar were talking to a delegation of All Pakistan Paper Merchants Association (APPMA) at the LCCI on Monday.

The 19-member APPMA delegation led by Khamis Saeed Butt and comprising All Pakistan Paper Merchants Association (APPMA) President Mian Amjad Hussain, Senior Vice President Malik Ahad Amin, Honorary Senior Vice President Khawaja Nadeem, former APPMA president Qayyum Raza and others met LCCI office-bearers to congratulate them. Lashari said that the LCCI would soon write letters to Ministry of Commerce and Federal Board of Revenue for renewal of Free Trade Agreement with China.

He said that the LCCI would also provide details of the products which are not manufactured in Pakistan so that they could be included in the new FTA. On the issues of Sales Tax, Income Tax and Wealth Tax, the LCCI president said that the Chief Minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif had already constituted two committees with the LCCI which would be looking into the problems being faced by the business community.

He said that the LCCI would take up all tax related issues with the Excise & Taxation Committee. About the shortage of electricity, he invited the APPMA members to participate in LCCI plans to produce electricity on self-generation basis. The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Senior Vice President Mian Tariq Misbah said that that an acute shortage of electricity and deteriorating law and order situation in some parts of the country have pushed the economy to wall at a time when the country is in need of an accelerated growth.

He said that in these circumstances, the role of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the country and other sector-specific trade organisations like APPMA, working at the national level, become more important and relevant. The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Vice President Kashif Anwar urged the APPMA office-bearers to continue to guide their members about the events at the international economic front so the people attached with the paper business could be able to do their business with peace of mind.

All Day

Gwadar Port to be functional in 5 months -- br

The government is working on a plan to equip ports with modern facilities.

According to officials of Ministry of Ports and Shipping, an IT based database system will be installed and made functional during next month at all the ports. This will help track the movement of containers and status of custom duty, Radio Pakistan reported on Friday.

They said the ship breaking industry is being moved to Port Qasim with 170 acres of land earmarked and development work planned for the purpose. About 3000 industries are being shifted to Port Qasim.

An uninterrupted electric supply will be ensured there for which 500 megawatt of electricity will be produced through a coal plant. The British government will also help in producing another 600 megawatt with solid waste at Karachi Port.

The officials also said that Gwadar Port is expected to become fully operational in the next five to six months. Almost sixty percent work on linking roads has been completed.

All Day

Finishing touches: Gwadar Port to be operational in six months -- The Express Tribune,

Officials of the Ministry of Ports and Shipping on Friday said that the government is working on a plan to equip ports with modern facilities. They said that an IT based database system will be installed next month at all the ports which will help track movement of containers.

The officials said that the ship breaking industry is being moved to Port Qasim with 170 acres of land earmarked and development work planned for the purpose, whereas about 3000 industries are being shifted to Port Qasim.

They said that uninterrupted power supply would be ensured with 500MW of electricity production through a coal plant while another 600MW will be added with the help of the British government after utilisation of solid waste at Karachi Port. The officials said that the Gwadar Port is expected to become operational in the next five-six months and almost 60% work the road linkage has been completed.

All Day

Pak, China optical fiber cable work to be initiated soon -- BR

ISLAMABAD: Work on laying of cross-border optical fiber cables between Pakistan and China will be initiated soon.

According to Radio Pakistan quoting special communication organization Gilgit Baltistan sources that a team has paid a trip to Sost and Khunjarab, in upper Hunza recently and inspected the plan area.

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All Day

Pak-China optical fibre cable work to be initiated soon -- APP

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All Day

Trade with China -- BR

The World Bank, in its recent report 'Pakistan the Transformative Path', has expressed its optimism about the prospect of accelerating the momentum of Pakistan's FTA with China. Therefore, bolstering trade through FTA may be made a main agenda item, along with proposed Kashgar-Gwadar trade corridor, development of Gwadar port and construction of motor highways to link Pakistani ports with Chinese markets.

But at the same time it is also important to evaluate the cost-benefit analysis of each of these projects, for long-term, before prioritizing the projects. Equally important is to analyse how these projects would be able to translate their futuristic benefits into meeting goals of economic development, in the short run, to improve our precarious trade deficit, boost our shrinking exports and revitalise the faltering economic growth - hovering at three percent of GDP. There has to be a progressive strategy for the much needed economic revival of Pakistan.

Exports-led growth is one of the many ways for the economic revival of Pakistan. This goal can be attained by accelerating Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China as suggested by a World Bank report. This initiative seems most feasible in the present scenario when the fiscal space for development projects like Gwadar is highly constrained owing to the balance of payment crisis. Unfortunately, negotiations on FTA, signed in 2007, were not a moot point in the recent spate of high level meetings between Pakistan and China and remain the missing link so far in the entire paradigm of economic engagement. Now when the World Bank has highlighted its significance it must be given a serious consideration by the policy makers.

Indeed, it is worrisome that Pakistan's exports to China suggest a stagnant position over the last 6 to 7 years; showing a lack of export diversification in the Chinese market. The major challenge for Pakistan, therefore, is to make FTA substantially effective to harness reasonable terms of trade and increase product competitiveness at par with other successful FTAs in Asia. As trade economists suggest it is a way to expand trade volume, arrest the decelerating export growth, increase investments thus reducing the current account deficit and contributing to socio-economic development of a country both in the short and long term.

To begin with, it is important to negotiate, skilfully, some favourable tariff concessions for Pakistan's exports- which lag behind consistently - so that they can be competitive in the Chinese market. If products like leather, manufactured garments, surgical instruments, mangoes, rice, oranges, fish, gem-stones, cement; with comparative advantage but losing competitive edge, procure duty free or reduced tariffs, it will be a great stimulus for boosting our staggering exports to China, standing at a meagre \$3 billion. This must be accompanied by improved infrastructure development, establishing export processing zones and industrial parks, including energy provision, in major industrial hubs of Karachi and Punjab, further bolstering the stalled trade activity. This will not only add to economic growth but also reduce our escalating trade deficit.

Furthermore, Pakistan has great potential of investment in energy, mining, infrastructure, metro-railways, mass transit and dams and FTA can increase the scope of Chinese investment in these sectors; opening a gateway for socio-economic development and numerous employment opportunities in short and medium terms. There is a separate investment chapter under FTA which ensures

investment protection and promotion, expropriation, compensation for losses, transfers, subrogation and dispute settlement between parties, making it a preferred frame-work for investors

Increased exports through FTA would help reduce our reliance on traditional export markets of the US, the EU and the Middle East despite higher tariffs, and increased transportation cost, accompanied by a drop in demand of industrialised countries due to economic and debt crises. Diverting trade to second largest merchandise economy of the world will have 'trade creating effect' as suggested by the World Bank; expanding our narrow export base by opening new avenues to a vibrant destination of one billion growing middle-class consumers in China. For example, China's per capita possession of resources is far below the world average making it a net importer of minerals from Pakistan. The export of minerals may be further accentuated under FTA keeping in view the growing market demand.

The success in developing a new trade-axis with China will depend on how tactfully Pakistan bargains its position, particularly when China seems to be inclined to offer some concessions owing to the renewed strategic importance of Pakistan in the changed geo-economic scenario. In order to serve as an energy and economic corridor for China, Pakistan must demand a trade corridor through FTA for its declining exports. Later on, this may be used as a stepping stone for a wider deal with the 10-nation Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in a high growth region of the world.

All Day

Pak-China trade volume to rise to \$10b in 2 years -- The Nation

LAHORE: China, the major potential market of Pakistani hand-knotted carpet, would help the carpet industry to enhance its competitiveness and tap the future market of China.

LAHORE: China, the major potential market of Pakistani hand-knotted carpet, would help the carpet industry to enhance its competitiveness and tap the future market of China.

This was stated by representatives of Chinese delegation, who after attending a carpet exhibition in India along with Indian carpet industry stakeholders reached Pakistan through Wagha with a view to attend the four-day Pakistan hand-knotted carpet mega show 2013, being opened on Tuesday, Oct 22 at Pearl Continental Hotel, Lahore.

They said that they would be delighted to help the Pakistani carpet industry with its up-gradation, and thereby enabling it to tap the Chinese market.

They said that China has already laid the foundation for establishment of a business development centre in Pakistan, to extend research and development assistance to the Pakistani industry.

They said that FDI worth around \$ 769 million have flown into Pakistan from China over the past five years, and some \$ 11.7 million have flown in from Hong Kong. During last fiscal itself, around \$120.9 million and \$ 80.3 million came to Pakistan in FDI from China and Hong Kong, respectively, they said.

They added that the trade volume between the two countries is expected to rise to \$ 10 billion over the next two years. Last fiscal, trade between the two countries stood at \$ 5.704 billion.

On this occasion, Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) newly-elected central chairman Akhtar Nazir Khan Cooki also talked to media after receiving Chinese and Indian delegation at Wagha border.

He said though Pakistan is also in favour of enhancing mutual trade, still it necessitates some foreign direct investment from China.

The PCMEA chairman informed that more than 150 foreign delegates mainly from China, India, Nepal, Spain and Germany have reached Pakistan to participate in this exhibition.

The chief organizer of the carpet show and vice chairman of the PCMEA (NZ) Kamran Razi said besides participation of regional countries, foreign guests including direct importers, interior decorators, architects, home furnishing companies and colour combination experts from the US, Europe, Far East, Australia, Middle East and Africa have also been invited to attend the event. "So this will be a huge business activity that would certainly improve the image of the country at international level," he said.

He stated that the visiting Chinese delegation would also explore opportunities of joint ventures for encouraging economic activities between the two nations, besides inking a Memorandum of Understanding with the Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

To enable Pakistan to tap the emerging handmade carpet market in China, the delegation has offered research and development assistance to the producers of handmade carpet in Pakistan.

All Day

100 local companies attending China fair -- The Dawn

KARACHI, Oct 23: Over 100 Pakistani enterprises are exhibiting their products at Western China International Fair (WCIF) which opened on Wednesday at Chengdu, the capital city of Sichuan province in central China.

More than 50 countries, including Pakistan are participating in the fair wherein Pakistan's official participation is being organised by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).

FPCCI President Zubair Ahmed Malik and Pak-China Business Council Patron-in-Chief Tariq Sayeed were also attending the fair.

Pakistani handicrafts, leather goods, furniture, food items including rice and spices as well as gift items were attracting a large number of visitors, Zubair Ahmed Malik informed Dawn over telephone.

He further said that mutual trade between Pakistan and China had exponentially increased during the past decade.

Tariq Sayeed said that such events could eventually help Pakistan reduce its trade deficit with China.

All Day

Brussels offers fish packing services as per international standards -- BR

ussels has formally offered Pakistan his services and expertise in fish packing and preserving at international standards and to improve cold storage facilities at Gwadar Port. Ambassador of Belgium in Pakistan Peter Claes called on Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping Senator Kamran Michael here on Tuesday.

Federal Minister said the Ministry would purchase fish from domestic fishermen and after packing and preserving it at international standards, it would be exported to European market, particularly to Belgium. Federal Minister said, "This joint venture of two friendly states will be worth of million of euros to Pakistan exchequer."

Federal Minister appreciated the offer of Belgium for scholarships to Pakistan Marine Officers into Belgium on which home work had been completed. Belgium Ambassador formally invited the Federal Minister to visit Belgium and to meet business community of Belgium. Peter Claes also appreciated the step of the government for vesting her trust on a Christian Community person to elevate him a pivotal port folio that was an acknowledgement of the capabilities of Senator Michael and provided him the opportunity to play his role in progress and prosperity of the nation.-PR

All Day

Gwadar-Turbat Hoshab Road: PC1 cost revised upward to Rs 18 billion -- BR

The construction cost of Gwadar-Turbat Hoshab Road has been revised upward to Rs 18.379 billion in the PC1 from Rs 5.687 billion because of National Highway Authority's inability to complete the project even after the completion date was revised upward by five years.

Senior officials of NHA and Ministry of Communication informed the Senate Sub-Committee on Finance here on Monday that the cost of all the three sections of road has been revised upward by in the amended PC-1. The original cost of 54-kilometer road from Gwadar to Dasht was estimated at Rs 1.527 billion with completion date of September 2006, but NHA failure to compete the project led to upward revision of cost to Rs 2.494 billion and completion date to June 2008. However, the project was not completed even on the upwardly revised date of June 2008 and now is expected to be completed in June 2013. According to NHA overall progress was 60 percent.

The cost of 63 kilometers section of the road from Dasht-Turbat went up from Rs 1.699 billion to Rs 3.687 billion with upward revision in completion date from September 2006 to February 2012, but the implementing authority was unable to

complete the project even on the revised completion date. The project now, as NHA stated before the committee, is expected to be completed in June 2013. According to NHA, the cost of 76 kilometers section road from Turbat to Hoshab was revised upward to Rs 3.166 billion from original Rs 1.933 billion with completion date from September 2007 to February 2012 but the project could not be completed even in 2012 and now the completion is expected in June 2013. The meeting was informed that 34 kms link service road from adjoining villages has been completed with a cost of Rs 940 million in November 2011. The NHA official said that law and order situation was major obstacle in timely completion of development projects in Balochistan. Members said that the law and order situation was not a major problem till 2006 when these projects were to be completed and the problem started in 2007 and worsened in subsequent years.

Chairman of the sub-committee Fateh Muhammad Hassani stated that Ministry of Communication and NHA should come up with the list of the sites of the development project where security is an issue so that the committee could devise some modalities regarding security arrangements for early completion of infrastructure related development projects in Balochistan aimed at linking them with Gwadar sea port. The committee also decided to invite Inspector General Police along with Chief Secretary Balochistan after Eid for their input on the issue of law and order to address the problem amicably.

Senior officials of NHA stated that National Assembly Standing Committee on Communication has rejected a proposal for incorporating security component in the PC1 of all the development projects of Balochistan on ground that it would set a wrong precedent and other would also start demanding security component in their projects.

The representative of Finance Ministry said that keeping in view the importance of the matter, the ministry would support provision of funds for security component for development projects in Balochistan. However, approval of the proposal would depend on how effectively NHA and Planning Commission would plead the case. Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Dr Nadeem-ul-Haq said he has been requesting the government to stop approving development projects for the next three years so that the ongoing projects could be completed first but 'pressure' was not letting this happen.

All Day

China to give 3200MW electricity to Pakistan -- Saach

Lahore: China has officially offered power starving Pakistan to give 3200 Mega Watt electricity.

Punjab's energetic chief minister Shahbaz was offered this export during his talks with Chinese officials at Urumqi.

The mega power project would take three years time to be completed giving a boost to the country stumbling to fulfill its power needs.

Welcoming the offer, Shahbaz Sharif says that experts will assess the cost effectiveness of the project.

Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz leader is in China these days to pave ways for bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and China.

- See more at: <http://www.saach.tv/2013/10/24/china-to-give-3200mw-electricity-to-pak/#sthash.Jxbl6oyd.dpuf>

All Day

Land for international airport at Gwadar acquired, senate panel told -- BR

Land has been acquired for the construction of an international airport at Gwadar, the Senate's Sub-Committee on Finance was informed on Tuesday. An official of the Ministry of Defence briefed the Committee about the Gwadar airport. The committee decided to have another briefing next month on the issue.

It was informed that the government allocated Rs 600 million for this purpose in the current fiscal year while the total cost of the airport was estimated at Rs 7.6 billion. The committee proposed that the airport should be designed to accommodate future extensions. The meeting was informed that the Gwadar airport would have a runway with a length of around 10,000 feet and 150 feet width, enabling it to handle large aircraft and flights. The meeting was presided over by Senator Fateh Muhammad Hassni.

An official of Planning Commission stated that there was a need to update the airport's feasibility study because it was now five years old and the cost of the project might have been considerably increased. The committee stated that Gwadar's road, rail and air connectivity was critical for the economic development of the province and the country.

Senator Kulsoom Perveen observed that operationalisation of the Gwadar port would financially strengthen the province and decrease its dependence on the federal government.

All Day

Shahbaz eyes 1,000mw solar plant from China -- THE NATIONS

LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif who arrived in China on Wednesday on a two-day visit to explore possibilities of setting up solar energy plants in Pakistan, visited solar plant at Hami, 600km away from Urumqi without taking rest after arriving at Urumqi, provincial metropolis of Xinjiang province of China. Presently this plant is generating 1000mw electricity.

Chinese officials assured the Chief Minister of their whole-hearted cooperation for providing solar energy to Pakistan as he inspected various sections of the solar park for three hours and obtained latest information about solar energy.

Vice Governor of Xinjiang, Kuraish Mehsut hosted a banquet in the honour of Chief Minister Punjab. Chinese Federal and Provincial senior officials, representatives of ruling party and important traders of China attended the banquet.

On arrival, Shahbaz Sharif was warmly greeted by the high officials of the Foreign Affairs Office of Xinjiang Autonomous Region, Ambassador Masood Khalid and a large number of traders and entrepreneurs.

Soon after arrival, the Chief Minister met with Li Jian Hua, the Chief Executive Officer of TBEA Group and later left for inspecting solar energy power plants in Xinjiang and its adjoining areas.

While talking to his hosts, the Chief Minister said that addressing the energy crisis was one of the top priorities of the present government and in this respect he had a lot of expectations from this visit.

He appreciated China's keen interest and cooperation in addressing energy crisis and infrastructure development of the country. He pointed out that PML-N govt led

by Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was committed to addressing energy shortfall thus returning brightness in the country. He said that meeting the energy shortfall will galvanise economic activity, unleash an era of economic prosperity and brighten the country's future.

Shahbaz Sharif said: "When our factories and Mills will start getting power supply, they will function with full capacity, thus provide job opportunities to the common man".

The Chief Minister appreciated the warm welcome accorded to him on his arrival and said it illustrated the warmth both sides have in our relationship.

Vice Governor Xinjiang province, Mai He Su Ti Kurexi hosted a banquet in honour of the Chief Minister and his entourage. Later, while talking to media, Shahbaz Sharif said that the recent visit of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to China had proved a harbinger of a new chapter in the history of Pak-China relations and increased the prospects of cooperation in various sectors including energy between the two countries. Replying to a question, the Chief Minister said that he is ready to visit any country to rid the nation of darkness due to loadshedding.

He said that besides China, Pakistan was also making efforts to have cooperation of other countries including Germany and Britain in energy sector.

Addressing the participants of the banquet, Chinese Vice Governor said that every Chinese was proud of Pak-China friendship. Kuraish Mehsut said that he is deeply impressed with the speed and working style of Chief Minister Punjab Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif. He expressed his belief that Pakistan will not face energy crisis for a long time in the presence of leaders like Shahbaz Sharif. Speaking on the occasion, Shahbaz expressed the hope that Pakistan will succeed in overcoming energy crisis by replicating Chinese model. He said that the assurance of cooperation by Chinese leadership had highly encouraged his government.

Earlier, on his arrival at Urumqi on a two-day visit, the Chief Minister was accorded warm welcome by the senior officials of Chinese Foreign Ministry and office-bearers of traders organisations.

All Day

Shahbaz seeks Chinese help in energy projects -- BR

Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has said that the government is giving priority to solar energy sector as a short-term strategy to control energy crisis in Pakistan. Addressing the Chinese investors in Xinjiang on Thursday, the Chief Minister said that the present government had initiated different projects to generate electricity, however, maximum attention was being paid to generate solar energy to rid the people of loadshedding as soon as possible.

He said that a solar energy park was being constructed in Punjab with a capacity of generating 1000 megawatts of electricity. "This park will be among the largest solar energy parks in the world and there is a need for Chinese co-operation in implementation of the project," he added. The Punjab CM said that he had not come to China to seek aid but had brought proposals for launching joint ventures in Pakistan. He assured that all kind of facilities would be provided to Chinese investors for this purpose. The Chief Minister was of the view that the energy projects being launched in Punjab with the co-operation of Chinese investors would prove to be a milestone in Pak-China friendship.

Shahbaz also visited different factories and witnessed the manufacturing of windmill equipment, power transformers and solar cells. Speaking to media persons before his departure from China, Shahbaz said that China had helped Pakistan in every hour of need and the Chinese leadership had also assured full co-operation in the future as well.

All Day

Chinese team discusses Nandipur power project with Shahbaz -- BR

A delegation of Chinese company Dongfang Electric International, which is working on Nandipur power project, led by company's chief, Han Zhiqiao met Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif on Friday. Provincial Minister for Energy, Sher Ali Khan, Secretary Energy and Managing Director Nandipur power project, Captain Mehmood (Retd), concerned officials as well as Vice President Dongfang Electric International Zhang Guorong and Project Manager, Chen Youping were also present on the occasion.

Matters regarding completion of Nandipur power project were discussed in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, Shahbaz said that Nandipur power project is of vital importance and should be completed as early as possible. He said that PML-N government has revived this project and transported machinery from Karachi after which work is being carried out expeditiously on the project.

Government wants to complete this project even before the stipulated period with the co-operation of the Chinese company as this project will help in resolving energy crisis in the country, he added. He further said that Nandipur power project will serve as another shining example of Pak-China friendship and it is hoped that due to sincere efforts, the project will become operational at the beginning of next year.

He said that China is a trustworthy friend of Pakistan and his recent visit will help in opening up new avenues of co-operation between the two countries in energy sector. Shahbaz offered co-operation to the officials of the Chinese company in other energy projects in Punjab to which the chief of Dongfang Electric International (DEC) thanked the CM and assured to cooperate in other energy projects in Punjab as well. Han Zhiqiao said that special attention is being paid to the standard of construction of the project. He said that he is deeply impressed with the working style of CM Shahbaz Sharif whose speed of execution of projects is unbelievable. He said that Shahbaz Sharif is playing an important role in strengthening Pak-China friendship.

All Day

Pak space engineers, scientists getting training in China -- BR

BEIJING: A number of Pakistani engineers and scientists are getting space sciences training in China, said a senior official here.

"Hundreds of space engineers and scientists from several countries including Pakistan and Nigeria have received training in China since 2005," Li Lan, Deputy General Manager of the Communications Satellite Division of China Great Wall Industry Corp, said in an interview.

China Great Wall Industry Corp is the country's only commercial provider of international launch services and satellite in-orbit delivery. Providing training for space professionals from developing economies was aimed at enhancing their capacity in satellite operations and space technology application, he said.

China and Pakistan share a long history of space technology cooperation.

Pakistan's first low-orbit satellite, BADR-A, was launched by China in 1990.

If China starts taking foreign astronauts to outer space, we would like to be the first candidate," said Ahmed Bilal, chairman of the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission. We also want to cooperate with China in remote sensing technology and educating the public about space," China Daily quoted him earlier.

China launched a communications satellite PAKSAT-1R for Pakistan from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province in August 2011.

The satellite was China's first in-orbit delivery to Asian customers and also the first commercial satellite export to international users.

PAKSAT-1R was now providing a range of services, including broadband Internet, telecom and broadcasting, covering some regions of Europe, South Asia, the Middle East, and the eastern Africa.

The contract for the PAKSAT-1R was signed in 2008 between China Great Wall Industry Corporation and the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission of Pakistan.

Chairman SUPARCO, Ahmed Bilal who recently attended two international conferences on space sciences in China, in an interview said that space technology applications act as a catalysts in socio-economic development.

Pakistan, he said also wanted to get maximum benefits from spaces technology applications and the present government is attaching great importance to it.

Space Technology Applications are now playing an important role in human life and were being commonly used with full efficacy by shipping lines, airlines, in the fields of agriculture, medicines, spreading education, survey for dam constructions, road alignments, disaster management etc, Bilal observed.

Li Lan said the training to engineers and scientists covers satellite operations, space technology and engineering that can greatly enhance their knowledge of satellite operations.

China Great Wall Industry Corp, a subsidiary of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp, has launched 43 satellites and assisted in 37 more launches for international clients from 18 countries and regions, according to the company's latest statistics.

All Day

People-to-people contact must to further Sino-Pak relations' -- Daily Times

LAHORE: Experts at a symposium on Monday stressed the need for people-to-people contact between China and Pakistan to boost relations between the two countries.

They were speaking at a seminar entitled 'Pakistan-China Relations: The Future' organised by Punjab University Pakistan Study Centre (PSC), on Monday, which was addressed by specialist of South Asian Affairs, expert of Pakistan Studies from China and a faculty member of Jiangsu Normal University, Xuzhou, Zhou Rong. Speaking on occasion, Zhou Rong discussed China-Pakistan relations in three parts – strategic, economic and cultural relations. He recalled the past when both countries cooperated in defence field. He highlighted China's role in Pakistan-India wars and said these relations were not just confined to joint exercises. Both the countries have launched joint military weaponry projects and have been cooperating in development of missile and nuclear systems.

Talking about the economic relationships, he said it was going to improve further in near future. Both countries on government as well as private level have been joining

hands to launch new economic ventures. Pakistan's recent proposal for economic corridor from the Shanghai to Gwadar is important, as it will open new venues in fields of economic development of Pakistan, he added.

He stressed on enhancing the people to people contact and said understanding the languages of both sides was an essential for that purpose. He stressed upon students to learn Chinese language so that they could understand about Chinese culture and society.

Director Pakistan Study Centre Prof Massarrat Abid said the learning of each other's language will be most helpful in strengthening the cultural and social bond between people of the two countries.

She said these friendly ties could be more strengthened if people to people contacts were established on regular basis, adding in this regard, more academic exchanges, initiation of student exchange programmes between universities of China and Pakistan, exchange of cultural delegations will be beneficial.

All Day

Pakistan, Japan should cooperate in civil sector projects' -- Daily Times

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Production Rana Tanveer Hussain said on Tuesday that Japan and Pakistan should look into avenues where both countries could venture into civil sector development projects.

The minister met Ambassador-designate of Japan Hiroshi Inomata at in his office on Tuesday. Hussain said that since defence cooperation with Japan is very limited, therefore, ventures on the civil side where Japan could extend support are of much importance to Pakistan.

Referring to second shipyard to be built in Gwadar, the ambassador said the proposal "very fruitful" in enhancing relations between the two countries.

"The new shipyard project will uplift shipping industry of Pakistan and will serve as a good harbour for ships trading in the region. It will also act as a gateway to Gulf," the minister told the ambassador. The minister also commended the police structure of Japan and called it a successful model to be followed by the rest of the countries, including Pakistan. Later, a delegation of Nigeria and Tajikistan met Ministry of Defence Production Additional Secretary Maj Gen Raza Muhammad.

All Day

Pak-China economic corridor to play active role in emergence of new regionalism: Mushahid -- BR

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, Senate Defence Committee, Senator Mushahid Hussain Wednesday highlighted the various dynamic regional context that will define Pak-China relationship.

Addressing a workshop on "Doing Business with China", organized by COMSATS institute and Pakistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce in his capacity as Chairman, Pakistan-China institute, he said the shift in the balance of power from East to West with the rise of China as a pillar of strength, stability and security, has defined 21st century as the Asian Century.

"China has emerged as an economic, political and regional power in the world while Pakistan with its friendship with China could also emerge as powerful country to be a part of this Asian century", he added.

Elucidating his concept of "Greater South Asia," he said Pak-China economic corridor would play a crucial role in emergence of new regionalism in South Asia. This South Asia, he explained, would include China, Iran, Afghanistan and stretch all the way to Myanmar and will be knit together by cooperation in energy and economy.

The Chairman stated the vision enunciated by the new leadership in China has immense bearing on the region.

The Chinese leadership, he said, envisions sharing prosperity, peaceful, development and security in the region, particularly its neighbours "Pak-China Economic Corridor, Central Asia Economic Belt and Kunming-Yangon-Chittagong railway are a part of the vision of President Xi Jinping".

He said there are infinite opportunities for Pakistan's entrepreneurs and businessmen to reap the fruits of such changing regional context.

Citing the examples of Thar Coal and Nandipur Power projects, he cautioned that Pakistan must address certain issues to facilitate a greater Pak-China cooperation.

He said there should be a special force for industry and protection of foreign workers

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Wed

All Day

Foreign investment to boost Pak economy: Nawaz -- The News

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday said that foreign investment in Pakistan would provide a much needed boost to the economy and generate employment opportunities.

While talking to President of China Shipbuilding and Offshore International Company (CSOC) Xu Ziqiu who called on him at the PM House, the premier said that Pakistan had a growing strategic relationship with China and it welcomed new and innovative ideas in all fields.

He said that investment in construction and manufacturing sectors not only provide an impetus to the economy but at the same time generates employment opportunities. He said that Pakistan has always welcomed the Chinese investment which had been a source of strengthening of ties between the two countries.

All Day

Pak-China joint military exercise begins -- BR

Pakistan-China Joint Military Exercise YOUYI-IV aimed at sharing mutual exchange of experience and information through a comprehensive training programme in real time, commenced near Jehlum on Monday. The joint exercise, spread over a period of two weeks, is fourth in the series in which Special Forces from both sides will participate. According to ISPR, the Exercise YOUYI-IV is a brigade level joint exercise between the two armies.

Chinese army being well equipped and highly technical, in nature is very meticulous, keen and equally professional in their approach. During last joint exercise in China they demonstrated high sense of professionalism and friendship towards Pakistan.

Exercise YOUYI, which literally translates "Friendship" between two countries, started in 2004. So far three exercises have been conducted, including two in China and one in Pakistan. These exercises were mandated to boost existing professional relationship between the two friendly Armies. It may be mentioned here that Pakistan and China enjoy extremely close and brotherly relations since their inception, which have matured and strengthened over the years.

The forthcoming Joint Military Exercise YOUYI-IV will certainly pave the way for further cementing existing bilateral relations between the two countries. Senior military leadership from both sides will also attend the exercise. The YOUYI-IV exercise will be a true manifestation to a famous Chinese phrase "Pakistan China friendship is higher than the mountains and deeper than oceans".

All Day

World Fisheries Day: seafood export-based policy being evolved: Michael -- BR

Federal Ports and Shipping Minister, Kamran Michael, on Thursday said the government is evolving a fresh fisheries policy with a clear view to augment export of the country's key seafood products especially tuna and shrimp species. Being the chief guest at a seminar, which WWF-Pakistan and Marine Fisheries Department (MFD) jointly organised, on Promoting Rights Based Approaches for Fishermen at a hotel to mark World Fisheries Day, he said the government will include fishermen's views in exports related policies.

He said the government will bring the fishermen community into the country's mainstream business affairs to end their financial and social miseries. He said the government will ensure that the fishermen receive a better price for their catch on the local market.

He said the government plans to import fibre glass fishing vessels which will have general packet radio service (GPRS) facility and life protection tools to help the fishermen carry out deep-sea operations in all weathers without troubles.

Michael said the government is going to import 50 such boats which the fishermen will be offered on instalments. He vowed the government will ensure a better lifestyle to the seafarer community. Michael also assured the stakeholders of the government's seriousness to implement the EU specifications to increase the country's seafood export especially tuna fish and a variety of shrimp species to the European markets.

He pointed out that the government plans to develop fish harbour and its ancillary packaging units in Gwadar with the help of Belgium. He said the development of the harbour will help fishermen of Gwadar find better price for their catch. Speedy-cargo vessels will be imported to help the country's seafood export reach gulf nations quickly and at cheap cost, he said, adding that there are about 13 companies interested in bidding for the import of such vessels.

Sindh Fisheries Minister, Jam Khan Shoro said the provincial government is developing fisheries infrastructure to facilitate the fishermen especially building of floating jetties in the creeks. He said Karachi fish harbour is also being upgraded through expansion of facilities on modern lines. He appealed to the federal government to support fisheries projects in the province.

Director General, Marine Fisheries Department, Shaukat Hussain in his welcome address said the government is taking steps to develop the country's fisheries sector. Resources are dwindling in the wake of excessive fishing which has badly hit the livelihood of a fisherman. He said the increasing fishing fleet has a serious impact on the marine resources especially in the coastal waters.

Fisheries Advisor to Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Haji Akbar Askani, stressed the need for a wider development in the coastal areas with a view to improve living conditions of the poor fishermen. He said the Balochistan government will fully support the federal government's development projects in the province.

All Day

-- بیلجیم کے اشتراک سے گوادر پورٹ کا انفراسٹرکچر بہتر بنا رہے ہیں، کامران مائیکل**Al-Akhbar**

کراچی: وفاقی وزیر پورٹس و شپنگ سینیٹر کامران مائیکل نے کہا ہے کہ ماہی گیری کی صنعت کو جدید سطح پر استوار کرنے کیلئے ہالینڈ سے جدید جی پی آر ایس نظام سے لیس فائبر بوٹس درآمد کی جارہی ہیں، ابتدائی طور پر 50 بوٹس جلد پاکستان پہنچ جائیں گی جنہیں اقساط اور لیز پر ماہی گیروں کو فراہم کیا جائے گا، فائبر بوٹس پر لائف جیکٹس بھی فراہم کی جائیں گی تاکہ ماہی گیروں کی زندگیوں کو محفوظ بنایا جاسکے۔ انہوں نے یہ بات جمعرات کو مقامی بوٹل ورلڈ وائلڈ لائف فیڈریشن (ڈبلیو ڈبلیو ایف)، فشرمین کوآپریٹو سوسائٹی، میرین فشریز ڈیپارٹمنٹ اور کراچی فیش ہاربر اتھارٹی کے مشترکہ تعاون سے ماہی گیروں کے عالمی دن کی مناسبت سے منعقدہ تقریب سے خطاب کے دوران کہی، اس موقع پر صوبائی وزیر فشریز اور لائیواسٹاک جام خان شورو، ڈائریکٹر فشریز غلام محمد مہر، فیصل افتخار، معظم خان، میر اکبر، ڈاکٹر آصف ہمایوں، حبیب اللہ نیازی اور دیگر نے بھی خطاب کیا۔ سینیٹر کامران مائیکل نے کہا کہ ہالینڈ کی 12 کمپنیوں سے ہمارا رابطہ ہے اور جو بھی ہمیں قابل عمل قیمت دے گا اس کمپنی سے ہی یہ بوٹس منگوائیں گے، جدید فائبر

بوٹس میں لگے جدید جی پی آر ایس نظام کی وجہ سے مابی گیر زمینی رابطے میں رہیں گے اور اپنے گھروں سے بھی رابطے میں رہیں گے۔ اس میں سمندری حدود کی نشاندہی کرنے کی صلاحیت ہوگی اور مچھیرے اپنی سمت نہیں بھولیں گے جبکہ وہ دوسرے ممالک کے سمندر کی حدود بھی عبور نہیں کریں گے۔ انکا کہنا تھا کہ خلیجی ممالک کو مچھلیوں کی برآمد کے لیے مچھیروں کے لیے اسپیڈی بوٹس بھی متعارف کرائیں گے جس سے کم لاگت میں صرف 2 دن میں مچھلی خلیجی ممالک پہنچے گی، فضائی راستے سے 90 روپے فی کلو برآمد کی جانے والی مچھلی اسپیڈی بوٹس کے ذریعے صرف 2 دن میں 5 سے 10 روپے فی کلو خلیجی ریاستوں میں بھیجی جا سکے گی۔

وفاقی وزیر برائے پورٹ اینڈ شپنگ نے کہا ہے کہ بیلجیم حکومت کے اشتراک سے گوادر پورٹ میں انفراسٹرکچر کو بہتر بنانے کے منصوبے پر کام ہو رہا ہے، وہاں کولڈ اسٹوریج قائم ہونگے، بلوچستان کے مابی گیروں سے مناسب قیمت پر مچھلی خرید کر جدیدترین نظام کے تحت انکی پیکنگ کی جائے گی، اس طرح بلوچستان کے مابی گیروں کا معیار زندگی بلند ہوگا اور انہیں مچھلی کا زیادہ معاوضہ ملے گا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ حکومت مابی گیروں کی فلاح و بہبود، ترقی اور خوشحالی کے لیے جامع پالیسیاں مرتب کر رہی ہے۔ وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ پابندی کے خاتمے کے بعد یورپی یونین کو پاکستان سے ٹونا مچھلی، جمبو جھینگے اور دیگر مچھلی کی ترسیل ہو رہی ہے اور اب ضرورت اس بات کی ہے کہ ہم مچھلی کی ایکسپورٹ میں عالمی معیار کو برقرار رکھیں، صوبہ خیبر پختونخوا سے غیرقانونی طریقے سے ایکسپورٹ ہونے والی مچھلیوں کی روک تھام کو بھی یقینی بنائیں گے۔ ایک سوال پر انہوں نے کہا کہ مچھلیوں کے ساتھ مل کر مچھلیوں کا مناسب ریٹ طے کریں گے۔ صوبائی وزیر فشریز جام خان شورو نے کہا کہ وفاقی حکومت مابی گیروں کی حالت زار بہتر بنانے کے لیے فنڈز مہیا کرے، اگر فشریز اور مابی گیروں کا معیار زندگی بہتر ہوگا تو سمندری خوراک کی برآمد میں بھی تیزی آئے گی۔

All Day

Gwadar Port is blessing for Pak economy -- The Frontier Post

Gwadar Port is far away from economic hub of Pakistan due to absence of infrastructure communication facilities which are a prerequisite to for supporting the port operations and a strong link with the rest of the economic centers of the country.

Taking over of Gwadar Port by China is a blessing for the economy of Pakistan it means that China has assured to develop hinterland infrastructure to link the port with rest of the country. When the hinterland is developed it will have a great spill over the economic activities that would be taken up by China for shipments of goods to and from Western part of China which is comparatively less developed when compared to Western China and China desires to develop its western part as well for which it will be using our Gwadar Port"

Actually China needs Gwadar Port more than Pakistan to carry out its development plans in the Western China which is far away from Eastern coast and transportation of goods would be much costlier than what it would cost through Gwadar Port. So far Western China is the most deprived part of that country because all the industrial developments have been taken place in the Eastern part of China which has well equipped import and export facilities. Even if the Chinese products transport to its eastern part through Gwadar Port it will be cheaper in terms of money and time consumption. So for the forthcoming industrialization in West of China would be in need of Gwadar port for import and export purposes. Hence the take over of Gwadar Port by China will generate a great deal of economic activity in this part of the world and that would have a simultaneous spill over for the economic growth of Pakistan.

China besides development of hinterland infrastructure around Gwadar will also be developing motorways and have already developed a dry port at SUST border. Chinese have also converted Shah Rahe Resham by making it a 40 ft wide motor way which can two containers side by side for transportation. Apart from other things the western part of China is much closer to the access of oil and gas from Gwadar port, they can also lay a pipeline for conveying gas and oil from Gwadar Port. This will generate employment and services sector in Pakistan and benefits to the people of Pakistan especially in Baluchistan would be enormous and that would be opening of prosperity to Baluchistan so far the most deprived province in the country.

To carry out all these projects we need political stability, honest and dedicated leadership having direction in their minds to develop Pakistan rather than working for their own interests. There is a flow of economic benefits in Pakistan especially in Baluchistan however this require capacity to explore and guide these economic flow for the benefit of the country, therefore we need a leadership having capacity to exploit plenty of economic resources to give a turn around to the economy of Pakistan. Economy is flowing like water in Pakistan the only thing required to grab this flow of economic opportunities.It is just like water if you would store the water you will not develop dams, you will be at the losing end.This new elected government is the turning point for the economy of the country.

All Day

Increase in Balochistan's fish production -- The Dawn

Balochistan's fish catch is increasing under the provincial government's strategy to meet growing domestic demand and export earnings.

In 2012, Balochistan produced 147,000 tonnes of fish and shell fish, up nine per cent from 135,000 tonnes in 2011. Though it is the biggest-ever output, officials of fisheries department say it is half the potential fish catch of 300,000 tonnes.

They attribute the increase in fish catch to more efficient employment of 7,000 plus fishing boats, use of better fishing nets and hard work of fishermen.

Sea-cat fish, Hair-tail fish, Indian Mackerel, Sardines, Small Croaker and the most sought-after Tuna are the main fish species found in Balochistan. In 2012 their cumulative catch they made up about 50 per cent of the total fish production in the province, according to officials.

They say that more than three dozen species of fish and shell fish including shrimp and lobsters are netted in on regular basis from eight main landing sites along the coastal areas including those of Gwadar and Pasni.

"Improved security and brisk operational activities at Gwadar Port by the new government continue to facilitate fishing at these two sites," says an official of provincial fisheries department, adding that fish catch from there during the current year is also on the rise.

In 2012, fish catch from Pasni and Gwadar was about 45 per cent of the total fish production in Balochistan.

Industry sources say fishing activities at six other main landing sites (Damb, Gaddani, Jiwani, Ormara, Pishukan and Surbandar) are also progressing well and they hope that overall 2013 fish haul in the province would easily cross 155,000-tonne mark. They say that about 10 per cent of total fish catch of Balochistan is consumed within the province, another 10-20 per cent finds its way into Karachi's main fish markets and the remaining 70-80 per cent is exported.

Provincial authorities state that on the one hand they are taking measures to enhance marine fish resource and on the other hand, they are also trying to promote farm fish production, both through existing sources and by facilitating establishment of new fish farms.

All of this is covered under a comprehensive medium-term plan for boosting fish output. Sizable investment for both improving marine and inland fish catch would be made available out of a \$35.5 million Gwadar-Lasbela Livelihoods Support Project being run with financial assistance from International Fund for Agriculture Department.

Around 55,000-60,000 people in Balochistan are engaged in fishing, 60 per cent of them on permanent basis, and sustaining their livelihood comes under the purview of this programme. Besides, some other programmes aimed at enhancing fish production funded by the provincial and federal government include construction of fish landing jetties and harbour facilities at Damb, Jiwani, Pishukan and Surbandar. Establishment of fish processing plant at Pasni is another project of this category.

With a coastline of 750km, marine fishing in Balochistan has eight main landing sites, or the areas from where fish is caught, and 30 other smaller sites. Bulk of fish catch is from marine resources and fresh water fish makes up just six per cent of the overall fish production. Efforts are being made to increase production of fresh water fish at small dams and open ponds of water.

Promotion of dedicated fish farms is another area where recently some enterprising local people have made some investment and are waiting for the government support. "We've been involved in fish farming in Balochistan for the last two, three years," says Murshid Ali, a Karachi-based businessman who runs multiple fish

farms in Balochistan.

"I had set up the first farm with just half a million rupees. That's the minimum amount one needs to start this business," he says, adding that the number of his fish farms has now risen to three. He says half a dozen types of fishes are breeding in his fish farms but laments that except for some technical help from the provincial Fisheries Department, official support is lacking. Officials of Fisheries Department say they are providing comprehensive knowledge and technical know-how to intending fish farmers about the fish species that can be bred in fish farms, environmental requirements conducive to their farming and typical meals for each type of fish.

They stated that Pakistan needs to learn a few lessons in inland and farm fish production from countries like India, Bangladesh and Myanmar where fish catch has grown phenomenally in recent years. Exchange of visits of local fish farmers and their counterparts in these countries can help promote fish farming in Balochistan.

As compared to fresh water fish and farm fish, potential for production growth is many times more in case of marine fish in Balochistan. Quick exploitation of this potential is hitting snags primarily because of over-fishing by local fishermen without any substantial increase in biomass or total fish stock.

Illegal and unreported fishing by large vessels that pass through Balochistan coastline is another impediment. They say that temporary bans on fishing in breeding season and faster efforts to keep fish-holding waters from being contaminated are two policy responses for stock of fish to rise.

In order to stop foreign vessels from fishing illegally, international marine affairs authorities are being invited to probe the issue and take corrective measures.

Marine fish catch can be improved by augmenting fishing boats, training fishermen on best practices of maximising per-visit fish haul, improving on-boat preservation of fish and investing in fishing nets and gears. All this requires financial resources.

Similarly, establishment of modern fishing farms, proper upkeep of seed fish, manufacturing of fish meal and research on breeding techniques, all are money matters.

"Part of that money is being arranged from international institutions and out of annual development plans of the provincial and federal government," says a senior official of Balochistan's Fisheries Department. "But a great part of it must come from the private sector, chances for which are promising."

Pakistan's seafood exports rose 34 per cent to \$85 million in Q1FY14. If the growth trend is sustained, big profit-making fishing companies would likely invest in areas like marine fish hauling and fish farming. —Mohiuddin Aazim

All Day

Chinese firms offer Gwadar-Khunjrab rail link -- The Nations

LAHORE - Consortium of two leading Chinese construction companies, CREC and Sinotec, has offered to construct strategic Gwadar-Khunjrab Rail Link at an estimated cost of Rs250 billion including Rs160 billion for infrastructure and Rs90 billion for locomotives on electric traction basis in four years on soft term loan.

The offer was made on behalf of the Chinese companies Consortium by Mr. Song Shuan Ping in a presentation before Railways Minister Khwaja Sa'ad Rafique in Islamabad. The loan so offered can be professional loan, commercial loan or as a grant and will be payable in seven years period.

Pointing out strategic importance of Gwadar –Khunjrab Rail Link, Mr Song Shuan Ping listed a number of benefits which would accrue both to Pakistan and China as well as other countries of the region once the project is implemented and it becomes operational. He said the rail link will enhance the security of Pakistan and stabilize the region due to its strategic importance, main aim of the link is to connect the Central Asian Republics with Pakistan Railways network, the link will boost to a great extent trade relations between China and Pakistan, China will be able to receive cargo to and from Gwadar along the shortest route from Gwadar to Khunjrab.

He further pointed out that this rail link can also be used to supply oil from Persian Gulf to all Pakistan and Xianjiang China, can also provide access to China to Iran, enhance tourism in Northern Areas and Balochistan besides generating employment opportunities in the Northern Areas of Pakistan.

Making the presentation, the Consortium representative strongly pleaded for electric traction as compared to present diesel traction on which Pakistan Railways is being run and said that the adoption of electric traction can provide electricity for train lighting and air-conditioning and also to the railway stations for operational purposes in this era of power shortage.

He said electric traction also has substantial financial benefits estimated to be around Rs32 billion per annum through saving on account of fuel and lube oil, maintenance and overhauling, less staff required, elimination of power vans, non-transportation of diesel oil, long life and short turn around time.

Highly appreciating the presentation and the offer of financial assistance to implement Gwadar –Khunjrab Rail Link, Railways Minister Khwaja Saad Rafique said that China is a great time tested friend of Pakistan and number of Chinese companies are already working in different sectors in Pakistan for various years. He said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has more than once highlighted strategic importance of Gwadar-Khunjrab Rail Link adding that the offer of the Chinese companies consortium will be given due consideration on top priority basis by all concerned and a decision taken as soon as possible. He said the govt is attaching high priority to put the Pakistan Railways back on track and make it financially as well as commercial viable and profitable once again ensuring provision of best possible facilities and amenities to the travelling people across the country.

It may be mentioned here that CREC (China Railway Engineering Corporation) is the third largest construction company in the world, has built more than 50 thousand kilometers of rail lines, over 5760 kilometers of bridges, 4700 km of tunnels, 3400 km motorways and 566 km metropolitan railways in different countries .

All Day

Gwadar-Khunjrab Rail Link: Chinese conglomerate offers to build crucial rail link -- The Express Tribune

KARACHI: A conglomerate of two leading Chinese construction companies, China Railway Engineering Corporation and Sinotec, has offered to construct the Gwadar-Khunjrab Rail Link at an estimated cost of Rs250 billion. This cost includes Rs160 billion for infrastructure and Rs90 billion for locomotives on electric traction. This investment is designed on a four-year, soft-loan term basis.

The offer was made to Minister for Railways Khwaja Sa'ad Rafique on behalf of the consortium in a detailed presentation carried out by Song Shuan Ping. The loan can be treated as a professional loan, commercial loan or a grant and will be payable in seven years.

Pointing out the strategic importance of Gwadar-Khunjrab Rail Link, Ping listed a number of benefits which could be availed once the project was operational. "The main aim of the link is to connect the Central Asian Republics with the Pakistan Railways Network," said Ping. "This will immensely improve trade relations between China and Pakistan."

Ping further pointed out that this rail link can be used to supply oil from the Persian Gulf to Pakistan. Additionally, this network will bring tourism in Pakistan and create employment in Balochistan.

While presenting their proposal, the representatives of the consortium suggested using electric traction as compared to the currently used diesel traction. They added that the use of electric traction will bring an added benefit of electricity on trains and railway stations. The team pointed out that electric traction has substantial benefits of approximately Rs32 billion per annum which included saving fuel cost, less staff required and elimination of power vans.

Rafique appreciated the offer by the Chinese companies. "Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has highlighted the importance of the Gwader-Khunjrab Rail link several times," said Rafique. "The offer will be given serious consideration and a decision will be reached soon."

All Day

Pakistan govt plans new shipyard at Gwadar port -- APP

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani government is considering setting up a new shipyard at Gwadar port for an expansion in business activities as well as employments, revealed by Minister for Defence Production Rana Tanveer Hussain.

He was speaking at the steel cutting ceremony of Fleet Tanker Manufacture for Pakistan Navy at Karachi. The fleet tanker is being manufactured with the cooperation of Turkey.

The Minister said ship building industry is playing an important role in generating employment opportunities and the government intends to make this industry more viable in the region.

He said Karachi Ship Yard earned over 400 million rupees through tax revenue during the last financial year.

Rana Tanveer Hussain said there are vast opportunities for expanding bilateral cooperation in various fields between Pakistan and Turkey. He stressed the need for utilizing these opportunities for the benefit of both peoples.

All Day

Gwadar-Khunjrab rail project: Chinese consortium offers to build -- BR

A consortium of two leading Chinese construction companies, China Railway Engineering Corporation (CREC) and Sinotec has offered to construct strategic Gwadar-Khunjrab Rail Link at an estimated cost of Rs 250 billion including Rs 160 billion for infrastructure and Rs 90 billion for locomotives on electric traction basis in four years on soft term loan.

The offer was made on behalf of the Chinese companies Consortium by Song Shuan Ping in a comprehensive presentation to Railways Minister Khwaja Saad Rafique here on Wednesday, which was attended by Senior officials of the Railways and other ministries concerned.

The loan so offered can be professional loan, commercial loan or as a grant and will be payable in seven-year period. Pointing out strategic importance of Gwadar-Khunjrab Rail Link, Song Shuan Ping listed a number of benefits which would accrue both to Pakistan and China as well as other countries of the region once the project was implemented and it became operational.

He said the rail link would enhance the security of Pakistan and stabilise the region due to its strategic importance, main aim of the link was to connect the Central Asian Republics with Pakistan Railways network, the link would boost to a great extent trade relations between China and Pakistan, China would be able to receive cargo to and from Gwadar along the shortest route from Gwadar to Khunjrab.

He said that this rail link could also be used to supply oil from Persian Gulf to all Pakistan and Xianjiang China, provide access to China to Iran and enhance tourism in Northern Areas and Balochistan, besides generating employment opportunities in the Northern Areas of Pakistan.

The consortium representative strongly pleaded for electric traction as compared to present diesel traction on which Pakistan Railways was being run and said pointedly that the adoption of electric traction could provide electricity for train lighting and air-conditioning and also to the railway stations for operational purposes in this era of power shortage.

He said electric traction also had substantial financial benefits estimated to be around Rs 32 billion per annum through saving on account of fuel and lube oil, maintenance and overhauling, less staff required, elimination of power vans, non-transportation of diesel oil, long life and short turn around time. Highly appreciating the presentation and the offer of financial assistance to implement Gwadar-Khunjrab Rail Link, Saad Rafique said, "China is a great time tested friend of Pakistan and a number of Chinese companies are already working here in different sectors.-PR

All Day

چین کی پاکستان کو گواڈر اور خنجراب کے درمیان الیکٹرک ریلوے لائن بچھانے کی پیشکش

-- Nawa e Waqat

اسلام آباد (اے پی اے) چین نے پاکستان کو گواڈر اور خنجراب کے درمیان الیکٹرک ریلوے لائن بچھانے کی پیش کش کردی، منصوبہ چار سال میں مکمل ہوگا۔ چینی حکام نے وفاقی وزیر ریلوے خواجہ سعد رفیق سے ملاقات میں کہا کہ چائنہ ریلوے انجینئرنگ کارپوریشن اور سائنو ٹیک مشترکہ کنسورشیم بنا کر گواڈر اور خنجراب کے درمیان ریلوے لنک تعمیر کرنا چاہتی ہیں، جس پر اڑھائی سو ارب روپے سرمایہ کاری کی جائے گی، چینی حکام کا کہنا تھا کہ اس سلسلے میں خرچ ہونے والی رقم چین پاکستان کو پیشہ وارانہ قرضہ، تجارتی قرضہ یا امداد کے نام پر دے گا۔

All Day

38 projects worth Rs 244.5 billion approved by CDWP -- BR

The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) on Saturday considered as many as 42 development projects and approved 38, costing Rs 244.5 billion with a Foreign Exchange Component of Rs 68 billion. The projects are related to energy, water resources, education, governance, science & technology, social welfare and agriculture sectors.

A meeting of the CDWP was held under the Chairmanship of Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning, Development & Reform. The projects costing more than Rs 1 billion approved by the CDWP were referred to Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) for final approval.

The CDWP approved Pakistan-China Economic Corridor feasibility study for a rail track to connect Gwadar with Karachi through a 700 kms rail track from Gwadar to Basima and Basima to Jaccobabad via Khuzdar measuring 1,048 kms. Feasibility study for a new rail track from Havelian to Pak-China border was also approved. Feasibility studies for Karachi-Lahore 1,160 kms Motorway, and Muzaffarabad-Mirpur-Mangla N-5 Expressway were also approved.

The meeting also approved a project costing Rs 400 million to upgrade Larkana Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Radiotherapy (LINAR). The project costing Rs 880 million for construction of Abbas Institute of Medical Science, Muzaffarabad AJ&K (Phase-II) was also approved. Three projects for construction of barracks for Gilgit-Baltistan Scouts were approved.

In water resources, project feasibility study of small dams in KP, costing Rs 128 million, Chao Tangi Small Dam in South Waziristan Agency (FATA) costing Rs 798 million; construction of Palai & Kundal Dam District Charsadda, KP costing Rs 999 million; flood protection bund on river Chenab at Muzaffargarh-Khangarh, costing Rs 395 million; feasibility study for construction of Bhimber Dam project, AJ&K at a cost of Rs 86 million; Construction of Shadi Kaur Storage Dam at a cost of Rs over 6 million; revised project of Kachhi Canal costing Rs 57 billion which will irrigate 100,000 acres of land in Dera Bugti were approved.

In energy sector, Harpo Hydro Power Project costing Rs 11.6 billion, Dubair Khawar Hydro Power Project costing Rs 27 billion, Distribution Rehabilitation Energy Loss Reduction Project (ELR) of Pesco at a cost of Rs 7.8 billion, Power Distribution Expansion (DOP) of Pesco, Rs 17 billion Land Acquisition Project for Dasu Hydro Power Project, establishment of Hydro Power Training Institute (HPTI) at Mangla costing Rs 568 million; Refurbishment and Upgradation of generating units of Mangla Power Station enhancing the capacity from 1,000 MW to 1,310 MW costing Rs 50 billion; Power Distribution Enhancement Investment Programme Lesco, Gepco, Pesco, Iesco, Fesco & Hesco over \$160 million; construction of 35 MW Nagdar Hydro Power Project costing Rs 7 billion and construction of Dowarian Hydro Power Project Neelum Valley were approved.

Project for establishment of Federal Government College of Home Economics, Management Sciences, and a project for improving Human Development Indicators and literacy through NCHD for Rs 13 billion were also approved. Project to improve agriculture growth in Sindh costing Rs 9 billion and project of Nutrition Support for Sindh at a cost of Rs 4 billion were also approved by the CDWP.

Minister for Planning, Development & Reform, Ahsan Iqbal directed that all project proposals should be put up on website for scrutiny by experts and citizens to bring transparency in development programmes. He directed the Ministry of Water & Power, and Chairman Wapda to set up Expert Advisory Group for helping provinces to prepare small hydro power projects.

He asked Ministry of Water & Power to expedite investment policy for private sector to invest in small hydro power projects, as the availability of fund in public sector is limited and constrained. "We must promote private sector in energy sector. If there is pro-private sector policy, we may harness more than 30,000 MW by developing small dams in Northern Areas of Pakistan," he said.

He directed the National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) to develop key performance indicator in development to achieve universal primary education, as achieving 100 percent literacy is critical for Pakistan's future. He said, in the past, we ignored human and social capital and today paying a big price for this mistake.

He said knowledge, energy and infrastructure sectors are critical for our future development. He directed the Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform to ensure discipline in project management and a committee was formed with representatives of all provinces, AJ&K and Gilgit-Baltistan to make recommendations on eliminating wastage in development projects and streamlining the procedure in developmental sector.

All Day

JF-17 production with China's support -- The News

The Pakistani security apparatus and allied engineers not only produced the JF-17 Thunder prototype in a record period of two-and-a-half years as against a period of 8-9 years taken in the advanced world on the first model of a combat aircraft, they have also taken the Pakistani contribution in the avionics' preparation to the optimum level of 70 per cent of the Pak-China joint endeavour and to a satisfactory figure of 58 per cent in the preparation of other essential components.

Talking to The News, Pakistani functionaries who had been working in commanding positions in the manufacture of the JF-17 Thunder disclosed that China's cooperation has been efficiently reciprocated by Pakistani engineers and technicians whose talent has been acknowledged by Chinese scientists.

Given the high level of this talent, the JF-17 Thunder aircraft can be easily compared even with some highly efficient blocks/models of F-16 especially in the area of avionics. Avionics in fact has enabled the JF-17 planes to acquire considerable airpower edge over the adversary's aircraft.

And in the area of acceleration forces that enable the aircraft to overcome the gravitational pull, JF-17 is a G-8 plane as compared with F-16 that is a G-9 plane (G denotes acceleration force applied against the Gravitational pull to lift the aircraft). In this manner, JF-17 is no less capable and efficient an aircraft than many advanced planes of the world.

While the credit for accomplishing this excellence goes primarily to the Chinese friends, the role of Pakistani engineers, technicians and officials has been equally remarkable as also acknowledged by the Chinese company Avic (China Aviation Import-Export Corporation).

One of the prime factors that provided fresh impetus to JF-17 co-production was the frequent visits of senior functionaries of PAF to different parts of the world to procure international specifications, including those matching with first-class American aviation standards that are rated as the best standards. It was due to these exclusive efforts of PAF seniors or their frequent visits to countries having soft corner for Pakistan that a G-8 aircraft was produced.

As for the difference between G-8 and G-9, that is only due to metallurgy in use of both China and Pakistan. According to sources, producing a G-8 aircraft was not an easy task too. For this purpose the PAF seniors also sought the technical assistance of experts of a Middle Eastern country that is not much friendly with Pakistan. That diplomatic overture of PAF did work well and the aircraft with many capabilities no less than most of the modern warplanes of the contemporary world came into production within a record, brief period of two to two-and-a-half years.

Chinese friends are happy over the vigorous input of Pakistani engineers and functionaries that they say has resulted in a big success of international level with export orders expected from many countries. Appreciation has been especially expressed for Pakistanis' fine diplomacy and specification-collecting skills.

When The News posed a question what hope the people of Pakistan should pin on its pride co-production, JF-17 Thunder, the sources replied: "It is now one of the best and most reliable combat planes of the world as, apart from the G-8 versus G-9 factor, its radar range is 60 aeronautical miles which comes on a par with advanced international standards. Moreover, JF-17 is equipped with a far more advanced BVR system i.e. Beyond Visual Range system that gives it an edge over the enemy aircraft which it can hit from a considerable distance and move far away with full speed in a flash after firing the missile.

All Day

Gwadar port: 49,387 tons of urea shipment arrives -- BR

First shipment of 49,387 tons of urea, imported by the state run grain trader, has reached Gwadar port on Thursday. In October this year, the Economic Co-ordination Committee (ECC), of the Cabinet, directed Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) to import 0.5 million tons urea to ensure sufficient urea supply during upcoming crop season.

Following the directives of ECC, TCP successfully awarded five tenders to the five different parties for the import of 0.5 million tons of urea. First consignment under this import has reached on December 5, 2013 from Oman, sources said.

As per schedule given by the supplier, the first ship namely "MV Bulk Costa Rica" carrying about 49,387 tons of urea has berthed at Gwadar port. Another shipment of 50,000 tons is scheduled to arrive on December 9/10, 2013.

Besides import of urea from international market, TCP is also importing commodity from Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) against \$100 million credit grant of Saudi Fund for Development. Under the credit facility so far some 164,000 tons of urea has reached Pakistan, while remaining quantity will arrive till December 2013.

It may be mentioned here that TCP is only responsible for import of urea, while its distribution, transportation and bagging will be handled by M/s. National Fertiliser Marketing Limited (NFML) to ensure timely availability of urea in the local market.

All Day

گواڈر کو دیگر صوبوں و ممالک سے ملانے کیلئے مواصلاتی نیٹ ورک کو بہتر بنایا جا رہا ہے، چیف سیکرٹری -- روزنامہ آزادی

کوئٹہ (خ ن) : چیف سیکرٹری بلوچستان بابر یعقوب فتح محمد نے کہا ہے کہ گواڈر بندرگاہ بلوچستان اور پاکستان کیلئے ایک عظیم اثاثہ ہے جو ملک اور صوبے کے معاشی استحکام میں اہم کردار ادا کرے گی۔ صوبائی حکومت بندرگاہ کی مکمل فعالیت میں اپنے حصے کا کردار ادا کرے گی ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے جے ٹرمین گواڈر پورٹ اتھارٹی دوستین جمالدینی سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ جنہوں نے جمعہ کے روز یہاں ان سے ملاقات کی۔ ملاقات کے دوران گواڈر بندرگاہ سے متعلق امور اور بندرگاہ کی فعالیت کیلئے صوبائی حکومت کے کردار کا جائزہ لیا گیا۔ چیف سیکرٹری نے کہا کہ جے ٹرمین گواڈر پورٹ اتھارٹی کے عہدے پر مستقل بنیادوں پر بلوچستان کے افسر کی تعیناتی پورٹ کی فعالیت کے حوالے سے اہم پیشرفت ہے جس کے بہتر نتائج سامنے آئیں گے اور گواڈر بندرگاہ بلوچستان کی حقیقی ترقی کے تصور کو حقیقت میں ڈھالنے کی بنیاد بنے گی۔ چیف سیکرٹری نے کہا کہ گواڈر کو دیگر صوبوں، ہمسائیہ ممالک اور بالخصوص چین سے بذریعہ روڈ اور ریل منسلک کرنے کے منصوبوں کی تکمیل اور گواڈر میں ایکسپورٹ پروموشن زون کے قیام سمیت بندرگاہ کیلئے درکار دیگر ضرورتوں کو پورا کرنے کیلئے وفاقی حکومت سے روابط کو مزید موثر بنایا جائے گا اور اس حوالے سے صوبائی حکومت بھی اپنی ذمہ داریوں اور کردار کی ادائیگی کو یقینی بنائے گی۔

All Day

Foreign investors taking keen interest in Punjab -- The Nations

LAHORE - Efforts of Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and the Punjab government with regard to promotion of foreign investment in the province have started yielding results. After the offer by Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif to foreign investors for providing conducive atmosphere for investment, investors of Turkey, China and Iran are taking keen interest in making investment in various sectors.

Pak-China friendship and long term policy of cooperation of PML-N government with China has also opened new avenues for Chinese investors in various sectors including textile sector. Chinese Investment Institution Shandong Ruyi Technology Group Company Limited has announced that it will purchase 52% controlling shares of Masood Textile Mills Limited in Pakistan. Masood Textile Mills Limited is the largest company of Pakistan with regard to exporting cotton yarn. Punjab Board of Investment and Trade and Pak-China Bureau have played an important role with regard to investment and sale and purchase of shares between both these companies.

Due to the role of both these institutions of Punjab government, new avenues with regard to investment by other foreign companies in textile sector will open.

A number of Chinese textiles companies have recently visited Pakistan with the collaboration of China Textile and Apparel Council. Similarly, a representative delegation of textile industry from Pakistan also visited China in October 2013 so that cooperation in textile sectors between both the countries could be promoted.

All Day

ANALYSTS SAY CHINA'S INVESTMENTS IN PAKISTAN ARE A CHANCE TO BOOST TRADE AND GAIN A CHEAPER WORKFORCE TO SATISFY DOMESTIC DEMAND. -- APP

Pakistan's inauguration of construction on its largest nuclear power plant on Nov. 26 is the latest example of its increasing reliance on big-money Chinese infrastructure projects.

Cash-strapped Pakistan, plagued by a bloody homegrown Taliban insurgency, is battling to get its shaky economy back on track and solve a chronic energy crisis that cripples industry. With its ties with the U.S. unpredictable and held hostage to populist sentiment, Islamabad has sought Beijing's help to fix some of these problems. Chinese companies employing over 10,000 Chinese engineers and workers are working on more than 100 major projects in energy, roads and technology in Pakistan, according to officials, with an estimated \$18 billion expected to be invested in the coming years.

"Some projects are being done by the government, then most of the projects are being done by the Chinese companies, by the provinces and also with the state enterprises and authorities," says Ahsan Iqbal, federal minister for planning and development. "In the energy sector, Chinese engineers are building up to 15 power projects that include hydel (hydroelectric), thermal and nuclear plants."

Pakistan faces an electricity shortfall of around 4,000 megawatts in the summer, leading to lengthy blackouts that make ordinary people's lives a misery and have strangled economic growth.

To combat the crisis, Pakistan has sought Chinese help in building power generation projects, including nuclear, across the country. Aside from the 2,200 MW project near Karachi launched by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Chinese companies built two of Pakistan's three operational reactors.

Chinese engineers are also busy constructing a 969 MW hydropower project in Kashmir. They have also committed to generate 6,000 MW of electricity from coal and wind in Sindh province.

But the cooperation goes beyond energy.

Visiting in May during his first overseas trip after taking office, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang linked growth in his country's restive west with that in Pakistan, saying the two sides wanted to create an "economic corridor" to boost development. The concept involves improving road and rail networks to link China through Pakistan to the Arabian Sea and planning minister Iqbal said its benefits would extend to other neighboring countries.

"The biggest flagship project is going to be the economic corridor. I hope with its completion, we will be able to create opportunities not just for China and Pakistan but for the entire region," he said. "If the economic corridor is constructed, trade between China and India can also take place from this corridor. Similarly, trade between China and Central Asia and also between India and Central Asia can take place," Iqbal said.

In January the Pakistani cabinet approved the transfer of Gwadar port, strategically located in Balochistan province, to a Chinese state-owned company. Once the road network is improved, Gwadar will slash thousands of kilometers off the distance oil and gas imports from Africa and the Middle East have to be transported to reach China.

After six years of a bloody Taliban insurgency, and threat of expat workers being kidnapped and beheaded by militants, many foreign firms are wary of investing in Pakistan. Chinese engineers on construction sites are guarded at all times by armed policemen, however, and are happy with their time in Pakistan.

"Pakistani people are very friendly with Chinese. That is why I am here since last

three years and I will spend some more years over here,” said Wang Yanjun, supervising a road-building project in Muzaffarabad, the main town in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. “They provide respect and support to Chinese, so cooperation between China and Pakistan is increasing. I think we will do much more development projects in future than now.”

Wang Yanjun’s company China Xinjiang Beixin has already worked on projects in Pakistan ranging from roads to airports.

Another engineer, Wang Songqiang of China International Water and Electric Corporation, is looking after the construction of a shopping center in Muzaffarabad. “Our company is working in 38 countries, but we have special feelings while working here in Pakistan,” he said.

Pakistan and China presently have annual bilateral trade of around \$12 billion and are trying to take it to \$15 billion in the next three years, though Iqbal said Sharif is dreaming of doubling even this volume.

For China, investing in Pakistan’s crumbling infrastructure is a chance to boost trade but also about using its southwestern neighbor’s workforce as it seeks to keep prices down while satisfying growing domestic demand.

“Some industries are becoming very costly in China and their government feels they can get cheaper labor in Pakistan for those factories, which includes electronics and autos,” said Ahmed Rashid Malik, senior research fellow at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad. “For that they need energy in Pakistan and investing in Pakistan’s energy sector can prove beneficial for China in future.”

But there are dissenting voices, raising worries about possible corruption in the somewhat opaque deals struck between Pakistani government departments and provincial administrations and Chinese firms. “The capacity of Pakistani bureaucracy and the issue of transparency in this whole development plan is a source of concern for me,” said Senator Mushahid Hussain, chairman of the Pakistan China Institute and a strong advocate of Pakistan-China friendship. “There have been allegations of corruption against them in the past, so it’s a challenge for us to utilize this opportunity which came to us through Chinese cooperation,” he added.

All Day

China to establish lab on Small Hydro Power Plants -- APP

ISLAMABAD: China will assist Pakistan for establishing a joint research and testing lab and training centre, worth RMB 1.78 million, on small Hydro Power Plants at Pakistan Council of Renewable Energy Technologies (PCRET).

This was disclosed during the meeting of Federal Minister for Science and Technology Zahid Hamid with the four members Chinese delegation headed by Dr. Xu Jincai, Deputy Director General, Chinese National Rural Electrification Institute (NREI).

The delegation visited the Pakistan Council for Renewable Energy Technologies (PCRET) as a "follow on the project" approved by the Chinese ministry of Science and technology under the Pak -China protocol of the 17th Session.

Talking to delegation, the Minister said Pakistan and China enjoy close and cordial relations and there is need to learn from each other's experience and adopt best practices in the field of Science and Technology.

"There is great potential to enhance mutual cooperation, business ties and trade between the two countries".

The Chinese delegation expressed their willingness for the timely completion of the project and said that their country is interested to strengthen relations with Pakistan. Secretary MoST, Kamran Ali Qureshi, DG PCRET Dr. Khalid Islam, D.G PCRET and Senior Scientists of the ministry were also present during the meeting.

All Day

Pak, China relationship has glorious past, bright future -- Agence France-Presse

SHANGHAI: Pakistan-China friendship has a glorious past as well as a bright future and would continue to act as a stabilizing force for the entire region, said Ambassador Masood Khalid here earlier Tuesday.

In his his keynote speech at the prestigious Fudan University in Shanghai on 'Pakistan's Foreign Policy with Special Reference to China', Ambassador Khalid said Pakistan's relationship with China commanded a unique place in Pakistan's foreign policy and strategic calculus.

Tracing the historic evolution of Pakistan's foreign policy, the Ambassador said Pakistan had faced enormous challenges since its birth in 1947.

"It was a brand new country that had to develop its economy, industry and government structures from scratch," Ambassador Khalid noted.

At the same time, Pakistan was a small country in a volatile region and faced with a hostile neighbour many times bigger in its size in economic and military muscle.

This forced Pakistan to concentrate its energies and financial resources into safeguarding its independence and territorial integrity. As a result, the quest for security became an important driver of Pakistan's foreign policy and has continued to shape the country's response to key foreign policy challenges throughout its history.

Ambassador Khalid said another focus of Pakistan's foreign policy is on complementing the country's economic and development agenda, adding that Pakistan is a developing country strategically situated on the intersection of South, West and Central Asia.

Pakistan, he said was blessed with a large number of young population and rich natural resources. Despite severe security challenges in the region and periodic natural calamities, Pakistan's economic growth has remained resilient.

Turning to Pakistan-China relations, Ambassador Khalid said Pakistan's unique, win-win relationship with China has been vital in helping Pakistan meets its key security and development challenges.

Beginning in 1950, when the world was still in the grip of the Cold War, the friendship between Pakistan and China has grown from strength to strength. He pointed out that Pakistan played a key role in restoring rightful seat of China in the Security Council, besides acting as an intermediary in the secret diplomacy that resulted in the historic Sino-U.S. rapprochement in 1971, which was perhaps the most momentous foreign policy event of the past 50 years.

Over the years, cooperation between Pakistan and China has grown to cover a range of areas of mutual interest, including defence, infrastructure development, energy, education as well as multilateral areas, such as UN reforms and climate change.

Ambassador Khalid said that, following Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to China in July, Pakistan and China had embarked on a historic mission to build a Pakistan-

China Economic Corridor that would transform the region and act as a catalyst for economic integration between China and South and Central Asia.

Ambassador Khalid said he was confident that relations between the two all-weather friends would continue to flourish as Pakistan-China friendship enjoyed the support of the ordinary people, especially the youth, of the two countries.

All Day

China, Afghanistan, Pakistan agree to enhance cooperation for security in Afghanistan, region -- Pak China Institute

KABUL, Dec. 11:- China, Afghanistan, Pakistan agreed to enhance cooperation during the two-day third round of China- Afghanistan- Pakistan trilateral dialogue which concluded in Kabul on Tuesday, CCTV reported.

Chaired by Ambassador Sultan Ahmad Bahin, director general of 3rd Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, Ambassador Luo Zhaohui, director general of Asian Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, and Muhammad Iftikhar Anjum, director general of Afghanistan Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, the three sides agreed to cooperate and to maintain the security in Afghanistan and in the region.

The three countries agreed that under the current situation it is of great significance for three Foreign Ministries to hold the trilateral dialogue and exchange views on regional situation and cooperation between the three countries, stressing that dialogue will play a positive role in enhancing friendly cooperation between the three countries and maintaining peace and stability in the region.

In the meeting, the three countries also discussed regional situation, and acknowledged that Afghanistan is going through a period of transition and handover of security responsibility to Afghan National Security Forces and 2014 presidential election. Afghanistan needs its neighbors to play a positive role in maintaining peace, smooth election and stability in the region.

It was agreed that the three sides to cooperate and to maintain the security in Afghanistan and in the region. Both China and Pakistan reiterated that peace and stability in Afghanistan is in their national interest and they support the "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned" reconciliation process. China and Pakistan support the efforts of the Afghanistan High Peace Council in this regard.

The three countries supported the role played by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization for peace and stability in the region. The meeting welcomed the successful visit by President Hamid Karzai to Pakistan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to Kabul as a step for improving cooperation between two countries.

The three parties highlighted the importance of countering the common threats of terrorism, extremism and separatism.

In the two-day meeting which opened on Monday, the three sides agreed to verify and share information on security threats to Chinese companies and personnel working on different projects in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The meeting highlighted the importance of counter-narcotics campaign especially due to the nexus between terrorism and drug money, and stressed that a comprehensive strategy is needed to address this issue.

The three countries expressed satisfaction with the third trilateral dialogue, considering it as an important undertaking for the three countries to enhance mutual understanding, trust and friendship and agreed to jointly address their common concerns.

All the three sides agreed that the regional cooperation to ensure stability in the region is heading in the right direction and welcomed the outcome of the Istanbul Conference held in Almaty on April 26, 2013, and welcomed the readiness of the People's Republic of China to host the next Ministers Meeting of Istanbul Process in China by 2014.

The three sides welcomed the first Track-II trilateral dialogue in Beijing in August 2013, as well as the first joint visit of Afghan and Pakistani parliamentarians to China in September 2013.

The Chinese and Afghan sides welcomed Pakistan's offer to host the second Track-II Trilateral Dialogue in Islamabad in 2014.

The Afghan and Pakistani sides welcomed China's offer to host the second joint parliamentary delegation as well as the second joint media delegation from Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2014.

The Chinese and Pakistani sides supported the Afghan proposal of establishing a joint trilateral association of journalist, as well as a trilateral friendship group of parliamentarians.

In the meeting, the Chinese side agreed to host the next China - Afghanistan-Pakistan trilateral meeting in China in 2014.

All Day

China ready to finance Thar coal project: SECMC chief -- The Express Tribune

ISLAMABAD:

As International Financial Institutions (IFIs) refuse to extend financing to develop Thar coal reserves, China has offered to provide \$900 million for mining and setting up power plants, seeking a guarantee from the federal government in order to go ahead with the offer.

This was stated by Shamsuddin A Shaikh, Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

He said that the SECMC required \$1.2 billion for the Thar coal mining and power projects, which no IFI was ready to extend due to environmental issues and Pakistan's credit history.

"China is the only country which is ready to extend financing but it wants a guarantee from the federal government to list Thar coal among the top 3 to 4 priority projects," said Shaikh, adding that Chinese banks were ready to extend \$900 million, out of which local banks would provide \$300 million.

He demanded that the federal government list the Thar coal project as a priority to secure financing from China. He further said that the government of Pakistan should include the Thar coal project in the Pak-China Economic Corridor project. He said that it is important that a conversion policy be made with incentives for use of local coal to encourage the use of indigenous resources and save precious foreign exchange.

"All new conversion projects based on imported coal should be subject to blending with Thar coal at 20% at least to scale up mining at Thar," he said.

He also asked that the power policy be amended to include Thar-based power projects enabling the Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB) to issue the requisite Letter of Intent (LOI) for Thar based plant.

Shaikh said that Pakistan's power sector suffers from shortages as well as an expensive energy mix. Pakistan's effective power generation stands at 16,000 MW, which is currently short by approximately 5,000 MW, and will worsen as power requirements increase to 26,000 MW by 2020.

"Pakistan's energy mix is neither sustainable nor affordable as approximately 40% of power generation is dependent on imported fuel. It is, therefore, imperative to curb our dependence on expensive imported fuel and develop indigenous resources that can help provide energy security," said Shaikh. "Import of coal is very risky as its prices cannot be predicted, coupled with our currency devaluation which would again take us back to the current unsustainable position."

Contrary to general perception, Shaikh said, the quality of Thar lignite compares favourably with other lignite being used around the world for power production.

"Among the four established quality measures of coal which are heating value, sulphur, Ash and moisture content, Thar coal is superior in three quality aspects as compared to lignite currently being used in Germany, India and Bulgaria for power generation," he added.

He said that the SECMC was a joint venture with the Sindh government, which owns 51% of the share while SECMC owns 49%.

"Now, SECMC wants to keep 26% of the shares and Pakistan State Oil (PSO) will get 23%," Shaikh said.

All Day

Pak-China Economic Corridor to help strengthen regional integration:

Ahsan -- Pak Radio

The Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said trade and investment environment in the country is gradually improving due to the prudent policies of the government.

Addressing a conference in Islamabad on December 11, he said that the world perceptions about Pakistan in respect of trade and investment have also changed.

Ahsan Iqbal said that Pak-China Economic Trade Corridor projects will help strengthen regional integration and connect South Asian countries with the Central Asian states turning the region into a trade and commercial hub.

The Minister stressed the need for adopting innovative and efficient engineering techniques for cost cutting construction of infrastructure development in the country. He said that overcoming the infrastructure bottle necks is the top priority of the government and short-term and long term plan are being formulated for the

purpose.

All Day

Gwadar-Kashghar Motorway to facilitate transit trade -- APP

ISLAMABAD: The tentative alignment for the Gwadar-Kashghar Motorway has been cleared subject to feasibility studies containing commercial, technical and hydraulic aspects of the project.

An official from Communications Ministry informed Thursday that the project would facilitate transit trade in the country.

It would have economic zones en-route and allow reaping full benefits of development including economic and social uplift and jobs creation in the country. He said the corridor from Kashgar to Khunjerab and Gwadar would not be merely a transportation link, but also energy and telecommunication corridor.

This project will also be a great help in regional connectivities, he said and added passing primarily through hinterland it was expected to affect fast track development of backward areas.

He said Pakistan would establish industrial parks and economic zones along the proposed Kashghar-Gwadar trade corridor that would connect China's western autonomous regions with Balochistan.

As per the alignment Pak-China Motorway, the trade corridor will be around 2,000 kilometres long within the territory of Pakistan, crisscrossing snow-capped mountains, narrow valleys, lush green fields, sand dunes and dry hills.

He said this new trade corridor would provide Chinese traders a link to deliver their goods to the international markets through the Gwadar Port.

If compared with the Chinese ports, it was the shortest possible route to the western provinces of China, the official added. app

All Day

Thar coal project to be financed by China -- Pak Tribune

Islamabad: China has offered to provide \$900 million for mining and setting up power plants after the refusal of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to extend financing to develop Thar coal reserves, whereas the decision is seeking a guarantee from the federal government in order to go ahead with the offer.

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He said that the SECMC was a joint venture with the Sindh government, which owns 51% of the share while SECMC owns 49%.

End.

All Day

Nawa-e-Waqat -- گوادر پورٹ پاکستان کی ترقی کی چابی...حق کی بات ... شاہد محمود

وزیراعظم پاکستان نواز شریف نے قومی اسمبلی میں اپنے پہلے خطاب میں پاکستان کے اہم مسائل پر قوم کو اعتماد میں لیا اور بڑے واضح اور صاف طور پر کہا کہ وہ قوم کو دلکش نعرے اور پُر تعیش وعدے کی خیالی جنت میں نہیں رکھیں گے۔ پی پی اور اس کی اتحادی جماعتوں نے ملک کی اقتصادی ناکامی میں بڑھ چڑھ کر حصہ لیا۔ قومی اقتصادی حالت میں انہوں نے ایسی گوٹی فٹ کی کہ اب نئی حکومت کو ملک کی اکنامی کی حالت کو اپنی اصل جگہ پر لانے کے لئے ایک جامع اقتصادی پلان کی ضرورت ہوگی اور یہ کام اتنا آسان نہیں جو عام آدمی کو نظر آ رہا ہے۔ مگر امید پر دنیا قائم ہے۔ نواز شریف نے تمام سیاسی جماعتوں کو وطن عزیز کو اقتصادی اور دیگر مسائل سے نکالنے کے لئے مشترکہ ایجنڈا جلد لانے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا ہے۔ اس کے لئے میان صاحب کو تمام سیاسی جماعتوں کا تعاون درکار ہوگا۔ قوم امید کرتی ہے کہ پاکستان کی تمام جمہوری طاقتیں پاکستان کی اقتصادی ترقی کیلئے ایک ہو جائیں گی۔ مولانا فضل الرحمن ٹھیک کہتے ہیں کہ امن کے بغیر ملک کی اکنامی کو بہتر نہیں کیا جا سکتا۔ ضرورت اس چیز کی ہے کہ باتیں کم کی جائیں اور عمل تیز اور عمل کی ہی ہمیں ضرورت ہے۔

بلوچستان میں اس وقت بلوچستان کی تاریخ کی ایک ایسی حکومت پہلی بار سامنے آئی ہے جس کو پاکستان کی عسکری اور سیاسی قوتوں کی مکمل حمایت حاصل ہے اور اگر میں یہ کہوں کہ یہ ایک خاص جمہوری عوامی حکومت ہے تو یہ درست ہوگا۔ پاکستان کے اقتصادی نظام کی ترقی کیلئے ایک اچھا جمہوری نظام کا ہونا اشد ضروری ہے۔ میان نواز شریف نے اقدار کی سیاست کے فارمولا پر عمل کرتے ہوئے یہ اہم چیز بلوچ عوام کو دے دی ہے اور جمہوری نظام اللہ کے فضل سے ہمارے پاس اس وقت موجود ہے۔ اب صرف عمل کی ضرورت ہے۔ کراچی پورٹ اور گوادر پورٹ دونوں پاکستان کے لئے اہم ہیں۔ کراچی میں امن و امان کی حالت سب کے سامنے ہے۔ ملکی و غیر ملکی سرمایہ کار اب کراچی میں مزید سرمایہ کاری نہیں کر رہا۔ اگر کراچی کے امن کو بحال کر لیا جائے تو اس سے بہتر چیز اور کوئی نہیں ہوگی مگر عمل ضروری ہے۔ پاکستان کے ساحلی شہر گوادر اس وقت عالمی سرمایہ کاری کے لئے سب سے بہتر جگہ ہے یہاں امن و امان کی صورت حال دیگر علاقوں سے کافی بہتر ہے۔ اس لئے عالمی سرمایہ کار کمیونٹی اس وقت گوادر پورٹ میں دلچسپی لے رہے ہیں صرف ہمیں اپنی تیاری کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ چینی سرمایہ کار پہلے سے ہی وہاں موجود ہیں۔ نواز حکومت بنانے کے بعد اب غیر ملکی سرمایہ کار گوادر میں سرمایہ کاری کا سوچ رہے ہیں۔ گوادر پورٹ پاکستان کی ترقی کی ایک چابی ہے اور یہ چابی نئی حکومت کے پاس ہے۔

نواز شریف وزیراعظم پاکستان خود گوادر کی ترقی میں سب سے زیادہ دلچسپی لینے والے رہنما ہیں اور گوادر کی ترقی میں نواز حکومت ایمان رکھتی ہے۔ بلوچستان کے عوام نواز شریف کو پسند کرتے ہیں اور ان کی عزت کرتے ہیں اس لئے بلوچستان کی بزنس کمیونٹی کو میان نواز شریف سے بہت ساری امیدیں ہیں۔ گوادر پورٹ کی طرف سب سے پہلے اقتصادی نظر میان نواز شریف نے ڈالی تھی۔ گوادر پورٹ کا قیام بھی ان کی سابق حکومت کے اہم کارناموں میں سے ایک ہے۔ آج بھی گوادر پورٹ نواز شریف کی حکومت کی توجہ میں سب سے آگے ہے اور پاکستان کی ترقی کا ایک اہم پلیٹ فارم ہے۔ گوادر پورٹ کی بنیاد وزیراعظم پاکستان نواز شریف نے رکھی تھی گوادر پورٹ کے لئے نواز شریف کی خدمات کو بلوچستان کے عوام قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتے ہیں اور نواز شریف خود ذاتی طور پر بلوچستان میں اقتصادی سرگرمیوں میں اضافہ دیکھنے کے خواہشمند ہیں اور انشاء اللہ نواز حکومت گوادر پورٹ کو عالمی سطح کا اہم اکنامی زون بنانے میں اپنا کردار ادا کرے گی کیونکہ گوادر میں پاکستان کی ترقی و خوشحالی کا سنگ بنیاد نواز شریف نے رکھا اور پاکستان کی ترقی و خوشحالی کا سفر بھی گوادر سے شروع ہوگا اور میان نواز شریف کی ٹیم اس پر سب سے پہلے توجہ دے گی۔

All Day

Gwadar-Kashghar Motorway to facilitate transit trade -- APP

The tentative alignment for the Gwadar-Kashghar Motorway has been cleared subject to feasibility studies containing commercial, technical and hydraulic aspects of the project. An official of the Communications Ministry informed APP on Sunday that the project would facilitate transit trade in the country. It would have economic zones en-route and allow reaping of full benefits of development including economic and social uplift and creation of jobs in the country. He said the corridor-from Kashgar to Khunjerab and Gwadar-would not merely a transportation link, but it would be also energy and telecommunication corridor.

This project will also be a great help in regional connectivities, he said and added that passing primarily through hinterland, it was expected to affect fast track development of backward areas.

He said Pakistan would establish industrial parks and economic zones along the proposed Kashghar-Gwadar trade corridor that would connect China's western autonomous regions with Balochistan.

As per the alignment Pak-China Motorway, this trade corridor will be around 2,000km long within the territory of Pakistan, crisscrossing snow-capped mountains, narrow valleys, lush green fields, sand dunes and dry hills.

He said that this new trade corridor would provide Chinese traders a link to deliver their goods to the international markets through the Gwadar Port.

If compared with the Chinese ports, this was the shortest possible route to the western provinces of China, the official added.

All Day

China to help establish joint research laboratory at PCRET -- BR

China will assist Pakistan in establishing a joint research and testing lab and training centre, worth RMB 1.78 million, on small Hydro Power Plants at Pakistan Council of Renewable Energy Technologies (PCRET)

This was disclosed during the meeting of Federal Minister for Science and Technology Zahid Hamid with a 4-member Chinese delegation headed by Dr .Xu Jincai, Deputy Director General, Chinese National Rural Electrification Institute (NREI). The delegation visited the PCRET as a "follow on the project" approved by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology under the Pak-China protocol of the 17th Session.

Talking to the delegation, the Minister said Pakistan and China enjoy close and cordial relations and there is a need to learn from each others experience and adopt best practices in the field of Science and Technology.

"There is great potential to enhance mutual co-operation, business ties and trade between the two countries," he added. The Chinese delegation expressed their willingness for the timely completion of the project and said that their country is interested to further strengthen relations with Pakistan.

Secretary MoST, Kamran Ali Qureshi, DG PCRET Dr Khalid Islam, DG PCRET and senior scientists of the ministry were also present during the meeting-PR

All Day

Pakistan Railways to procure 58 locomotives from China -- Pak China Institute

Islamabad, Dec 16: Pakistan Railways will procure fifty-eight locomotives from a Chinese company as part of the plan to improve its overall performance, according to a news report of Radio Pakistan.

These fifty-eight locomotives would be supplied in two years.

In the first batch, twenty-three locomotives would be supplied and put on trial. After satisfactory performance of the first batch, the remaining locomotives would be acquired.

The sources said as a result of the measures introduced by the government, earnings of Pakistan Railways have substantially improved in the first five months of the current financial year.

It generated revenue of over 1339 million rupees from cargo operations alone as against about 507.6 million rupees during same period last year, showing 163% increase.

The department is trying to create a balance between passenger and freight operations to generate more revenue and narrow down the gap between earning and expenditure

All Day

China welcomes holding Pak-India DGMOs moot -- APP

BEIJING, Dec 18 (APP): China on Tuesday welcomed holding of a meeting between director generals military operations (DGMOs) of Pakistan and India next week. Both Pakistan and India were important nations in South Asia, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying, when her attention was drawn towards the media reports that a meeting of DGMOs of the two countries is slated for December 24 to discuss ways to prevent violation of ceasefire on the Line of Control (LoC). Hua, at a regular press conference here, said the steps initiated by the two sides for improvement of their relationship would have great significance for the whole region.

She said as a friend and neighbour of both India and Pakistan, China was stay committed to supporting the two sides in solving their differences through dialogue and consultation.

The decision to hold DGMO-level talks was taken by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting in New York in September this year.

According to media reports the initiative for holding DGMO meeting was moved by Pakistani side and was subsequently accepted by the Indian counterpart. The DGMOs will reportedly meet at the Attari-Wagah border on December 24.

All Day

JF-17 strengthened Pak defence: PM Nawaz -- Geo News

KAMRA: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Wednesday that the JF-17 aircraft had strengthened Pakistan's defence.

Addressing the rolling out ceremony of the 50th JF-17 Thunder aircraft at Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, Prime Minister Sharif said the defence of the country remained a top priority for the government.

Prime Minister Sharif added that the country's defence strategy was being devised keeping in view the contemporary professional requirements as no battle could be won with outdated technology and discarded strategies.

"The new technology and modern expertise have transformed our defence into a great force ... We want that our defence forces should be ever ready for any contingency,"

The prime minister praised the role of the Pakistan Air Force and said the country's skies were secure because of them.

Prime Minister Sharif said Pakistan and China were effectively translating their friendly and brotherly relations into development projects for the mutual benefit of their people. He mentioned the Pakistan China Economic Corridor project which would link Gwadar to China through Khunjrab Pass and said that economic zones would be set up along the Corridor. The project would have far reaching impact on the future of both countries he added. Nawaz Sharif said cheap labour in Pakistan would also contribute to the smooth materialization of projects with China.

Prime Minister Sharif also expressed Pakistan's desire for peaceful relations with neighbouring countries particularly India and Afghanistan. The prime minister welcomed the upcoming meeting of the Directors General Military Operations (DGMOs) of Pakistan and India on December 24.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony PAF chief, Air Chief Marshal Tahir Rafique Butt said the Air Force was in need of new aircrafts.

All Day

Undoubtedly Pak's defence is impregnable, says PM

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said Pakistan's defense is top priority of the government.

Addressing a rolling out ceremony of 50th JF-17 Thunder aircraft at Pakistan Aeronautical Complex Kamra on Wednesday, he said Pakistan's new defense

policy is being formulated keeping in view the ground realities.

The Prime Minister termed production of JF-17 Thunder aircraft as a milestone in the way of self reliance in the sector of defense production and promotion of the Pak-China friendship.

He said Gwadar Port, Chashma Nuclear Power Project, Karakoram Highway are the glaring precedents of the Pak-China friendship.

Nawaz Sharif said that the government will ensure fulfillment of the requirements of the defence forces to make country's defense invincible.

Nawaz Sharif also formally inaugurated joint manufacturing of first aircraft of Block-2 JF-17 thunder jet.

Pakistan and China also signed an agreement to establishing a joint marketing and sales team for JF-17 Thunder.

Jointly manufactured by Aviation Industry Corp of China and the PAC Kamra, JF-17 Thunder is originally a Chinese product, with the related technology shifted to Pakistan in the recent years.

Regarded as a third-generation multipurpose combat jet, the JF-17 Thunder, in technical terms, is known as FC-1 Fierce Dragon.

The PAF says, it is the only armed force across the globe to have developed its own fighter jet aircraft. It says, the JF-17 can carry a variety of missiles and bombs, including air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles.

It merits recalling here that PM Nawaz Sharif along with a delegation of PAC Kamra had visited Turkish Aerospace Industries in September this year to witness demonstration of T-129 Advance Attack and Tactical Reconnaissance Helicopter.

The contemplated export of JF-17 Thunder was also discussed then, the PAF sources said.

All Day

China to assist NIO to determine gas hydrate potential -- The Nations
 ISLAMABAD : National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) with technical assistance from China, has initiated a project, under which seismic data acquired by different oil and gas companies and other research institutions from offshore areas of Makran will be processed to determine the gas hydrate potential. After initial assessment of samples, NIO geologists are scheduled to conduct geological survey of the Gwadar and adjoining area. NIO is planning a detailed oceanographic survey of the area onboard Pakistan Navy's survey vessel, officials at Ministry of Science and Technology told APP, here.

NIO has prepared a Country Paper regarding the gas hydrate potential of Pakistan offshore area, official said, adding NIO has already undertaken preliminary studies of the island that emerged at Gwadar and extrusions off Basal River. The exact location of the island that appeared after the earthquake on September 24, 2013, is West Bay of Gwadar.

Official said tests conducted by NIO confirmed the presence of methane gas that was escaping into the air from a number of vents on the island, which is odourless and inflammable. Giving details, official said, three earth extrusions also appeared in the offshore area off Basal River Mouth towards the west of Ormara.

"Technically these extrusions cannot be called islands. Two of the three extrusions remained under water, the third was slightly above the water level. No gas emissions were observed from these three extrusions".

He said the island that has recently emerged in the West Bay of Gwadar will be washed away by the sea in a few months, after losing gas pressure, adding the process has already started.

According to preliminary studies conducted by NIO, the Makran coastal belt has extensive resources of gas hydrates which are frozen methane.

The methane is reported to be present at couple of hundred meters below the sea floor. Many aspects of gas hydrates are being investigated worldwide to understand their origin, their occurrence, the factors that affect their stability, and the possibility of using this vast resource in the world energy mix. "However, gas hydrates present both scientific and technological challenge, as they are yet to be tapped commercially", official added.

All Day

Pakistan launches production of new fighter jet -- Pak Tribune

KAMRA: Pakistan on Wednesday launched the production of a new version of combat aircraft JF-17, which features upgraded avionics and weapons system.

The plane, to be called Block-II JF-17, will be manufactured at the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex west of Islamabad, which has so far produced 50 older-model Block-I JF-17s for the air force. The complex on Wednesday formally handed over the 50th indigenously produced Block-I JF-17 Thunder aircraft to the air force at a ceremony presided over by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The JF-17 Thunder has been co-developed and co-produced with the China National Aero-technology Import and Export Corporation.

"The indigenous manufacturing of JF-17s will not only lead to self-reliance and industrialisation but will also further strengthen Pakistan's friendship with China," Nawaz told the ceremony. "The first Block-II JF-17 will be ready by June next year," chief project director Air Vice Marshal Javaid Ahmad told AFP. The Block-II will have improved versions of avionics sub-systems, air-to-air refuelling capability, additional weapons carriage capability and some extra operational capabilities.

Ahmad said several countries in Central Asia, South America and Africa had shown interest in buying the new plane. The Pakistan Aeronautical Complex has the capacity to roll out 16-25 aircraft per year.

While speaking on the occasion, Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Tahir Rafique Butt highlighted the importance of JF-17 aircraft for the PAF. He said that the aircraft had been designed to fulfil PAF's operational needs and its induction would help PAF to replace its aging fleet of fighter aircraft. The air chief highlighted the fact that there was close cooperation between the aviation industries of China and PAC, and the JF-17 project was the strongest link in this context.

End.

All Day

Senate body asks Navy to handover 584 acres of land to GPA -- APP

ISLAMABAD, Dec 19 (APP): The Senate's Standing Committee on Ports and Shipping on Thursday decided that Pakistan Navy should handover 584 acres of land to Gawadar port authority. The Committee which was chaired by senator Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo, heard the statements of all sides and directed Pakistan Navy to vacate 584 acres of land and hand over it to Gawadar port authorities. The committee also directed government of Balochistan to arrange 1000 acres of land for Pakistan Navy as a substitute adding the Ministry of Ports and Shipping will pay the cost of land to Balochistan government.

The committee discussed in detail to resolve land dispute and vowed to develop the Gwadar Port at any cost because it is the biggest project in the country's history. The Committee heard the statements of all sides and directed Pakistan Navy to vacate 584 acres of land and hand over it to Gawadar port authorities.

The committee also directed government of Balochistan to arrange 1000 acres of land for Pakistan Navy as a substitute adding the Ministry of Ports and Shipping to pay the cost of this land to Balochistan government. The senate body urged the Federal government to direct Gawadar Port Authority to initiate developmental projects and take the possession of 84 acres of land of Pakistan Navy.

It is pertinent to mention here that dispute of 584 acres of land was started between Pakistan Navy and Gawadar port Authority, a few years back due to which development work at Gawadar port had not been started.

The Committee discussed in detail the issues pertaining to the operational aspects of Gwadar, problems in the way of handing over the land which has been bone of contention between various institutions.

Gwadar Port can contribute a lot in development of the Pakistan's economy once it's fully operational, the committee discussed.

The meeting was attended by senators, Mrs. Naseema Ihsan, Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Nasir, Malik Muhammad Rafique, secretary ministry of ports and shipping Habeeb Ullah, chairman Gawadar Port Authority, Navy administration, member board of revenue.

All Day

Work on Pak-China Economic Corridor in full swing: Tariq Fatemi -- APP

Work on Pak-China Economic Corridor in full swing: Tariq Fatemi PDF Print E-mail ISLAMABAD, Dec 19 (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Syed Tariq Fatemi has said development of the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor is a matter of high priority for both sides and the work on the project is in full swing. He said the corridor envisages connectivity, development of rail and road links, fiber optic cable, energy projects and development of special economic zones, Radio Pakistan reported on Thursday. The Special Assistant said the corridor is a historic project which would trace the prints of old "Silk Route" and will connect China with Pakistan and onwards with Central Asia and East Europe. Tariq Fatemi said that it would not only benefit and bring prosperity to both countries but also generate economic activity, peace and stability to the people of the whole region.

All Day

Nigeria can meet energy needs of Pakistan: Envoy -- The Nations

LAHORE - President Mamnoon Hussain will visit Nigeria next month to cement bilateral relations and boost cooperation between the two countries in many sectors, especially energy, defence, agriculture and textiles, said Nigerian envoy to Pakistan.

During the upcoming visit of President Mamnoon Hussain, high-level exchanges are on the cards to explore opportunities for cooperation in energy, defence, civil aviation, agriculture and textiles.

Nigerian Ambassador to Pakistan Dauda Danladi has said that large scope of cooperation existed between Nigeria and Pakistan in the field of trade and business.

Danladi, while responding to the queries of The Nation Editor Salim Bokhari and Waqt TV Director News Hafiz Tariq, during his visit to Nawa-i-Waqt Group office here on Saturday, said Pakistan and Nigeria shared commonalities in a number of areas. The two countries are members of the UN, Commonwealth, OIC and D-8 and a number of Pakistanis have been working in Nigeria since 60s. He said Nigeria is rich in oil and gas while Pakistan has a lot of expertise, particularly in agriculture and textile sectors, and both the countries can mutually benefit from each other. He said Nigeria was a thriving economy of Africa and wanted attention of Pakistan which hitherto had paid much to Asia and Europe.

He said Pakistan needed energy and Nigeria can help it in a big way. The ambassador also underscored the need for people-to-people contacts and contacts at the level of chambers and business community not only for the sake of promoting trade and business ties and to attract investment to each other but to counter the negative narratives about this country as well.

He said before he took over in 2012, situation was not much good but in a year much headway has been made in this direction. He said Nigeria is revolutionising its agriculture to bring 79 million acres of land under cultivation and Pakistan can help a lot in this regard through machinery and know-how.

Similarly, he said Pakistan has also a big textile sector which can have share in the Nigerian textile imports to the tune of \$ eight billion a year. Danladi also invited Pakistanis to invest in fertilizer sector of Nigeria which has vast reserves of gas, adding Nigeria can not only meet the need of its own but also that of Pakistan and Asia. He said Nigeria had set up export zones and a duty system to the benefit of investors.

About the cooperation between the two countries on defence side, he termed it appreciably encouraging and said their services chiefs had been exchanging visits and Nigerian senior officers are passing out from the National Defence College, Islamabad. He appreciated Pak-China manufactured JF-17 aircraft while mentioning National Industrial Complex being built in Nigeria. To a question on the 'negative narratives' against Pakistan, the ambassador said they are somewhat exaggerated as security problems confront every state at various degrees. He said he visited chambers in various cities of Pakistan and went to Balochistan and other parts, but nowhere found threats of security.

He mentioned the President of Pakistan's visit to Nigeria in January 2014 and said during that visit exchange of views are expected on establishing Business Forum, PTA, besides signing of MoUs in different sectors and finding out means to promote business ties at the government and individual businessmen level. He said Nigeria which has vast manpower and natural resources has opened itself to the world and Pakistan can also benefit from this opportunity.

Responding to a question on the law and order situation in Nigeria, he said today the world had become a global village and added with reference to Afghanistan situation that effect on one part inevitably reaches another. He said for Nigeria, peace in Afghanistan is of vital import, so it also wants Pakistan to play a key role in this regard. He said Nigerian government has adopted effective measures to keep activities of the extremist parties under control. He said as an OPEC and African Union member, Nigeria is pursuing the policy of respecting sovereignty of every country and non-interference in the affairs of others. When asked if Nigeria also faces the same US pressure as does Pakistan, he said in the name of human rights violation or others, many face it directly or indirectly through the UN.

To a question on the US drone attacks on the Pakistan soil, he passed careful remarks that this matter should be settled through negotiations and in an amicable manner.

All Day

China commits \$6.5 billion for Pakistani nuclear project -- The Economic Times

ISLAMABAD: China has committed \$6.5 billion to finance the construction of a major nuclear power project in Pakistan's port city of Karachi as it seeks to strengthen ties with its strategic partner, Pakistani officials said.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif broke ground on the \$9.59 billion project last month but officials have provided few details of how they plan to finance it.

All Day

China unveils 'road map' for cooperation with Pakistan in 2014 -- Daily Times

ISLAMABAD: China on Monday outlined its 'road map' for cooperation with Pakistan in 2014, declaring the outgoing year 'a year of development, a year of achievements and a year of harvest'.

"Firstly, we should deepen the strategic relations. China would like to work with Pakistan to keep the tradition of high-level exchanges, and enhance mutual support on issues involving the major interests of the two countries," Ambassador Sun Weidong told a select group of journalists here at the Chinese Embassy.

"We should share experiences in governing a state. We should further strengthen China-Pakistan friendship by promoting exchanges of political parties, parliamentarians, local governments, think tanks, youth and media," the ambassador said. The envoy termed Sino-Pak cooperation in energy and development sectors as top priority and hoped that exchange of experiences could open new avenues for economic and social construction of both countries.

"Secondly, we should strengthen cooperation in all fields. We will take energy and infrastructure cooperation as a top priority, push forward construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), so as to promote economic development of Pakistan and improving livelihood of Pakistani people," he said, and pointed out that bypass project of Attabad Lake of Karakorum Highway, the Gwadar Port East Bay Motorway, the Reconstruction Project of Flood-Damaged Highway and China-Pakistan Cross-Border Cable Project could be the 'Early Harvest Projects'.

The ambassador said Chinese companies wanted to invest in the energy sector and were willing to participate in water, thermal, solar, wind and civil nuclear power generation projects. "We should make full use of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and hold the second round of tax reduction negotiations on the second phase of the FTA. We should deepen cooperation in the fields of defence, maritime, agriculture, and law enforcement." The ambassador said Pakistan and China need to promote people-to-people exchanges. He announced that China will send one thousand Chinese teachers to Pakistan in the next five years.

"We will continue to encourage youth delegations to exchange visits, invite more Chinese cultural troupes to Pakistan. We are also planning to build up a cultural centre in Pakistan," the ambassador said. On regional and international affairs, the ambassador said the two countries should push forward Afghanistan peace process, support the SAARC cooperation process, maintain regional peace and promote common development. The ambassador appreciated the Pakistani government for its efforts to bring economic development and social stability.

"We are delighted to see reported 5% GDP growth rate in the first quarter of the 2013-2014 fiscal year and FDI rising to \$340 million." The ambassador hailed Pakistan's sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and urged the international community to respect Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity and provide it support on an 'equal footing'. "China supports Pakistan in formulating and implementing counter-terrorism strategies according to its own requirements. We appreciate that measures have been taken by the Pakistani side to ensure the safety of Chinese citizen and institutions."

The ambassador said his government gives priority to the China-Pakistan relations, while relations with China remain cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. "It is because the two peoples have nationwide consensus on being friendly to each other," he said.

All Day

Two-day symposium on Pak-China Economic Corridor begins -- BR

A symposium on Pak-China Economic Corridor began here on Tuesday in which experts were of the view that the project will significantly usher an era of long lasting economic benefits to the region and beyond. Diplomats, analysts and scholars from leading universities across China are participating in a two-day symposium began at the prestigious Peking University in Beijing.

The participants would critically evaluate the Economic Corridor project, which would link China's western regions with the Gwadar Port. The project plan included laying of a network of railroads and energy pipelines. Underling the significance of the project, experts termed it importance for China's foreign policy and regional diplomacy.

The Charg Affaires of the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing Shujjat Ali Rahtore, deputised for Ambassador Masood Khalid. Addressing the opening ceremony, Rathore described the Pak-China Economic Corridor as the 'lag ship project' for the new phase of Pak-China relations that would significantly expand the economic dimension of their relationship.

He said the Pak-China Economic Corridor sprang from the two countries' recognition of Pakistan's immense potential to become an energy and trade corridor for China as well as Central and West Asia.

Rathore further said that the project would act as a catalyst for economic integration in the region and accelerate development in northern Pakistan as well as China's Western region. Earlier, former ambassador of China to Pakistan and Director General Asia Department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Luo Zhaohui, briefed the audience on various dimensions of the Economic Corridor project.

Ambassador Luo said the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor would supplement China's policy for developing its western inland regions and fits perfectly into China's broader strategy for the region. He described Pakistan as China's time-tested friend who had stood by China through every challenge and adversity.

All Day

Chinese investors offer to invest in energy sector -- The News

PESHAWAR: A group of the heads of Chinese investment companies, who called on Chief Minister Pervez Khattak on Wednesday, offered to invest in the energy sector particularly hydel power generation in Malakand division.

Welcoming the offer, the chief minister said the Chinese companies had shown interest to make huge investment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A handout said Pervez Khattak held a meeting with the investors here.

They included Zhang Lida (EO China Beijing company Ltd), Chen Qijin, Tao Xiujuan, Ms Zhai Lei, Cao Wenjian (Chairman Pak-China Investment Company), Zhang Yanzi, Madam Luxiao (CEO HP Winner Lighting & Design Marketing Hangzho China) and Energy Lamps Unit Ltd representatives. Rafaqatullah Babar, advisor to CM on Economic Affairs and In-charge Investment Promotion Cell, Muhammad Ashfaq Khan, Principal Secretary to CM, Khalid Pervez, Additional Chief Secretary, Sahibzada Saeed Secretary Energy & Power, Secretary Planning & Development, Heads of SHYDO and KPHA and others attended the meeting.

The meeting termed the energy designs and models of Chinese companies safe, successful and environment friendly that could withstand extreme weather conditions and sustained minimal damage in earthquakes and floods.

"The projects could create thousands of job opportunities for local engineers, skilled and unskilled youth," the handout said. Pervez Khattak directed the relevant authorities to provide all facilities to the investors under one-window operation.

He said the provincial government would take effective steps to provide security to the Chinese investors and meet all the requirements to secure their investment. He said the foreign investors would never feel any insecurity in the province.

The Chinese investors said that they had no reservations about their security or safety of investment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and they considered it their second home. They said that they would be pleased to engage the local people in economic activities.

All Day

Chinese firms to get land for industrial zones free of cost -- The Nations
LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has said that in addition to economic corridor, plan has been made to construct industrial zones with the cooperation of Chinese companies which would be given free of cost land by the Punjab government.

He said that the project of economic corridor from Kashgar to Gwadar is of great importance, as it would increase trade volume between both the countries. He expressed these views while talking to the delegation of prominent Chinese TV channel Xinjian here on Thursday. Chairman Information Technology Board Umer Saif, Press Secretary to Chief Minister Shoaib Bin Aziz, Secretary Information Momin Agha, DGPR Athar Ali Khan and other concerned officials were also present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister said vision of Chinese leadership, economic development and hard work of the people is a role model and thanked Chinese leadership for extending cooperation in the development and prosperity of Pakistan.

Chief Minister said that the Pakistani government is streamlining relations with friendly countries on new lines for putting the country on the road to progress and China is on the top of the list. He said that the project of economic corridor between Pakistan and China will prove to be a new chapter of development and prosperity in the region. He said that Gwadar Port is the glorious example of Pak-China friendship. He said that Chinese company China Harbor is constructing infrastructure at Gwadar Port.

Shahbaz Sharif said that Pakistan is taking steps on emergent basis for overcoming energy crisis. He said that a number of agreements have been made with various Chinese companies for coping with energy crisis. He said that besides Gadani and Port Qasim, Chinese companies are also cooperating in installing coal power plants in Punjab. He said that during his recent visit to China, Aronchi province has expressed interest for providing 3,000MW electricity to Pakistan through transmission line. He said that Federal Government is marching forward speedily on the project of getting electricity from Aronchi province. He stressed the need for further promoting economic and trade relations between Pakistan and China. He expressed the hope that time will certainly come when Pakistan and China will jointly install energy projects of 40,000mw. Shahbaz Sharif also gave an interview to Chinese TV Channel and talked about Pak-China relations.

All Day

CM sees increase in Chinese role in Pak energy sector -- APP
Lahore

Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif Thursday said Pakistan and China enjoyed historic, friendly ties, and China had always supported Pakistan in every hour of trial.

Terming Pak-China friendship higher than Himalaya, deeper than ocean, sweeter than honey and stronger than steel, the chief minister said that vision of Chinese leadership, economic development and hard work of the people was a role model for the world.

He thanked the Chinese leadership and people for extending cooperation in the development and prosperity of Pakistan.

A number of Chinese companies are working in various sectors in Pakistan, he said and added that the project of economic corridor from Kashgar to Gwadar was of great importance.

He said that the volume of trade between the two countries would increase manifold and new job opportunities would be created due to the construction of economic corridor. He expressed these views while talking to a prominent Chinese TV channel Xinjian here.

Information Technology Board chairman Umer Saif, Press Secretary to Chief Minister Shoaib Bin Aziz, Secretary Information Momin Agha, DGPR Athar Ali Khan and other officials concerned were also present.

Talking to the delegation of Chinese TV Channel Xinjian, Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif said that the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was streamlining relations with friendly countries on new lines for putting the country on the road to progress and China was on the top of the list.

He said that the project of economic corridor between Pakistan and China would prove to be a new chapter of development and prosperity in the region. He thanked Chinese leadership on the cooperation for constructing economic corridor.

The chief minister said that planning of constructing industrial zones and economic corridor had also been made where land would be provided to Chinese companies free of cost. He said that Gwadar Port was the glorious example of Pak-China friendship and a Chinese company, China Harbor, was constructing infrastructure at Gwadar Port.

Shahbaz Sharif said that Pakistan was taking steps on emergent basis for overcoming energy crisis.

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He said that, besides Gadani and Port Qasim, Chinese companies were also cooperating in installing coal power plants in Punjab. He said that during his recent visit to China, Aronchi province had expressed interest in providing three thousand megawatt electricity to Pakistan through transmission line.

He said that the federal government was working fast on the project of getting electricity from the Aronchi province. The chief minister said that China and India had promoted relations in economic field by setting aside their border disputes. He said that the volume of mutual trade between China and India had reached 75 billion dollars. He said that Chinese companies were installing energy projects of 20,000 mw in India. He stressed the need for further promoting economic and trade relations between Pakistan and China. He was hopeful that Pakistan and China would jointly install energy projects of 40 thousand megawatt in future.

All Day

Pak-China nuclear cooperation under IAEA safeguards: Pakistan rejects 'smear' campaign -- APP

Pakistan on Thursday rejected smear campaign against Pakistan-China nuclear co-operation and made it clear that the co-operation is exclusively for peaceful purposes fully covered under IAEA safeguards.

Speaking at the weekly press briefing, Foreign Office spokesperson Tasnim Aslam said that Pakistan-China nuclear co-operation is in conformity with international commitments of both parties. "Obviously we understand that there is campaign and it is spearheaded by those who are themselves responsible for spreading nuclear technology outside the NPT [Non-Proliferation Treaty] and IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] mandates," she said.

She said that the co-operation helps Pakistan in overcoming shortages of electricity and it serves the interest of the country, as nuclear energy is a part of our energy mix. She pointed out that Pakistan has 40 years of experience in maintaining and safeguarding its civilian nuclear power plants.

"They have been operated with safety and security. Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA), an autonomous regulatory body, regulates the safety and security of civilian nuclear materials and facilities," she said, adding that it works closely with IAEA and benefits from the recommendations and guidance it receives from the agency.

She said that Pakistan is party to the convention on nuclear safety as well as the two international conventions of early notification and assistance. "We realise that the expansion of nuclear power calls for a higher level of responsibility. We are

cognisant of our responsibilities and are fully committed to ensuring safety and security of these power plants that we acquire for nuclear energy," she said, adding that Pakistan fully abide by the safeguards of IAEA.

On the recent US drone attack, she said, "Pakistan strongly condemns the attack in Miranshah and these should be stopped," adding that these strikes are counterproductive having human rights and humanitarian implications.

She said that drone strikes constitute dangerous precedent in inter-state relations and have negative impact on government's efforts to bring peace and stability in the country and in the region.

She said drone strikes are violation of Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity, adding that Pakistan has been raising its concern over drone strikes with the US administration and at the UN.

To a question, she said the use of technology to kill even high-value target was not justified, if it is violation of the international law and results in killing of innocent civilians. "Militants are in many other places not just in tribal areas of Pakistan. Generally the concept is that any technology is not worthy of use if in the process of killing five militants it kills one innocent human being...that's the cost of the technology," she added.

She added that using a method which is fundamentally flawed and illegal even for a positive purpose cannot be justified. "Therefore, this is not our policy that if some high-value target is killed, we would show leniency against such attacks," she made it clear.

She said steps are being taken to build international consensus, which exists now and is getting strong to bring about a change in this policy, adding that Pakistan would be tabling a resolution against drones in the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

About Pakistan's relationship with the US following withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, she said that the relationship between the two countries was diversified and not a single specific.

She said the two countries are already engaged in co-operation in defence, economic, power and educational fields and this co-operation would continue. However, she said that it was not clear about the US presence in Afghanistan following 2014, adding that the kind of Pak-US collaboration in this regard would depend on events in Afghanistan and the kind of US presence in that country.

Commenting on the recent verdict of the International Court of Arbitration in Kishan Ganga dispute, she said the court has upheld its earlier decision prohibiting depletion below dead storage level as a general principle on run of the river projects. Without going into the controversy of claiming victory or loss on the issue, she said that there is a need to implement the decision in letter and spirit.

She also welcomed Indian External Affairs Minister's statement that there was no option but talks between Pakistan and India. She pointed out that the only way forward to resolve the outstanding issues between the two countries is dialogue and resolution of these issues is only way to establish durable peace in the region.

Responding a question, she said a number of Pakistani prisoners are languishing in Indian jails and once they complete their sentences, they are being sentenced in some other cases. "That's why people are languishing in Indian jails for long times. This is a humanitarian issue on both sides because nobody should be punished for a crime longer than what he deserves," she added.

She confirmed that Pakistan Minister of State for Commerce will have a meeting with Indian Commerce Minister on the sidelines of a SAARC meeting in New Delhi next month. They would review the roadmap that was agreed upon by commerce

secretaries of the two countries in September 2012 for trade liberalisation, but the process was disrupted as the composite dialogue process was stalled, she added.

About DGMOs' meeting, she said that the meeting was a very positive step forward and the two sides have agreed on the need to maintain peace and tranquility on the Line of Control (LoC) and to stay in touch with each other so that incidents and situations are not allowed to blow up and controlled at the local level.

She said that Pakistan and India have agreed on a mechanism for travels between the two parts of Kashmir, adding that there are crossing points and the bus service. "We do not consider movement of Kashmiris as illegal. But there are smugglers and drug traffickers. Trans-national crimes is an issue and states have to work together to stop that," she added.

All Day

China biggest buyer of Pak cotton -- APP

KARACHI: China has become the biggest buyer of Pakistan cotton this year — it has purchased about 2,80,000 bales — after the signing of the trade pact with Pakistan early this year, according to informed sources.

While 30,000 bales were purchased out of the old crop early this year, about 2,50,000 bales are understood to have been bought from the current crop.

Nearly 70,000 bales of cotton, which have already been registered by the State Bank of Pakistan, will be shipped to China from Karachi during the next week.

The registration for the remaining bales of cotton, to be supplied to China by Pakistan out of the current crop, is expected to be made by the State Bank of Pakistan by next month. The parties concerned are believed to have already applied for the registration of the deal. After China, Hong Kong becomes the next main buyer of Pakistani cotton with purchases of about one lakh bales of cotton from the current crop.

The export performance of cotton this year was the best in past five years, as a result of huge purchases by China.

All Day

China welcomes Pak, India efforts for ensuring peace on LoC -- APP

BEIJING, Dec 25 (APP): A spokesperson of Foreign Ministry here Wednesday said China welcomes the efforts and progress made by Pakistan and India for ensuring ceasefire at Line of Control in Kashmir. The spokesperson made the comments on a meeting held between Director Generals Military Operation (DGsMO) of Pakistan Army and Indian Army Tuesday that reiterated resolve and commitment to continue efforts for ensuring ceasefire, peace and tranquility on the Line of Control (LOC). At the meeting between DGsMO Pakistan Army, Maj Gen. Aamer Riaz and his Indian Counterpart, Lt. Gen. Vinod Bhatia, both the sides also agreed to carry forward the positive spirit of DGsMOs meeting. The improvement of relations between the two countries is of vital importance to regional peace, stability and development, spokesperson remarked in a statement. As the neighbor and friend of Pakistan and India, China will, as it always does, support Pakistan and India in properly resolving relevant disputes through peaceful dialogue, the spokesperson added.

The title "Gwadar's largest commercial scheme" Al-Noor cargo city holds this distinct. Al-Noor cargo city is also known as Gwadar's first strategic commercial scheme. Al-Noor cargo city is situated in the mid of Gwadar airport and Gwadar sea port. It has one-kilometer wide front on the 205ft wide main Baluchistan Broadway and 150ft wide Existing coastal highway.

Al-Noor Cargo City gives an eye-catching stance to both local and international investors due to its strategic location. In addition, just 1500 yards distance to Deep Sea East Bay gives another edge to Al-Noor Cargo City.



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CORRIDOR OF OPPORTUNITY

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's vision for a game-changing economic corridor to prop up a flagging Pakistani economy, dominate Afghanistan and contain India

RELATED/SPIN-OFF PROJECTS TO THE CORRIDOR

Karachi to Lahore motorway

The 1,240-km project will be completed by 2015.

Metro bus, underground metros

For Lahore, Gujranwala, Multan, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi. Metro in Karachi.

Economic City in Gwadar

To be coupled with the Chinese port to become a free trade zone like Hong Kong or Singapore.

Karakoram highway

China currently upgrading this highway built in 1979.

RAILWAY LINE TO BE EXTENDED TO LINK XINJIANG WITH GWADAR

INDUS HIGHWAY (1,264 KM)

\$18 BILLION

KASHGAR-GWADAR ECONOMIC CORRIDOR
FEASIBILITY PROJECT TO BE COMPLETED BY NEXT YEAR. ROAD, LATER RAILWAY AND OIL PIPELINE, TO LINK XINJIANG WITH GWADAR.



GWADAR NEWSBOOK 2014

All Day

'Pak, China share decades old cooperation in energy sector' -- BR

BEIJING: Federal Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Muhammad Asif said on Tuesday Pakistan and China shared decades old cooperation in energy sector and several projects between the two countries illustrated their close cooperation. He was addressing the two-day 3rd Pakistan-China Joint Energy Working Group and the 1st Energy Working Group meeting of Pakistan-China Economic Corridor here. The meeting was presided over jointly by Chinese Executive Administrator of National Energy Administration (NEA) Shi Yubo and Khawaja Muhammad Asif. The minister expressed the confidence that joint efforts would lead to creation of even greater linkages and inter-dependence for mutual benefits in energy and power sectors and thereby contribute towards further strengthening of Pakistan-China friendship. He said following the visit of the Premiers of both countries, and in line with the vision of the economic corridor, the energy working group meeting further added to the economic and energy cooperation.

He said that Pakistan at present needed construction of critical infrastructure in power generation and laying of a network of new transmission lines system as well as up-gradation of the existing obsolete network.

He pointed out that several projects had been identified for collaboration between the two countries aimed at power generation and transmission in addition to the existing projects.

The minister said in this regard, Pakistan wanted to take benefit of Chinese companies, who were blessed with requisite experience in power generation and transmission sectors. The governments of the two countries are determined to create conducive environment for investors to collaborate for mutual benefit and setting up of Pak-China Economic Corridor is the right step in this connection, he noted.

The minister said there was a realization to shift the proportion of Pakistan's energy mix towards cost-effective and affordable fuel resources.

He said Pakistan was endowed with abundant energy resources and had one of the largest indigenous coal energy reserves. Mining and power plants were being set up to tap the resource.

Highlighting the generation of low cost electricity, the minister said Pakistan offered immense potential for coal based power generation, hydro and renewable resource power generation in different parts of the country, including Gilgit-Baltistan bordering China.

He said the government had approved an ambitious project for the construction of 6600 MW Power Park at Gaddani. Chinese investment is welcome in coal-based power plants as well as construction of jetty and infrastructure there, he noted. He said Pakistan had already signed an MoU (memorandum of understanding) yesterday with Gezhouba Group for setting up 660 MW power plant in Gaddani. Pakistan intends to build massive power infrastructure, including transmission lines and grid stations to evacuate power from the new power projects, he said adding that investment from Chinese friends was being sought not only for the new power projects but even for the existing transmission up-gradating.

This will also help overcome the problem of transmission losses, he added.

The minister said he was excited about Pakistan-China Energy Corridor, and wanted to share with the Chinese friends the advantages emerging from its strategic position as Pakistan being located on the cross-road of Central Asia, South Asia, West Asia and China.

He looked forward to investment especially in the planned Solar Power Park in province of Punjab. He pointed out that some of Chinese companies were keenly interested in these projects. He said the Chinese side could assist Pakistan in mapping its landscape for renewable energy, particularly wind power. In addition, construction of coal-based power plants also in Punjab, apart from other parts of the country was also being looked at, he added.

Appreciating presentations made by both sides on energy policy planning, power and renewable energy, the minister said their input was very valuable for formulating energy strategy.

He said, "We have abundant resources for alternative energy in Pakistan. Besides, huge coal deposits of 175 billion tons, that can be used for generation of low cost electricity."

Speaking on the occasion, Executive Administrator of National Energy Administration of China (NEA) Shi Yubo said the meeting provided an excellent

platform as both sides discussed issues of mutual interest and listened to initiatives that laid a solid foundation for cooperation.

He said meetings had raised the cooperation mechanism and level of energy cooperation dialogue, as well as successfully identified priority areas of cooperation.

He hoped that Chinese enterprises would invest more in Pakistan, and help build energy infrastructure under the economic corridor.

He said China was well aware of Pakistan's energy shortage and it would continue to support Pakistani friends in addressing the deficiency.

Khawaja Asif said the size of Chinese market and its power generation capacity was enormous and China had a lot to offer to Pakistan.

Pakistan was not only looking at investment in power generation but also in comparable and compatible transmission networks, he added. He sought Chinese investment in coal, hydel, renewable and other forms of energy generation, as well as in the transmission networks .

He said thE government was also looking at the privatization prospects, particularly of the transmission networks both of existing as well as for laying new transmission lines.

Minster Khawaja Asif acknowledged and lauded Chinese support, assistance and guidance in overcoming Pakistan's energy requirements.

Later on, Minister Asif and Shi Yubo signed minutes of the meeting that mark another milestone in Pak-China economic cooperation.

Ambassador Masood Khalid, senior officers from the energy sector of Pakistan and Chinese corporate executives were present at the Working Group's meeting.

Khawaja Asif met Chairman of the EXIM bank of China Li Ruogu in the evening and discussed with him financing of various energy related projects, and also appreciated the bank's cooperation and assistance.

All Day

Chinese delegation seeks possibilities to link SW Pakistani Gwadar port -- KUNA

ISLAMABAD, Jan 8 (KUNA) -- A high level Chinese delegation visited the southwestern Pakistani port Gwadar to seek out possibilities of linking the port through road and rail with China and other regional countries to make it fully functional for future trade and economic activities.

According officials, the 15 members Chinese delegation was headed by DG Department of International Cooperation Ministry of Transport, Mr Yang Zan. The delegation met officials of Gwadar port authorities to discuss the plan of the proposed Pak-China Economic Corridor. Under the Pak-China Economic Corridor project, the port would be linked through road and rail up to Kashgar that would be a shortest route for China to use Gwadar port for its future trade with Pakistan, Afghanistan, Central Asian states, Iran and other regional countries.

During the meeting, it was observed that Gwadar port could prove to be an economic hub and future's successful big deep seaport after it was made fully functional. The Gwadar Port Authority chairman, Dosteen Khan Jamaldani said that Pak-China Economic Corridor has great importance in the success of Gwadar port and it will create many jobs in Pakistan.

The government of Pakistan has planned to lay a high-speed railway track northern Peshawar city to southern Karachi city at a cost of USD 2.8 billion. The Chinese officials expressed deep interest in investment in various sectors including energy, road construction and expansion of Gwadar port.

In a major development, Pakistan and China have agreed to set up an energy planning working group to help Pakistan wriggle out of its energy crisis. China will also play pivotal role in completing the feasibility study of the 6600MW Gadani Power Park and development of its power transmission and transformation circuit and power distribution and distribution grids.

The revelations were made during the third Sino-Pak energy working group and first energy working group of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor meeting held in Beijing, said officials.

All Day

Chinese delegation visits Gwadar port -- Daily Dawn

QUETTA: A high-level Chinese delegation visited Gwadar on Tuesday and discussed the possibilities of linking the port through road and rail with China and other regional countries to make it fully functional for future trade and economic activities.

In the meeting between the delegation — headed by Mr Yang Zan, DG Department of International Cooperation Ministry of Transport — and the officials of Gwadar port authorities, the plan of the proposed Pak-China Economic Corridor was also discussed. It was observed that it could not achieve goals of economic development and progress and prosperity until Gwadar port was made fully functional.

Under the Pak-China Economic Corridor Gwadar Port would be linked through road and rail up to Kashgar that would be a shortest route for China to use Gwadar port for its future trade with Pakistan, Afghanistan, Central Asian states, Iran and other regional countries.

It was also observed that Gwadar port could prove to be an economic hub and future's successful big deep sea port till it was not linked with China and other countries of the region.

Sources said that Chinese officials expressed keen interest in investment in various sectors including energy, road construction and expansion of Gwadar port. The port's expansion was the part of its actual plan under which more berths would be constructed. They also vowed to take all possible efforts to provide maximum required facilities to make Gwadar Port fully functional.

Briefing the meeting, Gwadar Port Authority chairman Dosteen Khan Jamaldani said Pak-China Economic Corridor has great importance in the success of Gwadar port and it will create many jobs.

He further informed the meeting that the province has great potential in various

sectors and specially minerals. "Heavy mineral based industries could be set up in Balochistan," he said.

The government also determined to make Gwadar Port and perfect port of the region that would provide best trade facilities to entire region. The construction of Pak-China Economic Corridor is also part of its future planning.

The official of the 15 members' Chinese delegation also visited Gwadar port where they were briefed about the future planning of the government. Joint Secretary Ms Rukhsana Rehman, DS railway Quetta division Faiz Muhammad Bugti, Director General National Highways Authority Mushtaq Ahmed and Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Dr Tufail Ahmed were also attended the meeting.

All Day

Pakistani scientist wins prestigious Chinese academic award -- BR

BEIJING: Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the country's top science academy conferred its 2013 Award for International Scientific Cooperation on renowned Pakistani scientist Dr Atta-ur-Rahman.

He was the first ever Pakistani to get this prestigious award. Dr Atta-ur-Rahman is the president of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS). He is a leading scientist in the field of organic chemistry.

He won the award for his contributions in boosting scientific cooperation between PAS and CAS.

He promoted a Pakistan-China doctorate programme and has sent over 390 students to Chinese universities and academic institutions to pursue PhDs, the CAS said in a statement here on Thursday.

Dr Atta due to his preoccupation and commitment could not manage to personally receive the award. An other scientist, Xiao-Fan Wang, a Chinese-American from the Duke Cancer Institute was also awarded CAS award. Xia, is a leading scientist in the molecular biology of tumours.

Wang has played an important advisory role in China's science and education system reform and promoted the establishment of an evaluation system in Chinese universities and academic institutions that includes participation by international experts, according to the CAS.

The CAS also said that Wang has made unremitting efforts to lift the academic status of Chinese scientists globally and helped Chinese academic institutions to select and cultivate talent.

Established in 2007, the CAS award is aimed at honoring foreign scientists for their contributions in Chinese-foreign research cooperation.

All Day

\$2 billion investment in textile industry: Punjab government, Chinese group sign MoU -- BR

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Punjab government and prominent Chinese Shandong Ruyi Group for investment of two billion dollars in textile sector and setting up textile industry in garments of industrial zone. Vice Chairman Punjab Investment Board Syed Maratab Ali on behalf of Punjab government, while Chairman Shandong Ruyi Group YAFU QUI signed the agreement.

Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Provincial Ministers Mujtaba Shujaur Rehman, Muhammad Shafiq, Advisor Dr Ijaz Nabi, MNA Asim Nazir, concerned officials and senior officials of Chinese Group were present on the occasion. Under the agreement, Chinese group will invest \$2 billion in textile and garments industry in Punjab whereas Chinese group will also invest in garments industrial zone being established near motorway.

Talking to the media on the occasion of signing ceremony of MoU, Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif said that the agreement of investment in textile sector between the Punjab government and Shandong Ruyi Group is a welcome step. He said that due to this agreement, not only new job opportunities will be created in textile sector but exports of the country will also increase considerably.

He disclosed that Chinese group under a joint venture with Masood Textile, wants to invest two billion dollars in Punjab. The Chief Minister said that vast opportunities of investment exist in textile and garments industry in Punjab and trade of billion dollars is being made in both the sectors. However, he said that Pakistan has still to do a lot in garments and textile sectors. Therefore, Punjab government keeping in view the feature requirements has decided to establish garments industrial zone near Motorway for which a board has been constituted and the persons associated with private sector have been included in this board, he added.

The Chief Minister said that besides Chinese companies, European, Turkish and Middle East companies will also be invited to invest in garments industrial zone. He said that only serious investors would be given land for setting up industry in garments industrial zone as after getting the status of GSP Plus, Pakistan has got duty free access to European markets.

Shahbaz Sharif said that planning is being made to provide uninterrupted electricity to garments industrial zone. He said that initially a plant of 25 megawatt will be set up while under long term planning, provision of uninterrupted electricity to the industries would also be ensured. Replying to another question, the Chief Minister said that load-shedding will certainly be overcome and the foundation stone of power plants to be run through coal and solar will be laid in a few months. While mentioning Pak-China friendship, he said that China is a trustworthy friend of Pakistan which has always helped Pakistan in every hour of trial.

All Day

**Pak China nuclear deal will help Pakistan in mitigating power shortage --
The Nations**

A Chinese scholar, welcoming the Pak-China nuclear cooperation said it would help mitigate Pakistan's energy shortage besides deepening bilateral strategic partnership between the two countries. Defending strongly the civil nuclear cooperation between Pakistan and China, the executive director of the Pakistan Study Center at Sichuan University, Chen Jidong, in daily Global Times writes that in late December China has committed to extend a loan of \$6.5 billion for the construction of a major nuclear power project in Karachi, The China National Nuclear Corporation also promised to finance the project with two reactors of 1,100 megawatts capacity each. Each of the two will be larger than the combined power of all operating reactors in Pakistan now, according to Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission Ansar Parvez.

He said a number of joint declarations signed by the two countries have shown their plans for civilian nuclear cooperation. By aiding Pakistan through civilian nuclear programs, Chinese nuclear companies can secure more business deals with Pakistan to help Islamabad in meeting the demands for civilian use of nuclear power.

Nonetheless, both the US and India showed concerns that the cooperation between China and Pakistan is aimed at the civilian nuclear deal sealed between the US and India during the George W. Bush administration. They also expressed worries over Pakistan's history of nuclear proliferation.

These concerns are nothing but obstruction in nuclear cooperation between Beijing and Islamabad. If people worry such cooperation may turn to military uses, then the cooperation between the US and India should also generate the same concerns, he argued.

As far as selling nuclear technology to other countries is concerned, the international community has acknowledged that it was the conduct of an individual Pakistani rather than that of the Pakistani government, he said.

The government still has the right to the peaceful civilian use of nuclear power. Currently, the military and civilian nuclear programs in Pakistan are under strict control and are safe, or else China would not have cooperated with it.

The Taliban do pose a threat to the country's security, but they are far from acquiring the capability to take over Pakistan's nuclear assets, the scholar said. He said that US does not have a favorable relationship with the Muslim world. For the past decade, the US has been involved in conflicts with Muslim countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and most recently with Syria.

Therefore, the US-led West worries that in case any nuclear materials fall into the hands of the terrorists, it will be exposed to danger. But this is only an excuse that the West makes up so as to intervene or even control the use of nuclear power in Pakistan, the only Muslim country to have nuclear weapons.

In developing civilian nuclear cooperation with Pakistan, China has in fact downplayed these Western concerns and taken into the consideration the whole picture of South Asia.

One complexity of the situation in South Asia is that the two major countries, India and Pakistan, do not share friendly relations. So when India expresses its concerns over Pakistan's civilian nuclear cooperation with China, China understands it and responds to its inquiries, saying the cooperation was for peaceful purposes and subject to the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

China and India have also talked about potential for bilateral cooperation on civilian nuclear usage for several years, although the discussions have always been stuck at the initial stage. Some factors determine the process, such as mutual trust between China and India, but at least so far, China's diplomatic gestures show it is willing to make efforts toward this goal.

China takes a balanced and pragmatic approach when developing ties with both Pakistan and India, said Chen Jidong.

All Day

Gwadar Port: Senate panel for settling land issue with Chinese company -- BR

The Senate Standing Committee on Ports and Shipping on Monday underlined the need to resolve the issue of handing over 84 acres of land to the Chinese company as well as complete all the transportation links to make Gwadar Port operational. The meeting presided over by Senator Fateh Muhammad Hassani also recommended to settle the issue before the Chinese company starts operation at Gwadar Port.

The committee also expressed concern when it was informed that the Finance Ministry has rejected a summary moved by Chairman Gwadar Port seeking Rs 1.5 billion to purchase dredges for Port Authority. The committee urged the government to provide Rs 1.5 billion Gwadar Port Authority. The committee was also informed that an amount of Rs 400 million would be required to purchase alternate land in case of any objection by investor against 85 acres of land now with Pakistan Navy.

The meeting directed National Highway Authority (NHA) to complete N-85 and M-8 to connect the highways of Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and all the districts of Balochistan with the port. The meeting was informed that a cell has been set up at the Prime Minister Secretariat to facilitate Chinese companies and investors and a ministerial level meeting of the two countries is scheduled to take place in Beijing in the current month and the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) has already started work.

The chairman of the committee said as has been recommended by the sub-committee Pakistan Navy should hand over 500 acres land immediately to Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) and federal government should take possession of remaining 84 acres. The sub-committee had recommended Pakistan Navy to hand over 500 acres land immediately to Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) for setting up of free zone while federal government would take the possession of remaining 84 acres. The sub committee had further proposed that the Balochistan Board of Revenue (BBR) should arrange alternate 1,000 acres of land for Pakistan Navy against 500 acres, for which Port and Shipping Ministry would arrange finance.

All Day

Nuclear power generation will help revive Pak: Global Times -- APP

BEIJING, Jan 15 (APP): China's financial offer for construction of two nuclear power plants in Karachi will help revive Pakistan's dwindling economy that would help in job generation, fast infrastructural growth and mitigate social unrest. According to an article published here in influential daily Global Times, Pakistan has long been plagued by a severe power shortage and ensuing social unrest. The Pakistani government views nuclear energy development as a favourable long-term power generation plan, as its economy is at a critical growth stage due to prolonged load shedding.

China in late December committed to provide at least \$6.5 billion for Pakistan's construction of a nuclear power plant in Karachi. China National Nuclear Corporation will provide the loan to construct twin nuclear reactors that are scheduled to be completed in 2019. China's assistance for the nuclear power project in Karachi will also help guarantee its own energy security. In turn, Pakistan's economic growth will also be helpful to China, the writer argued in his article.

Adjacent to the Persian Gulf, Pakistan serves as a mouth for China to import resources, notably petroleum and natural gas, from Iran and Iraq, said the article based on an interview from Yang Cuibai, professor with the School of Law at Sichuan University.

In February 2013, the China Overseas Port Holding Company took over the operation of the Port of Gwadar, the vicinity of which is home to approximately two-thirds of the world's oil reserves.

It is no surprise that the Pak-China nuclear power cooperation caused unease in US and India, who have cooperated on nuclear issues for the last several years. But the deal is a win-win situation that helps meet Pakistan's energy demand and boost economic and social development while strengthening the bilateral ties. Pakistan heavily depends on hydropower, but water level is subject to variations from time to time, especially in winter. Therefore hydropower is not as reliable as nuclear energy.

From political and diplomatic perspectives, Pakistan serves as a bridgehead for China to further develop friendly ties with West Asian and North African nations as well as regions suited on the Indian Ocean.

A politically stable Pakistan will help ensure the safety of the world's second largest economy, China, whose interests could otherwise fall victim to the terrorism rampant across West Asia.

Pakistan has a population of nearly 200 million on its small territory and an alarming population growth rate, imposing crushing burden on its already lagging economy. The whole of Pakistan has an electricity demand of about 16,500 megawatts while the power supply is only 12,000 to 13,000 megawatts.

Poverty, high unemployment rate, violent crime, religious unrest and a wide spectrum of other social issues can partly be attributed to chronic blackouts. Those living in extreme poverty or who remain unemployed are a potential target of terrorist recruitment. Being properly hooked up to the power grid is a precursor for modern education and employment.

To begin with, there is a huge influx of investment from Chinese enterprises in Pakistan and its neighboring Afghanistan and Iran.

Furthermore, the development of the Silk Road economic belt and the 21st century maritime Silk Road proposed by China will greatly benefit from China's intimate cooperation with Pakistan as the traditional Silk Road passed through the northern area of the country.

All Day

Chinese firm to set up 25 hydel power stations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa -- BR

The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a Chinese company CINOTEC to establish 25 hydel power stations on different sites along Swat River to produce 500MW electricity within a period of four years.

The signing ceremony was held at the Chief Minister Secretariat. Director CINOTEC, Song and KP Secretary Energy Sahibzada Saeed signed the agreement document on behalf of their respective organisations. President CINOTEC, Jin, Advisor to CM on Economic Affairs, Rafaqatullah Babar, Vice Chairman, Board of Investment & Trade (BoI&T), Mohsin Aziz and other concerned officials were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, KP Chief Minister Pervez Khattak paid rich tributes to both government and people of China for their support to Pakistan. He said that the offers of Chinese companies to overcome energy crisis in Pakistan was testimony to the fact that Pak-China friendship was sincere and true.

Earlier, CINOTEC director told the CM that feasibility of hydel power stations at three different sites along Swat River was being prepared and would be completed within next few months which would be followed by the construction works. CINOTEC will get loans from Chinese banks for all these projects.

All Day

Pakistan, Morocco agree to boost trade and commercial ties -- APP

ISLAMABAD, Jan 19 (APP): Pakistan and Morocco on Sunday agreed to give priority to boosting trade and commercial cooperation by finalizing Preferential Trade Agreement between the two countries at an early date. This was agreed in a meeting between Advisor to Prime Minister Sartaj Aziz and Foreign Minister of Morocco Salahuddin Mizwar which was held on the sidelines of the 20th Session of OIC's Alquds Committee convened in this ancient Moroccan town. The two sides decided to call the second session of their Joint Ministerial Commission in April in Pakistan for which the Moroccan Foreign Minister will visit Pakistan.

Pak-Morocco Joint Business Council will also be revived. Aziz said that a forward move in negotiations for a Pak-Morocco PTA, stalled since 2008, was imperative if the bilateral trade was to be enhanced which at present was in Morocco's favour. The two sides also agreed to facilitate issue of business visas and increase exchange of business delegations to improve their commercial cooperation in addition to exploring extra means of doing this.

Mizwar said that Morocco was a completely open market and would welcome increased business cooperation particularly with the brotherly Islamic nation of Pakistan.

Both sides held that the closeness and goodwill that existed in political field must be reflected in economic and commercial cooperation. Aziz said that the people of Pakistan look forward to welcome King Mohammad VI, under whom the Kingdom has made enviable progress in all fields.

Frequency of bilateral visits on other levels should also be increased. Mizwar lauded Pakistan's active participation in the Alquds Committee meeting. He said that Pakistan has always played a proactive role in the Palestinian cause and resolving other issues facing the Muslim Ummah.

All Day

China reveals its cards for investing \$20 billion in Pakistan -- The News
ISLAMABAD: China is demanding that all mega power projects, including the Bhasha Dam, Gaddani and Lakhra coal plants, the Tarbela Extension project and many transmission lines, be handed over to China without any international bidding process, and Beijing will directly invest \$22 billion in Pakistan.

The Nawaz Sharif government is eager to accept this huge Chinese offer, and a loophole in the PPRA rules is being used to hand over all these mega projects to China.

"Beijing will extend the preferential and medium term soft loans of \$22 billion to Pakistan against the guarantees of the government of Pakistan", a senior official who was part of the recent meeting of the Pak-China Joint Working Group (JWG) held on January 7-8 in Beijing told The News.

"We have carved out a plan to capitalise on the opportunity that Beijing has extended to Pakistan. Under the plan, Chinese companies will be offered the coal and hydropower and huge transmission line projects under a direct contracting regime which is not against the PPRA rules," the official said.

The Ministry of Water and Power has already sent a summary to the Law Division for vetting. The vetted summary allowing the mechanism of adopting the direct contracting regime will then be sent to the Ministry of Finance for a final nod. In case of no objection, the projects will be given to the Chinese companies.

The Chinese companies have, the official said, refused to take part in international competitive bidding (ICB) to get the contracts in Pakistan's power sector arguing if Pakistan wants funding from Beijing for various projects, then it will also have to hand over the projects.

Top officials in the power ministry have found a way out of introducing a direct contracting regime, which is permissible in the PPRA rules, to accommodate the desire of Chinese companies.

In the Joint Working Group meeting held in Beijing an 18-member Pakistan delegation took part. The meeting was co-chaired by Wu Xinxiang, of the Energy Administration (NEA) of China and Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Federal Minister for Water and Power.

Beijing offered the huge credit line based on insurance to promote and sustain the development of Chinese energy projects in Pakistan.

During the recent visit to China, the Three Gorges Corporation extended an offer for 100 percent funding for Pakistan's most strategic project, the Diamer-Bhasha Dam, worth \$11.8 billion that will have a capacity to store 8 million acre feet of water and generate 4,500 MW of electricity. The Chinese company said it will provide the whole funding but the project should be handed over to it without holding any International Competitive Bidding (ICB).

The said company showed its willingness to immediately release \$5 billion to Pakistan for the Diamer-Bhasha Dam so that it could start constructing the dam. China has also offered to install the coal power project of 660 MW in Gaddani and 2x600 MW coal based projects in Thar and 2x600 MW coal based project in Lakhra.

Pakistan needs almost \$16 billion investment to develop the Power Park of 600 MW in Gaddani with jetting and a transmission line. China has also offered to provide \$4 billion for evacuation of 6,600 MW through the transmission line, but it demanded the handing over of the project of transmission lines.

China also offered \$700 million for the Tarbela extension V project which if completed will provide 1,400 MW electricity at cheaper rates. The Tarbela Extension IV project of 1,400 MW is already under way and will be completed by

2017.

All Day

Pak, China for enhancing trade ties thru economic corridor -- Daily Times

LAHORE: Chairman APTMA Punjab S M Tanveer welcomed Chinese delegation on Thursday.

He called APTMA for identifying trade and investment potential between the Chinese province Xinjiang and Pakistan's province Punjab.

He said both governments of Pakistan and China were serious about enhancing trade ties through the Economic Corridor.

He also assured the visiting Chinese delegation from the Division of Foreign Economic and Technical Cooperation Department of Commerce of Xinjiang that APTMA would extend full cooperation for forging synergies between the two brotherly countries.

The visiting Chinese delegation identified trade potential between Xinjiang and Punjab.

S M Tanveer said Punjab has a strong textile industry base, as 75% Textile Industry is located in the north and it will not hesitate in exploring new avenues with Chinese counterparts with the expansion of economic corridor.

The leader of the Chinese delegation apprised objectives of the visiting Chinese delegation to explore the possibility of cooperation in the textile and energy sectors of Pakistan.

The delegation members held meetings with government officials followed by a visit to APTMA. He said China foresees great opportunity for cooperation with Pakistan and therefore the Chinese delegation is visiting Pakistan to get upfront information about potential areas.

All Day

Gwadar to serve as trade corridor for Central Asian, East Asian, Gulf -- APP

ISLAMABAD: Economist Dr Saboor Ghayur has said regional trade is very important for the development of business activities.

Talking to a private news channel, he added Pakistan's trade with regional countries including India and Afghanistan will be very beneficial for it.

He said that the Pakistani exporters will get the market of one billion people as a result of trade with India.

He said if we export goods directly to India then the cost of transportation will be very less than by sending the goods through a third country.

To a query, Mr Saboor said Pakistan can provide trade link to China and other countries for the export of their goods.

He added that Pakistan can earn one billion US dollars by providing trade corridor to regional countries.

He said Central Asian Countries can get shortest possible trade route through Gwadar port.

Head department of International Relations, National Defence University Islamabad, Dr Muhammad Khan also said Gwadar port can act as bridge between Central Asia, East Asia and Gulf.

He added Gwadar port has very important strategic location for the promotion of regional trade and it can serve as trade corridor for the entire region.

All Day

Implementation of Early Harvest Programme under PCEC to get nod in February -- APP

BEIJING: Pakistan and China are resolved to start from this year implementation of various projects of Early Harvest Programme, envisioned under Pak-China Economic Corridor (PCEC).

In this regard the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) is expected to meet in Beijing next month.

The all important meeting will discuss the feasibility reports, financing and other related aspects and will give final touches and accord priorities to launch various projects.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Prof. Ahsan Iqbal is due here in February after Chinese New Lunar Year holidays to lead Pakistani side in JCC meeting, Ambassador Masood Khalid informed mediapersons on Wednesday. The JCC will also discuss swift implementation of short, medium and long term projects stretched over 2030 under mega PCEC.

Earlier, the first meeting of the joint working group on planning of the Pakistan China economic corridor had concluded last Friday in which a threadbare discussion took place on proposed projects to be included in the PCEC.

The working group will submit its recommendations to JCC for consideration.

The Pakistani side was led by Rizwan Bashir Khan, Senior Economist at the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform. The officials from Railways, Water and Power Ministry, Chairman National Highway Authority (NHA) and Chairman Gawadar Port Authority also participated in these meetings.

The Chinese side was represented by Ma Xin, the Director General of the Department of International Cooperation of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

The PCEC will not only be beneficial for both countries but also for the region, said Ambassador Masood Khalid adding that it will also usher in an era of prosperity and progress in the region.

Meanwhile, the month of January saw hectic activities in terms of holding a number of high level meetings as 2014 is packed with Pakistan-China bilateral activities.

The new leadership who came at the helm of affairs in 2013 in Pakistan and China have committed to work together in all dimensions to further deepen political, economic, defence, culture and people-to-people contacts.

The government, led by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, has accorded top priority to address the chronic energy crisis, and took a number of swift initiatives to cope with the situation with the support of Chinese leadership.

To start with energy related activities in 2014, Beijing, early January hosted the ministerial level 3-day, 3rd Joint Energy Working Group (JEWG) moot in tandem with first Pak-China Energy Working Group meeting under PCEC that took important decisions. Federal Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Muhammad Asif led Pakistani side.

A number of leading Chinese power companies and corporations have evinced keen interest to explore energy market of Pakistan, which is rich of natural resources particularly in hydal, coal, wind, solar, beside biogas and biomass, said the Ambassador.

The Ambassador, referring to certain inspired reports and stories which recently appeared in media regarding Chin's investments in Pakistan, said these were incorrect and misleading.

He said that to give further impetus to People-to-People contacts a number of activities on both sides have been chalked out for 2014.

A high-level delegation from ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) will visit Pakistan soon, while a Pakistan Senate delegation led by Chairman Senate will visit China. A 100-member Pakistan Youth delegation will also pay a visit to China this year.

"The traditional high-level political interaction will be maintained so as to further strengthen and consolidate Pakistan-China Friendship", remarked Ambassador Masood Khalid.

He said that the prestigious Tsinghua University has launched Pak-China Information Corridor to apprise the Chinese people of enormous economic, political and market potential in Pakistan.

This year also marks the 30th anniversary of sister cities of Shanghai and Karachi, said Ambassador Masood Khalid adding that in this regard, the Sindh Government

and Shanghai Municipal Government were planning various activities. Pakistan and China are also working on a plan to celebrate the year 2015 as the Year of Friendly Exchanges in a befitting way, he said. He said the Embassy of Pakistan on its own, was planning to organize a number of cultural activities such as the holding of an art exhibition, literary festival, food and costume show this year.

February 1, 2014

Sat

All Day

ICBC to open branch in Lahore -- Business Recorder

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) is going to open its branch in the provincial capital where services of corporate financing, investment banking, foreign deposits, project loans and working capital loans will be available. ICBC President in Pakistan, He Shenghu, informed Punjab Education and Tourism Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan during a meeting here on Friday, disclosed an official.

Wang Weiming, General Manager ICBC Lahore Sales and Service Centre, Chinese Commercial Counsellor in Pakistan Lee, President Pak-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry Shah Faisal Afridi and Relationship Manager ICBC Aqdas Jehanzeb were also present on the occasion.

ICBC President said their bank is one of the largest banks in the world, and after Islamabad and Karachi, it is going to open its branch in Lahore. He said the facility of business and banking will be available to the exporters and importers in Chinese currency instead of dollars.

Chinese Commercial Counsellor Lee said Pakistan is the only friendly country of China that never deviated from its principled stance about China. He said in future China will be the strongest superpower, whereas China has already proved of being an economic giant in the world. While terming the expansion of network of ICBC in Pakistan a welcome step, the Minister expressed the hope that as a result of promotion of exports and imports in Chinese currency, the monopoly of dollar on Pakistan's economy will decrease gradually.

All Day

Gwadar-Kashghar route: JCC to meet next week at Beijing to finalise modalities -- Business Recorder

The Joint Co-operation Committee (JCC) of Pak-China Economic Corridor would meet in the second week of the current month in Beijing (China) to finalise the modalities for making Gwadar-Kashghar route operational, said chairman National Highway Authority (NHA) Shahid Ashraf Tarar.

"China is going to invest billions of dollars in the project, accordingly they have big say in the designing of the project," said NHA Chairman while briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Communications, which met with Daud Khan Achakzai in the chair here on Thursday.

The committee expressed serious concerns over the re-designing of Gwadar-Kashghar route, saying that major cities of Balochistan including Quetta and Zhob had been excluded from the route, while the most disturbed areas of the province had been made part of the route after redesigning. Committee member Zahid Khan also raised objections over the design of the route, saying Peshawar had been excluded while Islamabad and Hawaiian would be linked to the route, which was not justifiable.

Chairman NHA informed the committee that China was focusing on three points including utilisation of existing tracks to make the project operational at the earliest. They also wanted to seek the shortest possible way, besides connecting more economic zones, Tarrar added. Senator Kamil Ali Agha said construction of new route would be no more than 18-20 percent and the existing roads would be upgraded under the project. However, the project should be completed in the best interest of the country as no neighbours are happy with the project.

The Committee recommended that Chinese authorities should be informed that law and order on the proposed route was not good, therefore other road should be utilised covering most populated areas with good economic opportunities like Quetta. Chairman NHA informed that the concerned authorities would be apprised of the Committee recommendation; however China, the main investor was firm on its design and stance while Pakistan had little to say in that regard.

Tarrar further said the federal government had earmarked Rs 12 billion in the Public Sector Development Programme for 2013-14 for Balochistan, of which Rs 3.4 billion have so far been released. The committee expressed annoyance over the non-implementation of its recommendations regarding the promotion of NHA officers which was due since long. The Ministry informed that there was a status quo in promotion order of officers/officials issued by Islamabad High Court in writ petition filed by Tanveer Ishaq on April 3, 2013. Altamash Khan, GM (Engineer BS 20) has also filed a writ petition before IHC for promotion, but the matter is still sub-judice. On the stay application of the officers" concerned filed with the main petition, the High Court has passed restraining order dated October 1, 2013.

The committee members observed that the promotion to the deserving officers should be given immediately, as it was their due rights, they are waiting since long. Minister of State Parliamentary Affairs Sheikh Aftab Ahmad assured the committee to resolve the issue soon and the committee would be apprised in this regard.

All Day

Pak, Chinese firms sign contract for coal-based plant -- The News

LAHORE - PR- Sitara Chemicals has signed contract with Chinese company Shandong Yangkoan Engineering Design Co Ltd for 35MW coal based power plant, a joint venture between the Pakistani and Chinese company.

Contract was signed at a local hotel by Sitara Chemicals Industries Ltd Chief Executive Adrees and representatives of Chinese company Shandong Yangkoan Engineering Design Co Ltd in the presence of chief guest Federal Minister for Mines & Minerals Abid Sher Ali Khan.

This project will be completed within the time frame of two years and become a value added binding force in strengthening Pakistan-China friendship.

Chief Executive Sitara Chemicals said it is a 'redefining moment' for Sitara Chemicals to ensure uninterrupted power supply to its plants round the year.

He said, "We proudly announce to take initiative of 35MW coal based power plant with a reputable Chinese company having the distinguished technological excellence in designing coal power plants. This plant will prove to be a milestone in the history of Sitara Chemicals."

Giving briefing to media, Federal Minister for Mines & Minerals Abid Sher Ali Khan said resolving energy crisis is one govt's top priorities. We praise the visionary approach of Sitara Chemicals Ltd for this self-reliant initiative of coal based power plant. He hoped that Pakistan will overcome the energy crisis through the pivotal role of corporate sector and government of Pakistan with the patronage of China.

All Day

Pak hopes for early implementation of key projects with China -- APP

Beijing: Ahead of his first visit to China, Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain on Sunday hoped to speed up implementation of bilateral agreements on energy cooperation besides the economic corridor through PoK, a project which has raised concern in India.

Hussain hoped to reach consensus with China to accelerate the projects relating to energy in order to overcome power shortage.

"The people of Pakistan will be grateful to Chinese people and government for their help in energy sector," Hussain told the Chinese media in Islamabad ahead of his three-day visit to the country starting from February 18.

Hussain hoped that the execution of the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor (PCEC) which is to be built from China's Xinjiang province to Pakistan's Gwadar Port should also be accelerated.

"The project is going to be a monument of the century," state-run Xinhua news agency quoted Hussain as saying.

It will benefit not only Pakistan and China, but also the whole region involving billions of people, he said.

The second meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of the PCEC will be held on February 18 coinciding with the visit of Hussain to finalise the implementation of mutually agreed projects.

PCEC, which will run through a 200-km tunnel, has raised concerns in India as it is planned though the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Besides the PCEC, China has recently extended USD 6.5 billion assistance to Pakistan to help to build two 1100 mw nuclear power plants with Chinese technology.

China's nuclear technology transfer to Pakistan drew flak from the US and India as it is being done without obtaining the approval from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) as done by India under the India-US nuclear accord.

China asserts that it is done under the safeguards of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Chinese Foreign Ministry said China would accord "high and top priority" to Hussain's visit.

During his visit, Hussain would hold talks with President Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders.

Hussain said China is Pakistan's really best friend and Pakistan always stands by China, adding that the relations between the two countries stood the test of time.

All Day

Pak-China investment company to invest in renewable energy, infrastructure development projects -- APP

ISLAMABAD, Feb 17 (APP): Pak-China Investment Company will invest in renewable energy and infrastructure development projects in Pakistan. Decision to this effect was made during a meeting of Pak-China Investment Company Limited (PCICL) held here on Monday under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Finance Senator, Mohammad Ishaq Dar. Cao Wenjian, Managing Director PCICL on the occasion briefed the Finance Minister that his company has the total assets worth Rs. 16 billion in Pakistan and has been investing in sectors like fuel and energy, ports and shipping, sugar and fruits, Cement and construction, engineering, telecommunication and IT, finance and insurance and fertilizers, of which the first three constitute 46% of the total investment.

The PCICL is focusing on promoting Chinese investment and trade between the two countries.

The management of PCICL will like to make equity investments in joint ventures of Chinese and Pakistani companies, said Mr. Wenjian.

In future Pak-China Investment Company has one of its core strategy to invest in the power sector as it has been the priority of the present government to solve the energy crisis.

Pak-China Investment Company Limited has also made it a part of its core strategy to promote joint ventures of local and Chinese investors/companies, said the MD. Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar appreciated the resolve of PCICL that it plans to promote close cooperation between China Development Bank (CDB) and Government of Pakistan and that it wants to work as an advisory on privatization and foreign direct investment to Chinese investors who have plans to invest in Pakistan.

The Minister further appreciated that PCICL wants to promote government's public private partnership initiatives with a focus on infrastructure development and development of Special Economic Zones.

The PCICL told the Finance Minister that it is looking forward to invest in commercially viable projects especially all infrastructure related projects (including rail and road network), agriculture, chemical, engineering sectors, renewable energy (solar, wind, bagasse, hydro etc.) and oil and gas development sectors.

Cao Wenjian told the Minister that Vice Governor PCICL plans to visit Pakistan in the last week of March and will like to meet the Finance Minister.

The Finance Minister welcomed the proposed visit of Vice Governor PCICL and said that the leadership of China and Pakistan wants to take their existing relationship to a new height in future.

The meeting was also attended by Shahnawaz Mehmood, Dy. Managing Director Zhang Yanzhi, Chief Finance Officer, Tariq Mehmood, Head of corporate Finance Ms. Liu Haining, Head of China Advisory and senior officials of the Ministry of Finance.

February 18, 2014

Tue

All Day

**Pakistan Looks to China for Big Energy and Infrastructure Projects --
Wall Street Journal**

BEIJING—Pakistan's president is looking to strike agreements with China for joint energy and infrastructure projects valued at an estimated \$20 billion as part of a strategy to build a trade and transport corridor between the countries.

Mamnoon Hussain, who began a visit to Beijing on Tuesday, was expected to oversee the signing of memorandums of understanding on projects to be completed by 2018, including upgrades of road and rail links and construction of an airport in the Chinese-built Arabian Sea port of Gwadar

All Day

Chinese firm to finance power projects -- The News

Pak-China Investment Company Limited (PCICL) has decided to finance power sector projects in Pakistan, an official said on Tuesday.

In future, Pak-China Investment Company is going to invest in the power sector, as it has been the priority of the present government to resolve the energy crisis, the official said.

With Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar in the chair, a meeting of PCICL took place at the Ministry of Finance.

Cao Wenjian, managing director of PCICL, briefed the finance minister that the company has the total assets worth Rs16 billion in Pakistan and has been investing in the sectors such as fuel and energy, ports and shipping, sugar and fruits, cement and construction, engineering, telecommunication and IT, finance and insurance and fertilisers, of which the first three constitute 46 percent of the total investment. PCICL is focusing on promoting Chinese investment and trade between the two countries. The management of PCICL will like to make equity investments in joint ventures of Chinese and Pakistani companies, Wenjian said.

Pak-China Investment Company has also made it a part of its core strategy to promote joint ventures of local and Chinese investors / companies, the managing director said.

Dar appreciated the resolve of PCICL that it plans to promote close cooperation between China Development Bank (CDB) and Pakistan and that it wants to work as an advisory on the privatisation and foreign direct investment to Chinese investors who have plans to invest in Pakistan.

The finance minister also appreciated PCICL's desire to promote government's public-private partnership initiatives with a focus on infrastructure development and development of Special Economic Zones.

The PCICL managing director said that the company is looking forward to invest in the commercially viable projects, especially all infrastructure-related projects, including rail and road network, agriculture / chemical / engineering sectors, renewable energy (solar, wind, bagasse, hydro, etc) and oil and gas development sectors.

The meeting also decided to issue bonus shares to meet the minimum capital requirement of the company as required by the State Bank of Pakistan. No fresh injection of funds would be required.

Wenjian said that the vice governor of the China Development Bank plans to visit Pakistan in the last week of March and will like to meet the finance minister.

Dar welcomed the proposed visit of the CDB vice governor and said that the leadership of China and Pakistan wanted to take their existing relationship to a new height.

All Day

China to provide \$900m for Gwadar development -- The News

KARACHI: China has agreed to provide \$900.05 million to develop infrastructure projects in Gwadar, official sources told The News on Thursday.

The decision was taken at the Pak-China Joint Cooperation Committee meetings held in Beijing on February 18 and 19 and to that effect, memoranda of understanding (MoUs) were signed, said the sources.

The Pakistani delegation was led by the Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal while the vice chairman of the National Development Reform and Finance Commission of China, Zhang Xiaoqiang, represented the Chinese side. According to Pakistani officials in the know, China expressed its interest to develop the projects on its own.

China now intends to build the 19-km Eastbay Expressway connecting the port to the coastal highway at an estimated cost of \$66.04 million, said the official. The two countries had signed an MoU in May last year for the construction of the expressway. The official said that China also plans to fund the construction of the breakwater at a cost of \$94.34 million and spend another \$739.67 million for the development of infrastructure in Gwadar city.

Under the integrated development plan for Gwadar city, \$32.55 million will be allocated for the development of infrastructure for the free trade zone and export promotion zones, \$37.97 million for facilities for fresh water treatment and supply, \$21.7 million for the construction of a 300-bed hospital and \$9.43 million for building of technical and vocational institutes, said the official.

China has also agreed to finance the setting up of a coal-based power plant in the port city at a cost of \$638.02 million.

The official said that pacts to extend the Karakoram highway and construct the Gwadar International Airport were also signed. Earlier, China not only constructed the Gwadar Port but also provided 80 percent (\$248 million) of the initial funds to the Gwadar Port Authority for the construction of the port.

Gwadar port, which was envisioned as a trans-shipment port and shipping hub for the landlocked Central Asian States, Afghanistan and Western China, lacks basic infrastructure facilities.

All Day

Railways to lay new track to link Karachi and Gwadar -- Business Recorder

Pakistan Railways (PR) is planning to lay track to link Karachi to Gwadar seaport to facilitate traders. PR sources told APP on Sunday that the new track would fulfil the needs of transportation of goods to Gwadar in future. Moreover, the PR was in contact with China for preparing studies for construction of Khuzdar, Baseemah, Jacobabad and Dera Ghazi Khan main line (ML-2) and China would finalise the studies till the end of December 2015.

China will bear all expenditures of the study of laying the new railway line. The PR is focusing on speeding up revenue generating activities under the direction of Minister Khwaja Saad Rafique.

The PR is also working on restoration of ECO train for Turkey via Tuftan and Zahdan. The train will help traders of Turkey, Iran, India and Pakistan to transport their goods.

The department is also planning to construct a dry port for container-holding at Havelian near Abbotabad for facilitating trade with China. After construction of the port, about two million tons of goods could be transported between Khunjrab and Havelian. The PR minister hoped the railways would soon be able to overcome its deficit.

February 25, 2014

Tue

All Day

EIB agrees to provide 100m for 128MW Pak hydro project -- APP

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is providing a 100m long-term loan to Pakistan to finance the construction of the 128MW Keyal Khwar Hydropower project. KWF would offer financial support for the project, a statement from the EIB said, The Technology Times Reported. Alvarez, who is in charge of the EIB's operations in Asia, said, "The EIB is committed to support the investment in renewable energy and helping countries around the world reduce carbon emissions. At the same time the EIB is pleased to be able to support Pakistan in this important sector, addressing the increased demand of energy in the country." The investment will provide a clean and reliable supply of electric power contributing to climate change mitigation, which is a fundamental goal of the EU, he maintained. This is the fifth project supported by the EIB in Pakistan. Since it began lending in Asia in 1993, the EIB has provided more than 5.1 billion on long-term basis.

All Day

Gwadar port: China approves nine projects worth \$1.8 billion, Senate body told -- Business Recorder

China has approved nine projects worth \$1.8 billion in a bid to fully develop Gwadar port, which will be completed in next 2-3 years, said chairman Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Dostain Khan Jamaldini. China has prepared its master plan for Gwadar port where five companies are ready to invest, however all these would be possible on handing over the remaining free zone area of the port, said chairman GPA while briefing the senate standing committee on Ports and Shipping after his return from China while attending the 2nd meeting of the Joint Co-operation Committee (JCC) of Pak-China Economic Corridor, held in Beijing (China).

The committee, which met with Sardar Fateh Muhammad Hassani in the chair, was informed that in the light of decision taken in the meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Ports & Shipping held on December 19, 2013, the total area of land and its cost in Pishukan have been worked out again by Commissioner Makran Division, the Government of Balochistan as per the prevailing market value. The PC-I has been initiated by Gwadar Port Authority through the Ministry of Ports & Shipping for the approval of the Planning Commission along with allocation of funds from the PSDP in the fiscal year 2013-14 amounting Rs 474.87 million, the chairman GPA added.

A summary has also been submitted to the Prime Minister's office for approval of the recommendations made by the Senate Standing Committee held on January 13, 2014 seeking his approval for handing over the remaining land at Gwadar port. The chairman GPA further informed the committee that a decision was made by Economic Co-ordination Committee (ECC) on December 2, 2008 for importing wheat, fertilizer and coal through Gwadar port. Regrettably, the decision was not fully implemented by Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP). During last 5-6 years, not a single ship carrying wheat and coal has been routed through Gwadar Port. Further a significant share of fertilizer is being imported through KPT/PQA; The ECC in its meeting held on August 23, 2011 also took serious note on breach of its earlier decision.

It was further revealed that total cargo imported through Gwadar Port including total wheat imported via 26 ships was 963,609.140 tons, urea imported via 136 ships 4,800,483.956 tons and total wheat & urea 162 ships 5,764,093.096 tons. However, the committee expressed serious reservations over the ECC decision about the reducing share of Gwadar port in handling the imported urea, saying that if the port is not fully operated by extending all road and railways links and required land, how it would be developed. The committee also expressed serious concern over the absence of Chairman Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) from the meeting and directed him to ensure his presence in the next meeting. The committee was informed that cranes worth million dollars are becoming outdated, as no commercial ship arrived the port since it was made operational.

Gwadar Port Authority has made its stance clear that all ships importing wheat, fertiliser and coal may be diverted to Gwadar Deep sea port as already directed by Economic Co-ordination Committee (ECC). Full operationalisation of Gwadar port has been hampered as the ECC decision was not implemented, therefore, the Government of Pakistan may implement the ECC decision, the chairman GPA added. Expressing serious annoyance over the absence of Secretary Water and Power, the committee moved privilege motion against him and sent his case to privilege committee.

All Day**Chinese delegation visits ICCI -- APP**

Islamabad : A 23-member delegation of Chinese entrepreneurs led by Cen Hongkai, Deputy Secretary General of Zhongshan Municipal People's Government, visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry to hold B2B meetings, explore business matchmakings, strengthen economic cooperation and promote trade & investment with Pakistan. The delegation was representing enterprises of trade, building materials, home appliances, lighting, machine & equipment and project contracting etc. Representatives of Board of Investment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Development of Authority were also present at the occasion.

Speaking at the occasion, Cen Hongkai, head of Chinese delegation said that Pakistan and China have huge potential to further enhance mutually beneficial cooperation and complement economies of each other. He said Pakistan has made attractive investment policies, which provide lot of investment opportunities to Chinese investors. He said Pakistan is an important country in South Asia offering good business prospects that has prompted Chinese entrepreneurs to come and explore Pakistani market for business matchmaking, joint ventures and investment. He said recent visits of Prime Minister and President of Pakistan to China and signing of MoUs of cooperation in various fields truly reflects the keen urge of the leadership of both countries to further strengthen and deepen bilateral relations. Highlighting the economic potential of Zhongshan City, he said after 30 years of reforms and opening up, the city has fostered 23 industrial clusters in the fields of home appliances, hardware, lighting and casual wear etc. Zhongshan's GDP in 2013 reached \$44.51 billion with exports of \$35.63 billion and outbound investment of \$422 million. 18 Fortune Global 500 corporations have set up 26 enterprises in Zhongshan, which shows its rising economy and huge business potential. He said Pakistani investors should visit Zhongshan City and join hands with Chinese counterparts for economic prosperity of both countries.

Addressing the delegation, Shaban Khalid, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), said that Pakistan feels proud of its historical and time-tested friendship with China. He said Pakistani people have great regard & respect for Chinese government and people. He said being located at a strategic location, Pakistan offers tremendous opportunities of foreign investment in all major sectors of its economy including energy, exploration of mineral resources, oil & gas, manufacturing, agriculture & services sectors etc.

He said many Chinese companies are already working in Pakistan and rendering valuable contribution in infrastructure development, energy & other projects. He emphasized that more Chinese investors should come to Pakistan as lot of positive things are happening in Pakistan. Pak-China Economic Corridor and grant of GSP Plus status to Pakistan by the European Union have created lot of new opportunities for local and foreign investors. It is high time that Chinese investors should set up joint ventures and make direct investment in areas of interest in Pakistan.

Shaban Khalid said Pakistan and China have signed a Free Trade Agreement and entrepreneurs of both countries should take more initiatives to fully exploit this facility for promoting bilateral trade. He assured that ICCI would provide all possible cooperation in bringing Pak-China private sectors even closer for further promoting bilateral trade and economic relations.

March 1, 2014

Sat

All Day

Development work on EPZ Gwadar on priority -- Pak Observer

Saturday, March 01, 2014 - Karachi—"The establishment of Export Processing Zone in Gawadr will produce conducive environment for economic uplift of the country and will help in enhancing Pakistan's trade relationship with the international community".

These views were expressed by Chairperson Export Processing Zones Authority, Ms. Rabiya Javeri Agha while presiding over a meeting with EPZA management/officials. It is worth mentioning here that the creation of Export Processing Zone in Gawadar will help provide ample opportunities to bring local and foreign investment. This requires expediting the work on project under high priority. By establishing the Gwadar Zone, trade activities of the country as well as of the region will get a chance to accelerate further.

"Gawadar Port has a unique identity and it is of prime importance for Middle East and Gulf countries too. To harness the immense economic potential of the port, we must devise a comprehensive and workable strategy to get maximum benefits from this natural gift. It will produce plenty of employment opportunities for the local residents of the Baluchistan province". Ms. Agha added. A Committee was also constituted at the meeting to initiate the work on the project.

March 4, 2014

Tue

All Day

Chinese business delegation meets Chairman BOI -- APP

ISLAMABAD, Mar 4 (APP): A delegation of Chinese company China Gezhouba Group met on Tuesday with Special Assistant to Prime Minister and Chairman Board of Investment, Dr. Miftah Ismail to discuss the signing of MoU with BOI, investment projects and the visit of the company's President. The delegation comprised of Chief Finance Officer Tao Jie, Chief Commercial Officer Deng Siwen and Syed Ahmed local representative of China Gezhouba Group. Tao Jie briefed the Chairman BOI that China Energy Engineering Group is interested in the development of infrastructure and power projects in Pakistan. He said that they can participate in the projects as EPC in the projects related to Pak-China Corridor and can also offer financing/loans for undertaking these projects.

In this regard, the president of the company will visit Pakistan next week and during the meeting with Prime Minister, an MOU of strategic corporation will also be signed with BOI.

He further identified that the company will participate in the bidding of Gaddani Coal Project and also interested in Jamshoro Power Project.

He said that they will also work on EPC for jetty and transmission lines. We should work seriously to mature the investment of \$10 Billion during the due course of time. He further said that as the company is involved in large number of mega infrastructure projects in China and other countries, we offer the company to bid for the construction of Hyderabad-Sukhar road.

The company was also involved in the construction of Jhang road, a part of Lahore to Multan Motorway.

It is a sole state owned company and provides full range of engineering services including feasibility studies, design, procurement, consultancy, planning, financing, construction, management, operation etc.

The company has substantial business interests in over 60 countries worldwide with and established presence in countries such as Pakistan.

China Gezhouba Group Corporation (CGGC) is affiliated with China Energy Engineering Group Company Limited (CEEC).

They have developed strategic relationships with a number of financial institutions and have undertaken a large number of mega infrastructure projects in China and other countries.

The three core business sectors of CGGC are Construction engineering and related engineering technology research, Hydropower investment (construction and management) and real estate development and management.

All Day

China to spend Rs 26 billion to develop Gwadar Port in fiscal year 2015: National Assembly body told -- BR

Federal Minister for Port and Shipping Kamran Michael has informed the National Assembly Standing Committee on Port and Shipping that Chinese Government would spend Rs 26 billion to further develop Gwadar Port during the next fiscal year 2014-15.

The minister was briefing the NA Standing Committee on Ports and Shipping, which met here on Tuesday, with Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah in the chair, to discuss the details of Ministry of Port of Shipping and its attached departments' budgetary proposals for Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for the fiscal year 2014-15. The Minister said that his ministry had requested the government to allocate Rs 10 billion for Gwadar Port in next fiscal year's PSDP.

Dostain Khan Jamaldini, Chairman Gwadar Port Authority, informed the committee that the Port had not yet been made fully operational owing to different reasons especially due to the ongoing unrest in Balochistan province and financial crunch. He said that since 2007, 5.6 million tons of different goods had been handled at the Port and two ships carrying different goods were docking at the Port every month. He said that Government of Pakistani and the Chinese firm, responsible for completion of the Port, were committed to complete all Port-related works within next two years.

He informed that the National Highway Authority (NHA) was constructing N85 highway at fact pace to connect the Port with the Central Asian countries. "Once the Port becomes fully operational, it will help earn billions of rupees for the country," he said, adding that the Gwadar Port will become a hub of business activities, as it will be the only deep waters port available to Central Asian nations. The committee was informed that a fuel storage facility was also under construction at the Port and it would be completed within next one year.

MNA Nabeel Gabol said that development of the Gawadar Port was one of the major reasons behind the insurgency in the Balochistan as well as in the country, as, according to him, some international forces did not want the Port become operational, which will not only connect China and Pakistan but will also become a corridor for the international trade of Central Asian countries.

He said that 585 acres of land of the Port was occupied by Pakistan Navy and the government should allocate land to PN at any other place so that the work on the much-needed Port can be completed. The meeting was informed that Rs 500 million were required for the construction of security system on non-concessional area, Rs 130 million for the construction of breakwater, Rs 2.8 billion for the construction of bridging berthing area and channel for the additional terminal.

Furthermore, Rs 80 million required for the replacement of existing navaids of Gwadar Port, Rs 360 million for bringing some changes to the master plan of the Port and Rs 30 million for the rehabilitation of harbour road. Kamran Michael informed the committee that in recent past the Ministry had vacated 70 acres of land from land mafia in the limits of Karachi Port Trust (KPT) and stern action would be taken against the people involved in illegal activities.

All Day

Halal foods: 'Pak-China should cooperate' -- The Express Tribune, LAHORE: Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif said on Tuesday that Pakistan had an important role to play in the international livestock market.

He was talking to a Chinese delegation associated with halal food and livestock industries led by Chinese Qinghai Group chairperson Wang Xihui. Sharif said the demand for Halal food was increasing worldwide. A slaughter house had been set up in Lahore where meat processing was carried out using modern methods. Xihui said his group wanted to promote cooperation in halal food and livestock sectors.

All Day

Pakistan makes strong push for international goal on energy access -- APP

UNITED NATIONS, March 5 (APP): Pakistan has called upon the international community to establish a new international goal on providing universal access to energy for all. Addressing a meeting convened by Pakistan Permanent Mission to the UN here, Ambassador Masood Khan said that there is near consensus on establishing a three-pronged international goal aimed at providing international support in promoting access to modern energy services, enhancing efficiency and doubling the share of renewable energy sources in the global energy mix. Around forty senior diplomats, from developed and developing countries including Brazil, India, China, Norway, Denmark, South Africa, Japan, South Korea, Switzerland, France and office of the UN Secretary General attended the meeting.

Pakistan, Denmark and Norway have been leading an effort at the United Nations to push for establishing an international framework as part of the post-2015 Development Agenda and associated goals on access to energy for all. Ambassador Masood Khan, while appreciating the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon for his initiative on Sustainable Energy for All, called upon international community to ensure establishing a robust global partnership for cooperation and development to succeed in this important objective. Ambassador Khan also termed the lack of energy for poor in South Asia as one of the foremost challenges facing humanity. He said that out of 1.6 billion people living in South Asia today, nearly 800 million people lack access to electricity.

The UN Secretary General's Advisor on Energy, Ms. Elizabeth Thompson underlined that need for ensuring that an international framework should not work in silos but rather forge key linkages with other sectors such as health, water, food and women empowerment.

The Norwegian Ambassador, Geir Pederson and Denmark's Ambassador, Ib Peterson lauded Pakistan's strong and constructive engagement in pushing for such an international framework and extended his government's support in this endeavor.

Last year, Prime Minister Mohammed Nawaz Sharif, during his visit to New York in September, held a trilateral meeting with his Norwegian Counterpart, Jen Jens Stoltenberg and the Minister for Development Co-operation of Denmark, Christian Friis Bach.

The three leaders agreed to push for an international framework on energy which will not only provide assistance to energy starved countries, mobilize the private sector but also deal with the challenge of climate change by doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

All Day

Pak-Saudi ties celebrated on board Pakistan Navy ship in Jeddah -- APP

ISLAMABAD, Mar 6 (APP): Consul General of Pakistan in Jeddah, Aftab A Khokher has stated that relationships between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were beyond any limits. He was speaking as chief guest at a reception, held in Jeddah on Tuesday night at Pakistan Navy ship "PNS ALAMGIR" that is on goodwill visit to Saudi Arabia, according to a message received here from Jeddah on Thursday. Consul Generals of different countries, diplomats, dignitaries, media persons, officers of Saudi Navy and a large number of community members with families were also present on the occasion.

Consul General Aftab Khokher welcomed the officers and JCOs of Pakistan Navy to Saudi Arabia and said that relationships between two brotherly countries Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are excellent at all levels.

He said, "our brotherhood has transcended the vicissitude of time. The relations are not based on political expediency; rather it is etched deep in the heart of every Pakistani and Saudi national. We care about each other more in practice than in words."

He said that Pak-Saudi relations are of strategic nature and such goodwill visits of naval ships from friendly countries further strengthen their bonds.

He also highlighted the strategic importance of relations between Pakistan and Royal Saudi navies. He emphasized that such visits are source of strength between the armed forces of both countries.

Commander of the ship Captain Abdul Muneeb welcomed the guests on board and informed about the goodwill mission and briefly highlighted the state of the art systems available at PNS ALAMGIR.

Later, Consul General Aftab A Khokher and Commander of Ship Captain Abdul Muneeb cut the cake to celebrate long lasting friendship of Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

March 7, 2014

Fri

All Day

China to make more investment in energy sector: Shahbaz -- Observer
Friday, March 07, 2014 - Lahore—Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has said that China would further invest in the energy sector of Pakistan to reduce the energy crisis. In a an interview, the Chief Minister said that China would also invest in Pakistan in the construction of Gwadar port, highways, solar energy and wind power projects; he hoped these projects would make the country self-sufficient in power. He hoped that China's investment would boost the employment opportunities in Pakistan which would further magnify the development and stability of the country.

He said that China would invest in 16 energy projects in Pakistan which have the capacity to produce 21,000 MW electricity in the system. He said that the last year visits of Prime Ministers from both the sides after assuming power manifested that the two nations have strong bonding. President Mamnoon Hussain also paid his first official visit to china that reflected the old friendly ties between both the countries. To a question, he said that China assists Pakistan in different power projects which will increase the country's capacity of power generation.

He met several CEOs of big chinese companies during the visit which resulted in enormous investment in power generation projects. He farther said that Pak-China economic corridor was a gigantic development project that encouraged private sector to make maximum investment in energy and infrastructure development in Pakistan.

March 8, 2014

Sat

All Day

All Day

22,000MW of electricity to be added within 7 years: Iqbal -- The Express Tribune

LAHORE: The government has signed energy generation projects with China through which 22,000 megawatts (MW) of energy will be added to the system in the coming five to seven years, said Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal.

The country's total energy production is 22,000MW, with the same amount being added to the grid in this time span, Iqbal said, while speaking at the International Marketing Congress (Marcon).

The government is focused on overcoming the development lag of the last 14 years, he said, adding that the government was turning towards China as its Foreign Direct Investment was very low in the context of the relations the two countries enjoy.

To strengthen economic cooperation, Pakistan has signed an agreement for the development of the Karakoram Highway, construction of six lane Mansehra-Islamabad and Lahore-Karachi Motorways. Through this, the country will be connected to the North-South corridor. Construction of a modern Airport in Gwadar, linking of the Gwadar deep sea port to the northern part of the country is also part of the plan. Through this, Pakistan will become a connecting bridge for the North-South and East-West regions and play a pivotal role in regional connectivity and development, Iqbal said.

Development in Gwadar and the Gadani coal generation project will start a new era of prosperity and economic development in Balochistan, said Iqbal, adding that the Thar Coal power generation project will change the fate of the people of Sindh. Iqbal said that the government's vision is to bring about an industrial revolution in Sindh through Thar coal as reserves there could generate electricity for the next 200 years.

Poverty, unemployment, law and order issue, hopelessness is the main tides faced by the government and we are committed to turn these tides during the next five years, he stated.

Iqbal believed that Pakistan has been run on the 'sale paradigm' and the time had come to shift to the 'marketing paradigm'. The government is focused on producing and exporting items which were in line with international market requirements, Iqbal said.

Published in The Express Tribune, March 11th, 2014.

All Day

China to invest \$50 billion in energy, infrastructure projects till 2017 -- BR

China is to invest \$50 billion in energy and infrastructure projects in Pakistan till 2017 of which \$35 billion investment is anticipated in energy sector. This was disclosed by the Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Ahsan Iqbal at a recent meeting of federal cabinet, presided over by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. In the anticipation of massive investment from China, the government has decided to assign army for the security of Chinese workers in Pakistan.

Official documents available with Business Recorder reveal that the prime minister stated that the infrastructure projects included Lahore-Karachi Motorway, the Karakorum Highway and expanding the capacity of Gwadar Port. In the transportation sector, the railway line from Peshawar to Karachi would be modernised and upgraded. In the energy sector, ten projects had been approved in Gadani (Balochistan) and six in Thar (Sindh).

The prime minister informed the cabinet that during the last eight months, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) had doubled. China has agreed to invest \$4.5 billion each year in Pakistan for the next seven years. This investment of \$31.5 billion by one country is unprecedented in the history of Pakistan. According to the prime minister, share of Balochistan in the Chinese investment would be 38%. He pointed out that the size of Pakistan's PSDP was only Rs 425 billion which is quite small for a large population of 180 million. Unfortunately, even this amount is not properly utilised. The quality of projects in the country is poor and they suffer from inordinate delays and resultant cost escalation.

In the Neelum-Jhelum project, the cost has increased from Rs 87 billion to Rs 220 billion. In another case, the original cost of Rs 5 billion has escalated to Rs 35 billion

and the project is still incomplete. He further stated that the Chinese investment will spur unprecedented growth in the country, for which we need to develop capability and capacity to absorb and manage it.

The prime minister argued that it is imperative for improved governance and economic development in the country that a special team of officers who possess the requisite capability, commitment and zeal are assigned important responsibilities. He instructed the minister for planning and development to accelerate work on governance reforms.

The prime minister asked minister for planning and development to provide further details of Pak-China Joint Co-ordination Committee visit to China. The minister for planning and development informed the cabinet that during the visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to China in July last year, an agreement was reached on the establishment of an "Economic Corridor". During the visit of the Vice Chairman, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) to Pakistan, three working groups were set up, one each for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure sectors. Initially, projects to the tune of US \$15-20 billion were approved. However, he added that because of hard work during the last six months and confidence of the Chinese government on Pakistani leadership, the number of projects has increased.

"We have tried to identify those projects that can benefit the country in the short term. These Early Harvest Projects would now amount to \$50 billion. These projects would be completed by 2017," Ahsan Iqbal added. The projects include coal, solar and wind based electricity generation units. An investment of \$35 billion is anticipated in the energy sector. These projects would generate 23,000 MW whereas the total generation of electricity in the country till date is only 21,000 MW.

The Lahore-Karachi Motorway, expansion of the Gawadar Port and integrated development of infrastructure in the Gawadar area would bring in further investment of \$11 billion. The Karachi-Peshawar railway track will be upgraded. The minister for planning and development also pointed out that the Chinese expected us to work at a fast pace and avoid unnecessary delays. He also emphasised the need for improving internal security as concern was expressed by the Chinese government on this account, especially with respect to the security of Chinese nationals working in Pakistan.

The cabinet observed that the security of Chinese nationals working in Pakistan was an immediate concern. It was suggested that till the capacity of civil law enforcement agencies is improved, the task of providing fool proof security to the Chinese nationals may be assigned to Pakistan Army. The prime minister agreed to the proposal of assigning the security of the Chinese workers to Pakistan Army.

The minister for finance stated that according to JETRO, Pakistan would soon become the second choicest place for Foreign Direct Investment in the world due to improved economic performance. This will be possible if consistency in policies is maintained. He added that Pakistan has also announced 3G auction, which is expected by March/April.

All Day

Lahore-Karachi Motorway 'Chinese company can start construction work this year' -- BR

Additional Secretary Communications Aurangzeb Haq has said that development vision of Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif envisions speedy development in the communications sector. He expressed these views while talking to Zye and Tan-Guo Fu, the heads of two leading Chinese companies CRBC and CSCEC respectively. On this occasion, Chairman NHA Shahid Ashraf Tarrar, Member Planning Raja Noshewan, and other high officials were also present.

Aurangzeb Haq discussed with the two delegations matters relating to Pak-China Corridor. Head of CRBC in Pakistan Zye, while replying to a question, said his company could submit feasibility report, design and survey of Rai Kot to Islamabad Road Section by June 30, this year, whereas Chinese engineers had already

reached Pakistan to start off the construction work.

Head of the CSCEC, Tan-Guo Fu said his company could start construction work on Lahore-Karachi Motorway this year; the design work was already completed and land acquisition for the project was yet to be completed. Additional Secretary Communications assured the delegation that land acquisition would be completed soon and said the government intended to expand the road network to neighbouring countries to facilitate trade, tourism, industry and agriculture of the country that would ultimately boost the economy.

Chairman NHA Shahid Ashraf Tarrar, while talking to the heads of the companies elaborated the role of NHA in materialising the goals set in Pak-China Corridor and further said China was a trusted partner of Pakistan that had major contribution in rapid progress of Pakistan. The Chairman said such high level meetings would contribute to further promote mutual understanding.-PR

All Day

China to invest \$4 billion in Pak Railways: official -- The News

ISLAMABAD: China has agreed to finance the upgrading of a rail network on its mainline and to construct a state-of-the-art dry port at Havelian by investing \$4 billion during the next three to four years.

"Now the Ministry of Railways has been assigned to carry out a feasibility study for upgrading the rail network from Havelian to Karachi on its mainline (ML-1) which will be accomplished in the next seven to eight months," a top official of the Ministry of Railways confirmed to The News here on Thursday.

The rail link from Gwadar to Karachi will also be established. The feasibility study will unveil the exact cost of these railway projects but according to rough estimates calculated by the concerned high-ups, the total investment requirement will be standing at around Rs300 to Rs400 billion. Both sides have also finalised the timelines, so these railway projects could be accomplished within the tenure of PML-N led regime.

Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique told The News on Thursday that the government was working on a revitalising plan for the Pakistan Railways under which it would be turned around from a loss making to profit making entity over the medium term. Under this vision, he said, the rail linkages with neighbouring countries, including China, India and Turkey, would be established over the medium term.

However, official sources said that under the Vision 2025, which is under preparation, the Ministry of Railways has been vying its options to link Khunjerab with Havelian through the rail network but it requires substantial cost and long term plans to make it happen.

Pakistan has requested China to provide interest free loans to finance rail upgrading network, he said and added that the exact mode of financing by the Chinese side was not yet finalised but Beijing was considering different options, including soft loans with mark up of one to two percent to execute these projects.

In order to develop the western China, the industrial goods would be transported through the Karakoram Highway (KKH) by upgrading the road network from Khunjerab to Havelian and then through the rail network consignments would be transported to the port city of Karachi. On the other side, the rail network from Gwadar to Jacobabad will ensure transportation of trade goods.

"China has agreed to finance these mega projects in the recently-concluded early harvest programme signed by both the sides in Beijing," said the official. In a bid to establish the Pak-China Economic Corridor, both countries have decided to establish rail, road and sea links to promote trade and economic activities.

Special economic zones will also be established on the sidelines of routes linking through rail and road network for exploiting the existing economic opportunities in this region. The sources said that the government was also planning to upgrade 27 kilometers line through Wagah under its short term plan. The Monabhao rail link between Pakistan and India does not require upgrading at the moment, he concluded.

All Day

Oil and refinery sector: five Chinese companies keen to invest in Gwadar -- BR

Chairman Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Dostain Khan Jamaldini has said that Several Chinese companies have shown keen interest to invest in the oil and refinery sector in the Gwadar. While China has already approved nine projects worth \$1.8 billion in a bid to fully develop Gwadar port, he said while talking to APP.

"The Chief Executive Officer of China Overseas Port Holding Company, Zeng Qing Song is in Gwadar for last three days. Issues pertaining to make port fully functional discussed during the course of meeting," he noted. "Five companies of China, keen to invest in Gwadar approached us, he said adding that every day we receive

response from the reputable companies willing to initiate work with us in Gwadar," he maintained.

The company holding the control of Gwadar port would invest \$775 million, While \$1.8 billion would be spent for the expansion of port and development of the Gwadar city. Road linking Gwadar to rest of the cities would complete by 2015, he said adding work on rail track was also underway. Jamaldini has stressed that local population of Gwadar district of Balochistan were the real beneficiaries of the uplift projects underway in the Port City.

All Day

Seeking development: Planning for Gwadar continues -- The Express Tribune,

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping Kamran Michael has said that the present administration is serious in their motive to see development taking place at the Gwadar port area.

He said that through Chinese investment, an economic corridor would be established for the development of Gwadar Port and Memorandum of Understanding/agreements had been signed and an amount of \$1.20 billion was to be spent on the port's development.

The amount will be invested in two to three years, he added. Senator Kamran Michael stated this during a meeting at his ministerial secretariat in Islamabad. Unveiling further details, Michael said that the prime minister's approval has already been taken under which the Gwadar airport and road infrastructure will be upgraded and brought at par with the latest international facilities. Similarly, development of hospital, school and vocational training institutes will be built at Gwadar, he said. More berths at Gwadar port will also be established that would attract international famed companies and their investments, he added.

"The consulate generals of various countries have been taken to Gwadar for a detailed lookout. Some of these have shown interest in Gwadar for business ventures," said the senator. "The consulates of Belgium and Holland have specifically shown interest for business ventures at the port."

All Day

Pak, China groups ink MoU to set up explosives factory -- The Nations

WAH CANTT - An MoU has been inked between Wah Nobel Group of Companies and Gezhouba Explosives Co. Ltd, China on Friday to set up an explosives factory through a joint venture for mining, energy engineering, infrastructure construction and urban control blasting. Kawaja Muhammad Asif, Federal Minister for Defence and Water and Power was the chief guest of the Ceremony. Rana Tanvir Hussain, Federal Minister for Defence Production and Federal Secretary were also present on this occasion. Through, this joint venture future requirement of commercial explosives required for the mega infrastructure project being initiated by present government will be met. The company will introduce the new technology for production of latest commercial explosives and mobile manufacturing unit technology for bulk emulsion explosives in hydropower engineering.

Wah Nobel (Pvt) Ltd with over 50 years of experience in commercial explosives and blasting accessories manufacturing is a joint venture of Wah Industries Ltd, SAAB AB of Sweden and Al-Misehal of Saudi Arabia.

Gezhouba Explosives Co. Ltd, China is a leading large-scale corporation in commercial explosives industry of China. It has an experience of over 40 years and is fully qualified in production and sale of commercial explosives materials and contracting services for blasting and demolition in China.

Addressing on this occasion Lt Gen Muhammad Ahsan Mahmood, HI(M) Chairman POF remarked that safe and secure environment would be provided to the Chinese Firm during their stay and hoped that this joint venture would be completed in the shortest possible time. Chairman POF Board expressed his pleasure that the joint venture with the Chinese company would further strengthen our relations with China. From Wah Nobel side Syed Naseem Raza, Chief Executive Wah Nobel Group gave a detailed presentation and apprised the Ministers and other dignitaries about the future project being undertaken with the help of Chinese.

He further added that this project would bring in direct foreign investment in Pakistan through a joint venture company. From Chinese side Chen Xiaohua, President of China Gezhouba Group International Engineering Co. Ltd, gave a detailed briefing with activities of Gezhouba Group. He assured that his company would invest into this project and realise the MoU in shortest possible time.

All Day

'Pakistan has 4th largest livestock population in the world -- APP

LAHORE, March 16 (APP): Pakistan has the fourth largest livestock population with over 180 million cattle in the world. This was stated by Chairman Punjab Halal Development Agency (PHDA), Justice @ Khalilur Rehman in an exclusive talk with APP here on Sunday.

He said that keeping in view the realities, it was practicable to tap a major share in a rapidly growing global Halal market by projecting and developing Pakistan as a Halal hub and branding its products in international markets.

At the stage, trade of Halal products is around US\$ 3.0 trillion in global Halal markets, in which Pakistan has only \$29 million share which can be expanded rapidly in diversified areas including meat and by-products, milk and allied industries, financing, tourism, hoteling, beverages, cosmetics, confectionary, pharmaceutical and personal care etc, he added.

He said that PHDA had framed a draft to make legislation on import and export of Halal products in which a violator would be awarded imprisonment up to three years with fine of Rs 0.1 million to Rs 1 million. He said the draft of the law was ready and would soon be presented in the federal cabinet for its approval and then in the National Assembly. After the Halal Act, the PHDA would be a certification body which was a requirement for export at international level, he added.

He said that Punjab Halal Development Agency was a Halal development organization run by the government of Punjab. PHDA aims at formalizing the Halal sector i.e. Halal products' certifications, Halal business projection, capacity building, compliance regime of Halal food safety standards together with branding Pakistan as a Halal hub in the world.

Talking about objectives of PHDA, he said it aimed to promote the Halal industry of Pakistan especially meat. It is going to prove a unique platform to galvanize Halal exporters.

He said their mission was to promote compliance of prescribed Halal standards and certification systems in the light of Shariah advisory services.

All Day

Railways plan to lay new track between Karachi, Gwadar -- APP

ISLAMABAD, Mar 16 (APP): The Ministry of Railways (PR) is planning to lay track to link Karachi with Gwadar seaport to facilitate traders and generate revenue and reduce deficit of the organization. The new track would fulfil the needs of transportation of goods to Gwadar in future, an official source in the Ministry of Railways told APP here. Moreover, the Railways was in contact with China for preparing studies for construction of Khuzdar, Baseemah, Jacobabad and Dera Ghazi Khan main line (ML-2), he added. The official source said that China would finalise the studies till the end of December 2015 and will bear all expenditures of the study of laying the new railway line.

Pakistan Railways was focusing on speeding up revenue generating activities of the department under the direction of Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique.

He said that Pakistan Railways is also working on restoration of ECO train for Turkey via Taftan and Zahidan.

The train will help traders to transport their goods through train to Turkey, Iran, India and Pakistan.

The department is also planning to construct a dry port for container-holding at Havelian near Abbotabad for facilitating trade with China.

After construction of the port, about two million tons of goods could be transported between Khunjrabad and Havelian.

All Day

Chinese firm to execute power projects in KP -- APP

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government will issue a 30-year operational license to a Chinese company for executing power projects in the province.

The survey team of the company would start its work from Shoghore, Chitral soon after receiving no objection certificate (NOC), said a handout. It added that after collecting statistics of the flow of water in all four seasons of the year in the area the company would start construction of the power house from next year.

In this connection a meeting was held on Sunday that was attended by Adviser to Chief Minister Rafiqatullah Babar and representatives of Chinese hydel power company Zhongnan Engineering Corporation and mineral company Tuny-Pak Minerals. Expressing interest in investment in hydel power and mineral sectors of the province, the Chinese companies requested for issuance of NOC.

Mr Babar appreciated the offer and said that it was a welcoming gesture that the interest of investment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by neighbouring friendly country Peoples' Republic of China was increasing.

He said that Chinese companies had made investment of billions of dollars in different sectors in the province. He assured Zhongnan Engineering Corporation of issuance of NOC for establishment of hydel power station in Shoghore area of Chitral and said that company could start work from next week.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mr Babar said, was rich in natural resources and had huge potential in hydel power and mineral sectors. "The issuance of licences has been started to different national and international companies for exploiting these potentials," he added.

The representatives of the company told Mr Babar that their survey team would start work soon after receiving NOC for Shoghore Chitral. After collecting statistics of the flow of water in all four seasons of the year in the area, they company would start construction of power house from next year, they added.

The electricity produced from the power station, which will be completed in one and half year, will be provided to local industrial units at subsidised rates.

Mr Babar said that under one-window operation of the provincial government, the Investment Promotion Cell would provide all necessary facilities with immediate effect to all domestic and foreign companies.

He said that for future power projects, the company would be issued a 30-year operational licence and the tariff would be fixed according to the policy evolved by the provincial government.

All Day

Rs.17,374 mln released for various power sector projects so far -- APP

ISLAMABAD, Mar 17 (APP): The government has released Rs.17374.170 million out of Rs.51,543.425 million allocated for various power sector projects so far under the current fiscal year Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). According to Planning Commission data, an amount of Rs.17,000 million was allocated for the construction of Diamer Basha Dam Project Land Acquisition (4500 MW) in the PSDP which has been released for the said purpose. A sum of Rs.54 million has been released for setting up 132 KV Sub stations at Deep Sea Port Gwadar, Rs.30.400 million for 132 KV Sub stations at Singhar Housing Scheme Gwadar and Rs.40 million for 132 KV T/line Balozai Balochistan.

Similarly, an amount of Rs.25.200 million was released for 33 KV transmission line from 132 KV grid stations Thana Bula Khan, Rs 21 million for construction of 132 KV grid station at Dera Bughti and 132 KV Sui-Dera Bughti transmission line, Rs.37.770 million for construction of 132 KV grid station atMall and 132 KV SDT Noshki-Dalbandin transmission line.

A sum of Rs. 100 million was also released for the study of Master Plan of 6600 MW Pakistan Power Park at Gaddani, Balochistan while Rs.45.600 million was released for electrification of village in Dera Bughti.

All Day

China to invest \$4 bln in Pakistan Railways: Saad -- Pak Tribune

LAHORE: Railways Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique has said Chinese investment and supply of coal will play a significant role in boosting performance of Pakistan Railways.

Addressing a news conference in Lahore, he said China will invest 32 billion dollars in Pakistan. Out of this amount, four billion dollars investment will be made in Pakistan Railways.

He said no recommendation regarding privatization of the Railways is under consideration.

The minister said private investment will be welcomed in Pakistan Railways through a transparent manner.

He said steps are underway to utilize Railways land in a proper way.

All Day

Export market: TDAP urged to develop China-focused strategy -- Express Tribune

LAHORE: Pakistan's exports can make a major breakthrough by evolving an exclusive export development strategy focusing on China, said Shah Faisal Afridi, Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) president, while speaking to newly-appointed Trade Development Authority Pakistan (TDAP) CEO SM Munir.

There is a vast scope for export of Pakistani carpets, fruits, leather, textiles and gemstones as well as different kinds of minerals to be exported to China, said Afridi adding that the country had lately succeeded in penetrating the carpet market and hoped to showcase its popular brand of mangoes this year.

He underlined that both sides had recently-held negotiations on the second phase of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that would further help improve bilateral trade. Prominent Chinese businessmen, who visited last year, along with their premier have placed orders worth \$450 million for import of different items from Pakistan, Afridi said. He urged the TDAP chief to ensure competitive prices, quality control and expansion of industrial base on sound footings in Pakistan to tap the vast Chinese market.

He drew attention of the new TDAP chief towards Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's first overseas trip in May last year to China, when eight agreements and Memorandums of Understanding were signed, including the most important one on Pakistan-China Economic Corridor.

He disclosed that both countries were working on a four-pronged strategy of road, optic fibre, energy pipelines and railway connectivity, along with setting up Special Economic Zones (SEZs) along with the corridor to jump-start economic activity.

The Chinese government was also encouraging the private sector to make maximum investment in energy and infrastructure development in Pakistan, he added.

"The coming months will see more progress towards the implementation of corridor-related projects," PCJCCI president added. He reiterated to develop an exclusive strategy for boosting Pakistan's exports to China that will help make a paradigm shift in export development of the country.

He was confident that TDAP would be able to set historical milestones in boosting country's exports under Munir. He assured to extend the sincerest cooperation of his chamber as well.

Published in The Express Tribune, March 18th, 2014.

All Day

Nawaz invites international investment in energy sector -- APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that Pakistan will provide necessary safeguards to foreign investments, and urged international companies to invest in Pakistan for best returns.

He said this while meeting a delegation led by the State Grid Corporation of China (SGCC) President Jia Zhiqiang that called on Nawaz at the PM's House Islamabad on Monday.

The meeting was also attended by Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Privatisation Chairman Muhammad Zubair, Board of Investment Chairman Mifta Ismail and other senior officers.

While welcoming the delegation, the PM said that Chinese investments would boost the economy of Pakistan, and that China was willing to invest \$35 billion in various infrastructure projects within 3 to 5 years.

The PM further said that investments in Pakistan would yield high dividends to foreign investors as the business-friendly environment of Pakistan offers great opportunities.

"Moreover, the government of Pakistan will provide sovereign guarantees to the investors in order to safeguard their investment," the PM said. The SGCC president informed the PM that the SGCC was managing around 70 percent of the power transmission lines in China.

All Day

Pak-China Economic Corridor: Chinese team due in April to discuss development projects -- BR

A high-level Chinese delegation is scheduled to arrive here next month to discuss various development projects related to Pak-China Economic Corridor. Sources said on Monday that Chinese President Xi Jinping was also likely to visit Pakistan in September, 2014, for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) pertaining to various projects with regard to Pak-China Economic Corridor.

They said that China wanted to prepare a joint feasibility of common parameters for the development projects of Pak-China Economic Corridor. The federal government had set 30th June 2014 as deadline to concerned authorities for preparing a feasibility report for the construction of Lahore-Karachi Motorway, the sources added. They said that the Prime Minister had already approved the alignment of the Economic Corridor starting from Khunjerab Pass and ending at Gwadar and Lahore-Karachi Motorway.

The sources said that a new Motorway from Multan to Sukkur would be initiated in the first phase. Two projects, components of the Economic Corridor - Karakoram Highway and Multan-Sukkur portion - were approved in the second meeting of the Joint Co-operation Committee (JCC) of Pak-China Economic Corridor. China State Construction Engineering Corporation and Frontier Works Organisation of Pakistan would jointly work for the construction of these two projects. A new road link from Islamabad to Khunjerab would also be constructed under Pak-China Economic Corridor. A railway line from Rawalpindi to Khunjerab is also planned to be laid. The sources said that Pakistan would benefit in terms of security and revenue from Pak-China optic fibre project and for this project, \$40 million had been provided by Chinese telecom firm Huawei.

The project would be completed within a span of two years, the sources said adding that successful implementation of the project would provide Pakistan with a direct telecom access to China and the Central Asian States. The project would also facilitate trade, tourism and IT in the region and generate economic opportunities particularly in Gilgit-Baltistan. The sources said that 22,000 MW extra would be generated due to Chinese investment in various energy projects. For this propose, Gadani Power Projects would be the first priority.

All Day

Pakistan invites Bahrain to invest in Gwadar, energy -- Pak Tribune

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has offered Bahrain an opportunity to invest in Gwadar Port and its energy and mining sectors, encouraging the Gulf monarchy to take advantage of the liberalised investment regime that in return will help Islamabad attract capital to boost its flagging economy.

"Bahrain has expertise in oil and infrastructure projects and Gwadar Port and the energy sector may be attractive for the Gulf country," said Dr Musaddaq Malik, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister.

He was speaking at the Bahrain-Pakistan Business Forum, held on Wednesday to mark the current visit of King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to Islamabad.

As many as 17 memoranda of understanding were signed between Pakistan and Bahrain and between Bahraini government and Pakistani investors. The agreements were aimed at venturing into new areas and expanding existing facilities set up in Bahrain by Pakistani investors.

Malik pointed out that China would invest \$33 billion over five years in Pakistan, of which \$18 billion would be pumped into infrastructure projects. He suggested that Bahraini investors should become equity partners of China to explore the opportunities.

He told the investors that they could also set up power plants in Pakistan – an area where the country offered a minimum 17% guaranteed rate of return with sovereign guarantees. In return, Pakistan can provide human capital and invest in the food sector, the areas where Bahrain is in need of external help.

Trade between the two countries stood at just \$250 million per annum while in the last six years Bahrain invested only \$18.7 million in Pakistan, said Miftah Ismail, Chairman Board of Investment, at the conference.

Ismail asked Bahraini investors to invest in Thar coal and copper and gold mines in Balochistan. The kind of technology and financial resources required to discover coal, gold and copper were missing in Pakistan, leaving the mines unexplored, he said.

The value of Thar coal is estimated at \$9 trillion while the size of Pakistan's economy is only \$250 billion. Similarly, he said, copper mines were spread over 30,000 square kilometres and contribution of the mining sector to the economy was less than half a percentage point, 0.4% of GDP to be precise.

Ismail was of the view Bahrainis were more interested in the banking sector and equity market while other sectors of interest could be healthcare, education, food, textile, manufacturing, information and communications technology, industrial, professional and commercial services.

A lot more needed to be done to improve the dismal figures of bilateral trade, suggested Dr Hassan Fakhro, Bahrain's Minister of Industries and Commerce while speaking at the conference.

He asked Pakistan's business community to invest in the food sector that offered them immense opportunities.

Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir offered Bahrain an opportunity to invest in the textile sector in order to get advantage of the 10-year duty-free access to European markets. In the same manner, Pakistan could also benefit from the free trade agreement between Bahrain and the US by establishing industrial units in the Gulf state.

All Day

Chinese company to build power plants at Gadani -- Pak Tribune

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Water & Power Khawaja Muhammad Asif said on Tuesday that government is taking every possible measure to overcome the load shedding issue, Our Sources reported.

In this regard Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB) and Chinese company Gehzuoba has signed an agreement for the setting up of four 660 MW coal-fired power plants at Gaddani with an investment of \$3.5 billion.

Khawaja Muhammad Asif said that Chinese Company will work on several coal-based power projects that will provide Pakistan 2640 Mega Watt of electricity.

According to sources Chinese investments will provide a boost to the economy of Pakistan as China is willing to invest \$35 billion in various infrastructure projects within 3 to 5 years.

The Minister further informed there are several foreign companies that are willing to invest for Gaddani Power Park.

End.

All Day

Dar for exploring potential of ship building industry -- APP

ISLAMABAD, Mar 20 (APP): Minister for Finance, Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Thursday said that the ship building industry has huge potential due to long deep sea shores of the country. Chairing a meeting regarding proposal for building new shipyards along Pakistan's coasts, he said that in line with the true potential and ideal location, ship building industry could contribute towards national economic development and poverty alleviation. The Minister said that during last 8 months industrial sector had performed well and it is the vision of the PML (N) leadership to make Pakistan a country that could prosper and develop as per its potential. He said that it is the responsibility of the government to attract key industrial projects like shipyard industry as major triggers for further industrial growth. He assured full support of the Ministry of Finance to Ministry of Defence Production for the projects which could help generate economic activity and attract valuable foreign expertise and investments.

He stressed the need to train and utilize abundant local human resource which would contribute to employment opportunities and increased per capita income. Chairman Ship Building Association, Vice Admiral ® Iftikhar Ahmad Rao, gave a detailed presentation on global shipyard industry and emphasized that the nations which realized the importance of seas benefitted and became great powers. He said that maritime sector was prime source of new growth, employment and social cohesion in the developing countries.

He informed that the world GDP grew at an average of 3.6% per annum, whereas sea trade grew at 4.3% per annum in the last 50 years.

In other words, world's GDP grew eight times, whereas, sea trade grew 13 times in the last half century, he added.

He said that China started ships building in the 1990s and today it is the global leader with 41 % share, followed by South Korea and Japan with 33% and 20% share respectively.

He informed that there are over 1000 shipyards in China and even India had over 100 shipyards. In comparison, Pakistan has only one shipyard, Karachi Shipyard Engineering Works (KS&EW) with two small dry docks.

He underlined deep sea shore, abundance of labor force and location as Pakistan's advantages in comparison to other regional countries.

He briefed the meeting about plans for two world class shipyards on joint venture basis at Gwadar and Port Qasim and informed that these shipyards projects will attract major investment from foreign shipyard companies.

Iftikhar Ahmad said that this initiative of building two shipyards at Gwadar and Port Qasim had been pending, since 2008, and no progress has been achieved during the last five years.

He emphasized that Gwadar is being a new port; a shipyard over there will greatly help the port itself.

The Minister for Defence Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain informed the Finance

Minister that a shipyard takes five years to be completed/ operational and we need to expeditiously complete the necessary approval process in order to achieve progress in ship building sector.

He informed that the Federal Government can provide land and related infrastructure as its equity in the proposed shipyards. The rest of the investment will be made by foreign companies which are leading the industry.

The meeting was also attended by Finance Secretary, Dr Waqar Masood, Maj Gen Raza Muhammad, Acting Secretary, Ministry of Defence Production, Rana Assad Amin, Advisor to the Finance Ministry and senior officials of the Ministries of Finance and Defence Production.

All Day

Gwadar Port: Blueprint for free trade zone to be ready in May -- The Express Tribune

A Chinese company will submit a blueprint for the free trade zone at Gwadar port along with a business and marketing plan to the Pakistani authorities by May 2014, a senior official said on Saturday.

"The deadline for submitting the master plan of free trade zone along with a comprehensive business and marketing plan for the port has been set in May this year to get a formal approval from the government," Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman Dostain Khan Jamaldini told The Express Tribune.

After that "steps will be taken to formally start business and trade via the strategic port," Jamaldini said.

"The company will formally start its business activities in the port after approval of these two major plans by the government of Pakistan," Jamaldini said.

The next step would involve acquiring funds from the Chinese government and inviting private Chinese investors to inject money into various businesses in the free trade zone of the port.

In this regard, he said, a meeting with a delegation of Chinese businessmen is scheduled for March 27 in Karachi to discuss issues related to the investment opportunities in the free trade zone in the port.

In August 2014, the Chinese premier is expected to visit Pakistan to sign some memorandums of understanding (MoUs) to kick off businesses.

Under the short-term plan, Islamabad and Beijing want to develop Gwadar port, whose control has already been given to China, in a bid to attract investment in different sectors to make it a hub of economic activities.

The GPA chairman said another delegation of Chinese businessmen would also arrive in Pakistan on Monday to explore the opportunities for business in the port. Jamaldini said development work on the port was under way and land measuring 2,300 acres for a free trade zone would be handed over to the port authorities shortly.

"This land is under the control of Pakistan Navy, Coast Guards and provincial government of Balochistan and formalities in this regard has been completed," he added.

Talking to The Express Tribune, Balochistan Additional Chief Secretary Aslam Shakir Baloch said the provincial government would take immediate steps to resolve the port issue.

Published in The Express Tribune, March 23rd, 2014.

All Day

China will support Pakistan to grow as Asian economic tiger: Deputy Chinese Ambassador -- Online News

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chinese Envoy to Pakistan Yao Wen on Monday said that China will provide full support in development and infrastructure projects like Gawader Port, Karachi Lahore Motorway and Silk Rout Economical Corridor by constructing Karakorum High Way which will help Pakistan to grow as Asian Tiger.

The Deputy Ambassador of China to Pakistan was addressing the closing ceremony of 4 days Pak- China Business Forum 2014 here at Pak-China Friendship Centre that was organized by COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT).

Yao Wen observed that his country is interesting to set up Silk Rout Economical Belt and Marine Economical Rout to boost economical ties among South Asia, Central Asia and Middle East. He also urged to extend the business and trade ties between Pakistan and china especially when it comes to private business companies interactions.

Chinese Deputy Envoy mentioned that the leadership of both the countries vows to strengthen the deep time tested relationship between the two countries, adding that both the neighbours enjoy the trust bonds.

He also appreciated the efforts laid down in making the event a success, while acknowledging the participation of businessmen from both countries who have actively participated in the forum.

Yao Wen also urged to promote the trade and business relations between the private entrepreneurs and companies from both sides of the border terming it pleasant to monitor the signing of 50 Memorandum of Understandings(MOUs) between the Pakistani and Chinese companies during Pak-China business Forum 2014.

The Chinese Diplomat emphasized on the fact of having stronger bilateral relations between the two countries. Furthermore, he also highlighted that China has been working for the betterment of Pakistan in different sectors/ projects major are Gawadar Port, Karachi Lahore Motorway, and Karakoram Highway and Economical corridor.

Stressing to strengthen the bilateral relations across the borders, Deputy Ambassador said to develop the Silk Route Economical Belt for the revival of trade and economy in the region. Ending the speech, he appreciated the efforts that were made to make the Pak China Business Forum 2014 a success.

Secretary Board of Investment Imran Afzal Cheema mentioned the need to improve further the trade and economic ties between Pakistan and China saying that “we welcome more and more Chinese here to not to miss the golden investment opportunity.”

Highlighting the salient features of government’s incentives for the foreign investors, he maintained that foreign investors could hold 100 percent equity, other then cheap labour and low taxes for them.

Imran Afzal Cheema Secretary Chairman Board of Investment also thanked the management of CIIT. He also acknowledged Chinese and Pakistani Industrialists for showcasing their projects.

Dean of business faculty CIIT, Dr Qaiser Abbas disclosed that last year 32 Chinese companies were here for the forum, the number now has extended up to 139.

Most important development was the agreement inked by a Chinese company to develop a technology part worth US \$ 5m here in Pakistan.

Dr. Juneed Zaidi, Rector CIIT said in his closing remarks that India is exporting billions of dollars IT services to China, why Pakistan not get share. There are great

opportunities to expand bilateral trade.

It is pertinent to mention here that during Pakistan-China business forum 2014, total 63 MOUs have been inked between the various private Chinese companies and their Pakistani counterparts.

All Day

Investors envisage Pak-China corridor as great business opportunity -- APP

ISLAMABAD: Pak-China Economic Corridor will usher in a new era of economic development between the two countries as it will bring revolutionary progress, especially in Balochistan and Kashgar, Chinese businessmen said here Friday. A delegation of Guangzhou Global Chamber of Commerce of China Friday visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) led by its Vice Chairman Zhong Shi.

Speaking on the occasion Zhong Shi, said the businessmen of both countries should take maximum benefit of the Free Trade Agreement signed between Pakistan and China to improve bilateral trade.

He said the bilateral trade has reached US\$ 12 billion and there is great potential to improve it.

He said many Chinese companies were already working in Pakistan while many more were looking at it as a promising country for investment and joint ventures.

He said ICCI and Guangzhou Global Chamber should strengthen bilateral collaboration to bring the private sectors of both countries even closer.

On the occasion, ICCI Acting President, Khalid Chaudhry said China was the largest trading partner of Pakistan and many Chinese companies by working in Pakistan are rendering great contribution to the economic development of our country.

He said the grant of GSP Plus to Pakistan by the European Union has created many new opportunities for investment and Chinese investors should take full benefit of such opportunities by investing in Pakistan's textile sector.

Energy sector of Pakistan also offers tremendous prospects to foreign investors and Chinese companies should also enhance investment in this sector to earn lucrative returns.

He said the Pak-China Economic Corridor project is one of the greatest initiatives that both countries have agreed to execute and its implementation will bring plenty of economic benefits for both countries.

He said Chambers of Commerce of both countries should ensure frequent exchange of trade delegations to fully tap all untapped areas of mutual cooperation and added that ICCI delegation will participate in the forthcoming Canton Fair in China.

March 30, 2014

Sun

All Day

Pakistan to build 2 shipyards at Gwadar and Port Qasim -- APP

It is reported that Pakistan's government announced plans to set up two new shipyards at Gwadar and Port Qasim.

Japanese and Korean firms will provide investments on build, operate and transfer (BOT) basis.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said the ship building industry will have huge potential for Pakistan because of its deep seashores. Market participants point out that the demand for shipbuilding plate will increase.

All Day

Chinese company to invest \$2bn in Apparel Park -- Daily Times

LAHORE: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Punjab government and a prominent Chinese company, Shandong Ruyi Group, at the Chief Minister's Office on Thursday.

Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif was the chief guest on the occasion. Under the agreement, the Shandong Ruyi Group will make an investment of \$2 billion in the Quaid-i-Azam Apparel Park and will also cooperate in its designing, planning and construction. The Punjab government will provide all-out facilities to the Chinese group on a priority basis. The Chinese group and the Punjab Industrial Estates Development and Management Company (PIEDMC) will jointly work on the project.

PIEDMC Chairman SM Tanvir and Shandong Ruyi Group Executive President Arie Qiu signed the document.

Earlier, a delegation of Shandong Ruyi Group and Huaneng Shandong led by Luan Shun met the chief minister.

The Chinese group also showed keen interest in investment in the energy sector and expressed the desire to set up two coal power plants of 660 megawatts in Sahiwal and two similar plants of 135 megawatts in industrial estates, besides considering establishment of coal power plants near coal mines in Salt Range. Talking to the delegation, Shahbaz expressed gratitude to the Ruyi Group for taking interest in investment in the energy and textile sectors. He said that Chinese companies were also extending cooperation to Pakistan in projects of generation of electricity from solar and other sources.

He said that maximum facilities were being provided to Chinese investors in Punjab. He welcomed the agreement between Shandong Group and PIEDMC regarding Quaid-i-Azam Apparel Park project. The Chinese group is also making investment of billions of dollars in the industrial estate in Faisalabad. Shahbaz Sharif said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government has provided a favourable atmosphere for investment and the country was moving forward in the right direction under the leadership of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

He said that Pak-China friendship has stood the test of time and package of investment of \$32 billion by China reflected strong relationship between the two countries. He said that Pak-China friendship was touching new heights in the current tenure of Muslim League-N. Referring to the iron ore reserves in Rajua, Shahbaz Sharif said that a historic agreement had been signed with a Chinese company MCC for exploration of iron ore deposits in Chiniot. He said that the Punjab government wanted to modernise mining sector and operate it in an organised manner for generating job opportunities. He said that cooperation of Chinese group in mining sector would be welcomed. Shandong Ruyi Group leader Luan Shun said that Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif had executed glorious projects in Punjab and he was deeply impressed with his style of work. He said that there were opportunities for setting up coal power plants near coal mines in Punjab. The chief minister also hosted a luncheon in the honour of the Chinese group.

Meanwhile, Shahbaz Sharif presided over a meeting on nutrition, promotion of dairy products and potable water projects, during which he was briefed on nutrition, promotion of dairy products and drinking water projects by Nestle Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, he said that Pakistan could earn huge foreign exchange through livestock and dairy development. He said that an effective strategy would be adopted for the promotion of livestock and development of dairy sector. He said that a substantial increase could be made in the export of milk products through improvement in the processing system. He said that Turkey had made unparalleled progress in dairy development during the last one decade and the Punjab government would consider Turkish model for promotion of dairy sector. He said that a delegation of the Punjab government would soon visit Turkey for this purpose. The chief minister said that nutrition has great importance for human health and a balanced diet is essential for the human body. He said that Punjab government had evolved a big project for providing clean drinking water to the citizens and a sum of Rs 12 billion has been allocated for Saaf Pani Project this year.

He said that the government had fixed the target of provision of clean drinking water to every citizen during next four-and-a-half years. He said that water was a blessing of Allah and there was a need to avoid its wastage. Shahbaz said that water resources could be saved through better water management.

All Day**Gwadar to be a glittering port -- Observer**

Friday, April 04, 2014 - MINISTER for Defence Production Rana Tanvir Hussain has made a welcome statement that a state of the art big shipyard to build heavy commercial and naval vessels will be established at the Gwadar Port. The Minister who returned after visiting shipyards in China, said, in an interview with this newspaper, that after thorough study, Pakistan will seek cooperation to start building new shipyard as per international standards and practices.

The shipbuilding industry has a huge potential due to long deep-sea shores of Pakistan. The Ministry of defence production in a recent presentation given to a high level meeting chaired by the Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, highlighted that Pakistan has many advantages in comparison to other regional countries to establish new shipyards, because of its deep sea shores, abundance of labour force and strategic location in the region. Presently Pakistan has only one shipyard and engineering works with two small dry docks, in Karachi. The ship building industry could contribute to national economic development and poverty alleviation. It could help generate economic activity and attract foreign expertise and investments. Gwadar Port which was completed in 2006 is strategically located on the western end of Balochistan coast and if due attention was given to its development, the port could generate billions of dollars in revenues and create at least two million jobs. Gwadar has the potential to be developed into a full-fledged regional hub and a trans-shipment port in the future. Thus Gwadar offers the best choice for the establishment of a shipyard due to its vast soil and less population. In fact there is need to implement other projects in Gwadar which have been pending since long including a major industrial zone, establishment of oil refineries and the idea of the Minister for a shipyard. These projects would make Gwadar major port in the all important region and turn it into a glittering port city. It would give tremendous boost to economy of Pakistan in general and Balochistan in particular. We would request Rana Tanvir Hussain to personally prioritize the building of Shipyard and other projects at Gwadar Port because such mega projects could bring economic turn around.

All Day**PM desires agreement signing with China -- The Nations**

ISLAMABAD - Directing to speed up the development projects through better coordination among the departments, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has directed Federal Minister for Planning to sign a framework agreement with the Chinese government for funding of the mega projects.

The PM expressed these views while chairing a high-level meeting regarding Pakistan-China Economic Corridor and early-harvest development projects here in the PM House Thursday.

Federal Minister for Water & Power Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Chief Minister Punjab Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Special Assistant to PM on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi and concerned senior government officers.

During the meeting, the Federal Minister for Planning apprised the PM that two working groups have been established for early-harvest projects in the Transport Infrastructure and Energy sectors. The Prime Minister directed that better coordination among line departments should be ensured to fast track development projects.

Various options for funding of Karachi to Lahore Motorway project were discussed. The Prime Minister was told that Multan-Sukkur section of the Karachi-Lahore Motorway is being built by Chinese, while remaining sections would be constructed on Built-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis.

Prime Minister directed that international firms should be invited to participate in the bidding of these sections and the process should be completely transparent.

It was informed that rehabilitation plan for Lahore-Islamabad Motorway has been finalised with a cost of Rs. 36 billion and will be completed in 18 months from date of start of work.

It was informed that early-harvest projects included 1320 MW Coal-Based Power Projects (IPP) at Port Qasim, 660 MW Coal-Based Power Projects (IPP) at Gaddani by Power China, 1100 MW Kohala Hydro Power Project, 873 MW Suki Kanari Hydro Power Project, 720 MW Karot Hydro Power Project, 3.5 MT/A Coal Mining Project Thar Block-II SEC MC, Solar Power Park at Bahawalpur, Karachi-Lahore

Motorway, Construction of East-Bay Expressway at Gwadar and Hospital at Gwadar (300 beds) and are ready for ground-breaking this year.

PM DIRECTS TO

MODERNISE RAILWAY

STATIONS

Appreciating the additional revenue generation by good governance by Pakistan Railways, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has directed for refurbishment and modernization of railway stations across the country for the facility of train users. Premier Sharif was informed during the briefing on Thursday on the working of Pakistan Railways that an additional target of Rs.4.5 billion was achieved this year while another Rs. 5 billion losses were controlled by better management of the department running in massive loss since long.

The meeting held under the chair of Premier Sharif at the Prime Minister's House, which was also attended by Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Chief Minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif and senior government officers.

The Prime Minister was informed that request for proposals regarding feasibility study of Islamabad-Murree-Muzaffarabad Railway Link will be floated in the second week of April this year.

The PM was apprised about the functioning of Railways, its history, present status and future direction. During the briefing, the Prime Minister was told that the present administration of Pakistan Railways is focused on the core business of transportation of goods and people.

It was decided to reconstitute Railway's Board with better representation from private sector. The PM was told that work on Karachi Circular Railway would be initiated soon.

April 8, 2014

Tue

All Day

PM reviews progress on Pak-China Economic Corridor, infrastructure projects -- APP

Apr 8 (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday said energy and infrastructure projects are the backbone of the country's economy and these projects need to be completed as early as possible. The Prime Minister expressed these views while chairing a progress reviewing meeting regarding Pakistan-China Economic Corridor and infrastructure projects here at the PM House. The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi and senior government

All Day

Chinese investment to be secured, provided best returns: PM -- The News

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday said that energy and infrastructure projects were the backbone of Pakistan's economy and these projects needed to be completed as early as possible.

While chairing a progress review meeting on the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor and infrastructure projects at the PM House, Nawaz Sharif said that the government would ensure that Chinese investments in Pakistan were secure and would provide the best returns.

He further said that he would also discuss cooperation between Pakistan and China on these projects with the Chinese leadership during his visit to the upcoming Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) conference being held in China from April 9-11.

Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal apprised the prime minister that a framework agreement with the Chinese government for funding of projects had been finalised. The premier was also apprised on the status of Karachi-Lahore Motorway project and rehabilitation plan for the Lahore-Islamabad Motorway.

Nawaz said that energy sector projects were of vital importance to Pakistan's economy and these were on the highest priority of the government. During the briefing on energy sector projects, the premier was told that the master plan for the Pakistan Power Park at Gadani had been completed and the feasibility for jetty and infrastructure would be completed by June 2014.

Briefing was given on early-harvest projects, including 1,320MW Coal-Based Power Projects (IPP) at Port Qasim, 660MW Coal-Based Power Projects at Gadani by Power China, 1,100MW Kohala Hydro Power Project, 873MW Suki Kanari Hydro Power Project, 720MW Karot Hydro Power Project, 3.5MT/A Coal Mining Project Thar Block-II SECMC, Solar Power Park

at Bahawalpur, Karachi-Lahore Motorway, Construction of East-Bay Expressway at Gwadar and hospital at Gwadar (300 beds).

Meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi and senior government officers.

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir adds: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will discuss full spectrum of ties and cooperation with his Chinese counterpart on Friday next in Hainan province city Boao in the light of the framework agreement.

He is leaving for China today (Wednesday) to attend the Boao Economic Forum for Asia as distinguished guest on special invitation of the Chinese government where he will have several meetings with important world leaders on the brinks of the forum including a bilateral structured meeting with Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang. He will also deliver key-note address on issues to be discussed by the forum.

The sources told The News that Prime Minister Nawaz travelling to far-flung province Hainan of China by a small plane with a small delegation. He will return home on Saturday, the sources said.

All Day

Nawaz-Li 3rd meeting within a year signifies warmth in bilateral relations -- APP

BEIJING, Apr 9 (APP): All eyes will be focused on the meeting between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Premier Li Keqiang on the fringes of Boao Forum for Asia on Thursday as both leaders will sit across the table for 3rd time within a span of less than a year. Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hong Lei, in a regularly press conference here on Wednesday, said that the meeting between the two leaders will

give further impetus to our all weather friendship and enhance cooperation.

All Day

Express -- گوادر میں ایکسپورٹ پراسیسنگ زون کیلئے زمین مختص

کراچی: گوادر میں ایک ہزار ایکٹر زمین ایکسپورٹ پراسیسنگ زون کے لیے مختص کردی گئی، منصوبے کی تکمیل سے روزگار کے وسیع مواقع مہیا ہوں گے، ساتھ ہی ملک کی برآمدات میں بھی نمایاں اضافہ ممکن ہوگا۔ گوادر ایکسپورٹ پراسیسنگ زون منصوبے کی ایڈوائزری کمیٹی کا دوسرا اجلاس گزشتہ روز کراچی میں منعقد ہوا، ایکسپورٹ پراسیسنگ زون اتھارٹی کی چیئر پرسن رابعہ جویری آغا نے اجلاس کی صدارت کی۔ اجلاس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے رابعہ جویری آغا نے کہا کہ یورپی یونین کی جانب سے پاکستان کے لیے جی ایس پی پلس کی سہولت سے پاکستانی برآمدات کے لیے بھرپور مواقع مہیا ہوئے ہیں، گوادر میں ایک ہزار ایکٹر پر ایکسپورٹ پراسیسنگ زون کے قیام کے لیے اسٹیک ہولڈرز کی سپورٹ ضروری ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گوادر ایکسپورٹ پراسیسنگ زون کا منصوبہ چین کے ساتھ زمینی راستے اور گوادر کے محل وقوع کی بنا پر اہمیت کا حامل ہے، چین نے متعدد اکنامک زونز پر مشتمل اکنامک کوریڈور کے قیام کا فیصلہ کیا ہے جس کے ذریعے آنے والے دنوں میں ترقی کی رفتار بہتر کرنے اور معاشی سرگرمیوں کے فروغ میں بھرپور مدد ملے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ایکسپورٹ پراسیسنگ زون کے لیگل فریم ورک کے تحت سرمایہ کاروں اور صنعتی یونٹس کو ہر ممکن ٹیکس فری سہولتیں مہیا کی جائیں گی۔ اس موقع پر گوادر ڈیولپمنٹ اتھارٹی کے ڈائریکٹر جنرل ڈاکٹر سجاد نے گوادر ایکسپورٹ پراسیسنگ زون کے بارے میں پریزنٹیشن دی اجلاس میں شریک مکران کے کمشنر نے یقین دہانی کرائی کہ گوادر ایکسپورٹ پراسیسنگ زون کے قیام کے لیے زمین کی میوٹیشن کا عمل جلد مکمل کر لیا جائے گا، گوادر ایکسپورٹ پراسیسنگ زون کی ایڈوائزری کمیٹی کا آئندہ اجلاس گوادر میں منعقد کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا۔

All Day

Business Progress on Gwadar EPZ reviewed -- Dawn

KARACHI: The second meeting of the advisory committee on Gwadar Export Processing Zone was held on Wednesday to review its progress, a press release said.

The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Rabiya Javeri Agha, Chairperson Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA).

She said the authority needed support of stakeholders to develop 1,000 acre land of Gwadar EPZ for creating employment in the region and increasing exports, keeping in view strategic road networks linking Pakistan with Western China. The participants unanimously endorsed that initially 1,000 acres area earmarked as Gwadar EPZ may be developed and its progress may be given in the next meeting scheduled to be held in Gwadar.

Pakistan and China also agreed to establish economic corridor by setting-up different economic zones to give impetus to economic activities for achieving higher growth in years to come. Ms. Javeri Agha also intimated that EPZ legal framework had embodied all viable, operational models to provide a tax-free facility to industrial houses and investors.

Dr. Sajjad, Director General Gwadar Development Authority, also gave a presentation on the Master Plan of Gwadar. On the occasion, Commissioner Makran also assured that the mutation of land in favor of Gwadar EPZ will be settled.

All Day

China-Pak ties strengthening with passage of time: chief minister Punjab -- BR

Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has said that relations between China and Pakistan are strengthening with the passage of time and every meeting between the leaderships of the two countries cements these ties. He said that a new history of economic co-operation between the two countries is being written during the tenure of Pakistan Muslim League-N government.

He was talking to the heads of various investment companies of private and public sectors during his visit to China on Wednesday. Matters regarding promotion of mutual co-operation in energy, infrastructure and transport sectors were discussed on this occasion. The Chief Minister said that economic and trade contacts between Pakistan and China have intensified during the few months of the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and this era can be termed as a new chapter in the history of Pak-China relations.

He said that the new era of economic co-operation, investment and mutual trade between the two countries would leave a positive impact on Pakistan's economy. He said that historic investment package of 32 billion dollars by China for Pakistan is a unique example of bilateral relations.

Shahbaz Sharif said that Chinese leadership and the government are fully aware of the seriousness of energy crisis in Pakistan and fully realise the problems being faced by the country and want to help Pakistan overcome these issues. That is why, he said, China has announced a historic economic package for Pakistan. He said that joint ventures would be launched in energy, infrastructure and transports sectors under this package.

The Chief Minister further said that Pakistan is like a second home for Chinese investors and special incentives and facilities are being offered to them in Pakistan especially Punjab. He said that due to this fact, Chinese investment companies are taking benefit from investment opportunities in Pakistan. He said that Chinese companies should make maximum investment in Pakistan especially in Punjab and earn the profit as it is their right.

All Day

Pak-China relations: Special incentives being offered to Chinese investors, says Shahbaz -- The Express Tribune

The purpose of Pakistan's government leaders' foreign visits is to overcome the energy crisis, Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif said on Thursday. He said with help from friendly countries, infrastructure, transport and education sectors would be developed rapidly. Sharif was talking to the media in Bao on the second day of his visit to China.

The chief minister said for the first time that agreements for mutual cooperation had been signed with China, at the provincial level. He said an agreement for iron ore exploration in Rajwa, Chiniot, had been signed with a Chinese company at the beginning of the month.

The chief minister said that in the wake of grant of GSP Plus status, the government had started a project with the cooperation of a large Chinese group to set up the Quaid-i-Azam Apparel Park which will be equipped with the latest facilities. He said development of textile and garments sectors was of vital importance. He said the Chinese group would be investing \$2 billion in the project. The same group has expressed interest in setting up two coal power plants of 660 megawatt each in Sahiwal and two plants of 135 megawatt each in two industrial estates. The chief minister said that the cooperation of Chinese companies reflected the growing trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Sharif said China had always played a part in the progress and development of Pakistan, and a new era of Pak-China friendship had begun. He said the friendly relations between the two countries had turned into useful economic ties.

Sharif said the investment-friendly policies of the present government had restored the confidence of foreign investors and several Chinese companies were investing in energy, infrastructure and transport sectors. He said special facilities and incentives were being offered to Chinese investors.

Sharif also thanked the Chinese for the hospitality shown to him at both official and unofficial levels.

The chief minister and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also met the Chinese Prime Minister Li Ke Qiang and Exim Bank President Li Ruogu.

The chief minister said Pakistan attached a lot of importance to its relations with China. He said China's rapid growth was a model for all countries, including Pakistan.

The chief minister also attended a session on Reviving the Silk Road: A Dialogue with Asian Leaders. Sharif also met the chief executive officers of investment companies in the energy, infrastructure and transport sectors.

All Day

Bound for China -- The News

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has staked the country's economic future on China. From handing over control of the port city of Gwadar to proposing a Pakistan-China Economic Corridor that connects Gwadar to China through Azad Kashmir, Pakistan's destiny is now linked to trade and investment from China. Even for our energy woes we are seeking a Chinese solution, offering them no-bid contracts to fund and construct dams. Thus, Nawaz Sharif's visit to China – his second since assuming power – for the Boao Asia Forum was a chance not just to expound on his own government's vision and performance but to secure further Chinese support. In a meeting with his counterpart Li Keqiang, Nawaz tried to finalise plans for the economic corridor, which has drawn protests from India – an ally China would prefer not to alienate right now. The primary purpose of the meeting was economic, with Nawaz asking for more investment in energy and infrastructure. Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif also went along for the trip, signing an agreement with a Chinese company to begin iron ore exploration in Punjab. The only false note was struck by the partisan nature of the delegation as there is no reason to bring along the chief minister from only the province in which the PML-N is in power. The federal government should be trying to encourage deals for all provinces, regardless of who may be ruling them.

Nawaz's keynote address at the Boao Asia Forum was similarly concerned with matters economic. His main theme was the revival of the New Silk Road, an idea first floated by the Chinese last year. Sensing an opportunity to benefit from the increased trade along these routes, Nawaz pointed out that Pakistan is China's link to both the Middle East and Central Asia. As enticing a prospect as this sounds, it will come for naught until there are significant improvements in the law and order situation and the energy crisis is dealt with. Chinese concerns about terrorists using Pak territory for attacks on China also need to be addressed on an urgent basis. Nawaz claimed that his government had cleared the circular debt and reduced the energy shortfall. What he failed to mention is that the debt is accumulating once again and loadshedding is as bad, if not worse, than it was last year. Until we are able to deal with this, the prime minister can talk all he wants about economic power shifting from the west to the east but we will not be partaking in this new economic order.

All Day

Pak-China Economic Corridor: Chinese team to visit Gwadar by end-April -- Express Tribune

A high-level Chinese technical team will visit Gwadar by the end of this month to examine the deep seaport and infrastructure sites for the proposed Pakistan-China Economic Corridor.

This is for the first time top Chinese experts will examine the proposed roads and rail tracks for the economic corridor from Gwadar port, in Balochistan, to Kashgar, in China.

"We will arrange meetings and physical visits of the Chinese technical team at the port and infrastructure sites to examine technical feasibilities of infrastructure," said Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman Dostain Khan Jamaldini.

This visit will be followed by another by officials of Chinese financial institutions – including China's Exim Bank, the chief financier of the mega project – to set modalities for provision of funds to execute the project, he added. He said the technical team might give some suggestions for further improvement in infrastructure.

Pakistan has also asked the Chinese company – responsible for operating the Gwadar port – to submit the masterplan of a free trade zone along with a comprehensive business and marketing plan for the port to get a formal approval, which will pave way for starting businesses at the free trade zone of the port. Under the short-term plan, the two countries want to develop the Gwadar port, whose control has already been given to China, in a bid to attract investment in different sectors to make it a hub of economic activity, especially for regional countries.

Some Chinese businessmen and investors have already visited Pakistan to explore trade opportunities in the free trade zone as well as in the proposed economic corridor.

Published in The Express Tribune, April 13th, 2014.

All Day

PM chairs meeting on Pak-China Economic Corridor -- APP

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting regarding Pakistan-China Economic Corridor and early-harvest developmental projects in the PM's House.

The meeting was attended by Water and Power Minister Khawaja Asif, Railways Minister Saad Rafique, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi.

The planning minister apprised the meeting that two working groups have been established for early-harvest projects in the transport infrastructure and energy sectors.

The PM directed that better coordination among departments should be ensured to fast track development projects. Moreover, Nawaz issued directions to sign a framework agreement with the Chinese government for funding of projects.

Various options for funding of Karachi-Lahore motorway project were discussed. The PM was told that Multan-Sukkur section of the Karachi-Lahore motorway was being built by Chinese while remaining sections would be constructed on Built-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis.

He directed that international firms should be invited to participate in the bidding of these sections and the process should be completely transparent.

It was informed that rehabilitation plan for the motorway has been finalised with a cost of Rs 36 billion and would be completed in 18 months. Nawaz directed that flow of traffic should not be affected during the rehabilitation work.

Nawaz observed that land acquisition costs for the motorway were on the higher side and directed to rationalise these costs. He also directed that a comprehensive master plan for Port Qasim be prepared so that it is fully equipped for coal import for coal-based energy projects.

During briefing on energy sector projects, the PM was told that master plan for Pakistan Power Park in Gaddani has been completed and feasibility for jetty and allied infrastructure will be completed by June 2014.

The meeting was informed that early-harvest projects, including 1320MW coal-based power projects (IPP) at Port Qasim, 660MW coal-based power projects (IPP) at Gaddani by Power China, 1100MW Kohala hydropower project, 873MW Suki Kanari hydropower project, 720MW Karot hydropower project, 3.5 MT/A coal mining project Thar Block-II SECMC, solar power park in Bahawalpur, Karachi- Lahore motorway, construction of east-bay expressway and 300-bed hospital in Gwadar and are ready for ground-breaking this year.

All Day

PTV, CCTV sign co-op agreement -- APP

The Chinese Central Television (CCTV) and Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on mutual cooperation in the field of broadcasting that would enable CCTV News and CCTV 9 documentary channel landing rights in Pakistan.

According to the press release released Sunday, the MoU was inked by CCTV Vice President Zhu Tong and PTV Managing Director Muhammad Malick. Pakistan's Ambassador to China Masood Khalid also witnessed the signing ceremony.

PTV MD Muhammad Malick in his remarks following the signing ceremony said: "Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, taking special interest in fostering institutional media cooperation, has directed Pakistan media authorities to facilitate China Central Television (CCTV) to commence its transmission into Pakistan at the earliest by enabling it to secure landing rights in Pakistan".

Amongst other developments on the China-Pakistan media cooperation, both television networks would be sharing programming content including that on dubbed entertainment as well as Chinese language learning on a regular and reciprocal basis, Malick explained, adding that he deemed the MoU, soon to be followed by a formal agreement, to be a milestone in media relations between the two countries.

Zhu Tong said that he was excited seeing media and broadcasting cooperation moving from strength to strength and he looked forward to seeing mutual exchange of programs increasing rapidly in the near future. Ambassador Masood Khalid, on

the occasion, said that he was heartened to see China Pakistan media relations gaining momentum and described the event as significant in Pak-China media cooperation. He said that he looked forward to the MoU taking the shape of a concrete agreement and opening up new vistas of cooperation in broadcasting media.

The CCTV is the predominant state television broadcaster in mainland China. The CCTV has a network of 45 channels broadcasting different programmes and is accessible to more than one billion viewers.

All Day

Ormara to have Navy installations -- The News

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy's (PN) Coastal Line Commander Rear Admiral Arif Hussaini has said that the Navy is fully prepared to guard the coast and sea limits of the country in addition to protecting Pakistani commercial ships and the foreign vessels.

He said that for broadening PN's scope, the installations of the Navy would be made in Ormara Naval Base instead of Karachi where the project of constructing a naval base is in full swing. He said this during a talk at Ziarat. Other officials were also present on the occasion.

He further said that Gwadar would become an industrial city. In between the industrial cities of Karachi and Gwadar, the city namely Gor Mara would be set up as an educational city and the same for entertainment. Hussaini informed that the PN's vessels on Karachi Port and other installations were turning useless due to contaminated sea water. In addition, there is no room for naval installations in Karachi that's why PN will make its modern installations at Jinnah Naval Base of Ormara.

To a question, he said that during the Mehran Base incident, the P-3C Orion surveillance aircraft were destroyed and in return it was not possible to hope for receiving new P-3C aircraft from the US.

Hussaini said that all over the world, the most modernised cities were built on the sea coasts, whether it is Australia, Japan, the UAE or other developed countries. He said that PN was providing the facilities of healthcare and education for the people of Gwadar and the population of Ormara.

Earlier, Balochistan chief minister visited Ormara and assured that he would allocate adequate amount for the hospitals of Jinnah Base and Ormara, cadet college and school in the federal budget for the year 2014-15.

All Day

CM, EPWG China discuss projects under Pak-China Economic Corridor -- APP

LAHORE, April 16 (APP): A high-level delegation of Energy Planning Working Group (EPWG) of China here Wednesday called on Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and agreed to make rapid progress on the projects of energy, transport and other sectors under Pak-China Economic Corridor. The delegation was led by Administrator National Energy Administration

All Day

Pak, China to jointly alleviate poverty -- The Nations

FAISALABAD-The strengthened ties between Pakistan and China in agriculture and education sectors would help ensure food security and alleviate poverty from the region, says a meeting of Pakistani and Chinese experts.

The meeting was held between a four-member Chinese delegation from the Xingjiang Agriculture University, China and UAF Vice Chancellor Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan. The delegation was headed by vice president of the Varsity Gao Fashui, Foreign Affairs Director Keremu Yili, Food Sciences College Deputy Dean Yang Zhi Jiang and College of International Education Deputy Dean Zhang Jian Lei. The meeting decided to collaborate in programmes of exchanging students' delegations to work together in the areas of agriculture, energy, livestock and climate change. The meeting also approved to set up a Confucius centre here in order to enhance the bilateral relations in cultural, education and other sectors.

Gao Fashui assured the UAF of Xingjiang Agriculture University's full cooperation to cope with different agricultural challenge. He said that joint efforts would become fruitful for flourishing the sector. He said that environmental sciences, livestock, climate changes, energy and agriculture are the areas to be especially improved. The vice chancellor said that the food security is one of the major concerns for the globe. He lauded the steps being taken on the part of China to flourish not only the industry and agriculture but also the all areas of the life. He said the collaborative efforts with the counterpart would help increase the agrarian production.

Talking about the challenges facing Pakistan, he said ever increasing population was also contributing to the aggravating food insecurity issue. He said that lack of the adoption of the latest practice was the barrier to the uplift of agricultural sector, hampering advantage from the potential.

He lauded the steps being taken by the government for the uplift of the agricultural sector. Later, the vice chancellor along with delegation inaugurated the Academia Industry Linkage and Learning Centre set up at the main campus in collaboration with Seminis- Monsanto.

All Day

China extends cooperation to bring Pak out of energy crisis -- Observer
 Thursday, April 17, 2014 - Lahore—A high level delegation of Energy Planning Working Group of China called on Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif at Chief Minister's Office here today. The delegation was led by Administrator National Energy Administration Zhang Yuqing and included senior officials of National Energy Administration, coal department, research institutes, Exim Bank, China Development Bank and investment companies in energy sector. Provincial Ministers, Federal Secretary Water & Power, Chairman Planning & Development, Additional Chief Secretary Energy and concerned officers were present.

The meeting agreed to make rapid progress on the projects of energy, transport and other sectors under Pak-China Economic Corridor. Welcoming the 34-member Chinese delegation of Energy Planning Working Group of China to Lahore, the Chief Minister said that the historic friendship between Pakistan and China has turned into useful economic contacts. He said that China has always stood by Pakistan in the hour of need and Pakistani nation is proud of its trustworthy friendship with China. He said that Pak-China friendship is higher than Himalayas, deeper than oceans, stronger than steel and sweeter than honey.

Shahbaz Sharif said that China has extended commendable cooperation for bringing Pakistan out of energy crisis. He said that shortage of electricity has caused irreparable damage to Pakistan's economy. He said that investment package of 32 billion dollars for Pakistan announced by China for seven years is a splendid gift for the people of Pakistan. He said that energy projects of 20 thousand megawatts will be started in the country including Punjab under the investment package. He said that Chinese government has also ensured plants, machinery as well as investment in energy projects in Pakistan. The Chief Minister said that the power projects to be implemented with the cooperation of China will greatly help in overcoming energy crisis in the country.

He said that coal power plants of ten thousand megawatts in Punjab and solar power plants of one thousand megawatt have been identified under this package. Shahbaz Sharif said that during his recent visit to China in the company of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif an agreement was finalized with a consortium of Chinese companies for establishing two coal power plants of 660 megawatt at Sahiwal. He said that documents were also exchanged with the consortium of the Chinese companies during the visit. He said that foundation stone of two coal power plants of 660 megawatt will be laid in Sahiwal next month and Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif will be the chief guest on this occasion. He said that the first turbine of Nandipur Power Project will start generating 100 megawatt electricity in May.

He said that Nandipur Power Project would be completed during the current year. He said that Punjab government is also making an agreement of solar project of 100 megawatt during the next few days and this project will be set up by the government with its own resources.

All Day

Pak maritime trade to further boost as China accelerates planning to re-connect Maritime -- APP

BEIJING, April 17 (APP): The maritime trade of Pakistan will get further boost through inter-connectivity as the Chinese government is stepping up the planning of reviving the Maritime Silk Road in the 21st century, with port construction as the priority, according to local media. The plan is expected to focus on infrastructure construction of countries along the route, including ports of Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, the China Securities Journal said. China will coordinate customs, quality supervision, e-commerce and other agencies to facilitate the scheme, which is also likely to contain attempts to build free trade zones.

The 21st century Maritime Silk Road was proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in a speech on strengthening economic ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations during his visit to Indonesia in October.

Southwest China's Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region are strong options for being one end of the route.

The Maritime Silk Road dates back to as early as 2,000 years ago, when ancient

merchants sailed from China's eastern coast, passing Southeast Asia, Southernmost of India and East Africa, all the way to the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea, strengthening economic ties and cultural communication.

All Day

'Kashgar-Gwadar corridor to bring prosperity to Gilgit-Baltistan people' -- Bremen, Germany

Construction of Kashgar- Gwadar economic corridor would help Pakistan to earn billions of rupees every year through export of fruits and livestock to China and other neighbouring countries.

The main strength of economy of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) depends largely on fruits and horticulture, and after the construction of the said economic corridor, BG would be able to introduce locally produced items in international markets besides earning foreign exchange, said Deputy Director Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP)- Gilgit, Sabz Ali Khan. There is an increasing demand of fruits and vegetables in China it would be a great opportunity for GB to export local produce to big Chinese market He said efforts have to be made to improve the livelihood of the mountaineers in the years ahead, and added that one of the options available is to process the fruit locally to increase its shelf life and to add to its value, so that it may be transported economically.

He said due to lack of interest of past governments towards Gilgit- Baltistan's infrastructure people here remained unable to gain maximum advantages from locally produced items including fruits, vegetables, live stock, gems, minerals and tourism sector. The present government, in collaboration with China, is working on war footing to develop infrastructure of Karakorum Highway, from China to Islamabad, he said.

Presently fruits and vegetable producers of GB often complain that they are facing difficulties in exporting their produce to China because of a number of health and sanitary requirements such as product certification, labelling standards, import approval requirements and delays in customs clearance, he said

Sabz Ali suggested the provincial government to establish a local institution with the capacity to inspect organic produce intended for export, under the guidance of the Chinese State Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ). These trained inspectors should also assist the farmers and exporters in complying with certification requirements, he added.

To a query he said incident of Ata Abad, land sliding and damage to Hunza River, badly hurt transportation system in Gilgit-Baltistan. The road which leads Gilgit-Baltistan to China got completely disrupted but now the work on reconstruction of road has been completed and the imports and exports activities through Sost border are continuing without any interruptions.

All Day

Pak, China universities ink students exchange agreement -- BR

GUANGZHOU: National University of Modern Languages (NUML) Islamabad and China's Guangdong University of Foreign Studies (GDUFS), Guangzhou, Friday concluded a Memorandum of Understanding on Academic Cooperation and a Student Exchange Agreement.

The documents were signed by Maj Gen Masood Hasan (Retd), Rector NUML and Prof. Zhong Weihe, President GDUFS.

The initiative of the MoU and the agreement between the two Universities was launched and facilitated by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Guangzhou.

Under the MoU on Academic Cooperation, the NUML would set up a NUML International Center of Education (NICE) on the premises of GDUFS. NUML will initially assign academicians/ instructors at the NICE for English and Urdu languages and subsequently extend it for other languages.

The two institutions would also promote cultural, educational exchange, collaboration and technical cooperation.

The Student Exchange Agreement would provide students from both the institutions the opportunity to learn about the cultural and academic life of the counterparts and foster joint academic research work in areas of common interest.

The students of both the Universities would also have the opportunity to complete up to one year of their course at the other University.

All Day

\$1.6 billion being spent in Gwadar: PM -- The Nations

ISLAMABAD - The federal cabinet, which on Friday approved fixing LNG price for services project at 0.66/MMBTU, was informed that \$1.6 billion will be spent on Gwadar seaport and airport.

Several amendments in laws were approved and endorsements were accorded to various Memoranda of Undersigning (MoUs) with different countries during the cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Addressing his cabinet, the PM stated that public money is sacred and "we should ensure its judicious and efficient spending". He said the economy is his government's top priority and they were providing equivalent attention to all parts of Pakistan.

The prime minister told his colleagues that Gwadar was being developed as a model city and a socio-economic package has been planned for it. Gwadar seaport and airport were being built on modern lines and \$1.6 billion will be spent on these projects, he said, adding that he himself will monitor these projects.

PM Nawaz Sharif said development in Balochistan was also a priority area for them and development plans to put that province on road to progress were being implemented expeditiously. The socio-economic package for Balochistan includes provision of skilled manpower through training of human resource in different sectors, including health and education, while development of health and education infrastructure to cater for the people has also been planned.

Later, the cabinet approved the tariff of \$0.66/MMBTU for LNG services project secured through competitive bidding process by Petroleum and Natural Resources Ministry. The cabinet also decided that the policy guidelines of the tariff shall be conveyed to Ogra. The cabinet further decided that the other aspects of the commercial agreement will be settled between the two parties, SSGC and EPTL. Petroleum Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi informed that the price of LNG is competitive with the international market. He said the contract will be for 15 years and will provide 200 MMBTU of LNG in first year which would be increased to 400 MMBTU from the second year.

The cabinet deferred amendment in CDA Ordinance-1960. It approved proposed amendments in the Patent Ordinance-2000 regarding electronic publication of patent journals. It granted approved, in principle, draft bill for Creation of joint Maritime Information Organisation (JMIO). The cabinet also approved amendment in Foreign Exchange Regulation Act-1947 (FERA, 1947), besides approving SBP (Amendment) Bill-2010 and the SBP Banking Services Corporation Ordinance (Repeal) Bill 2010.

The federal cabinet considered the Constitution (Twenty-First Amendment) Bill-2013 and referred it to the relevant committee for further consideration. Two amendments were proposed in Practitioners and Bar Councils Act-1973. It approved one amendment and deferred the 2nd for further deliberations. The cabinet approved Equity Participation Fund Repeal Bill-2014. It also approved reconsideration of the decision of the cabinet regarding repealing of Section 27B of the banking Companies Ordinance-1962. The cabinet deferred Right to Information Bill-2014 and PM directed for further consultations with opposition and stakeholders.

The meeting considered a bill titled the Islamabad Subordinate Judiciary Service Tribunal Act-2014 and referred it to Law Division for review. Approval in principle was granted to start negotiations with Turkey on MoU in the field of environment. Approval was also given to start negotiations and approval for signing Memorandum of Cooperation between the Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Turkmenistan and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan. Formal approval was accorded for signing of MoU with China on Raikot Islamabad Section of China-Pak Economic Corridor by China Road & Bridge Corporation (CRBC).

Federal cabinet approved in principle negotiations on the draft agreement between Pakistan's defence ministry and UAE interior ministry for secondment of qualified technical military personnel (Drum majors) to UAE. The cabinet approved signing of MoU with Tanzania and negotiating draft MoU Vietnam on defence cooperation. It also gave approval for signing of revised draft agreement between defence ministries of Pakistan and Russia on military cooperation. The cabinet however deferred approving negotiations for agreement with South Africa on defence industrial cooperation. The PM directed that the matter of production in defence sector is of immense importance and the cabinet should be briefed on the matter in

detail.

The cabinet gave approval for signing of protocol for the period from Nov 2004 to Nov 2012 and approval for revision of protocol with China for scientific and technical cooperation in surveying and mapping. It approved starting negotiations on the agreement on economic cooperation with Czech Republic. It approved initiation of negotiations for signing of reciprocal agreement and MoU with Qatar. The cabinet also approved in principle negotiations on MoU between Supreme Audit Institutions of Pakistan and Vietnam on cooperation on auditing in public sector.

Cabinet meeting approved initiation of negotiations of State Bank of Pakistan with central banks of France, Philippines and Kenya for signing MoUs on cooperation in banking supervision and exchange of information. It approved framework agreement in housing development signed during the visit of PM to Turkey on 16-18 September, 2013. It also approved start negotiations between National Productivity Centre of Turkey and National Product. The cabinet approved cooperation in the field of higher education and scientific research between with UAE.

The meeting approved starting negotiations for MoU with on imposition of import restriction on archaeological material. It approved starting negotiations with Djibouti on exemptions for the holders of diplomatic and official passports and approved signing of agreement with the Lao People's Democratic Republic for the same. The cabinet meeting approved ratification of an agreement on transfer of offenders between Pakistan and Yemen. It approved signing MoU with South Africa for cooperation in combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals.

Federal cabinet gave ex-post facto approval, in principle, to start negotiations and signing of protocol on compliance of phytosanitary requirements with Russia. It gave permission for entering into an agreement concerning the export of manpower from Pakistan to Italy. The cabinet also approved signing of MoU with Turkey on sister seaport relation and cooperation. The cabinet approved signing MoU in the fields of standardisation, metrology, certification, accreditation and the other related activities with Jordanian institution of standards and metrology (JISM).

The cabinet approved starting negotiations for MoU on cooperation in preventing and combating pollution from ships with Iran. On this occasion the issue of pollution in Pakistan seawaters also came under discussion. The PM was told that Pakistani seawater has become a dumping ground for ship waste. He directed ports and shipping minister to take concrete steps to reduce sea pollution. The cabinet granted approval to the MoU signed between Iran power generation, transmission and distribution management company (TAVANIR) and National Transmission and Des-patch Company (NTDC) in the field of electricity transmission.

All Day

Pak, Chinese armies on 'Peace Angel' mission -- The Nation

RAWALPINDI - A two-week-long Pak-China joint military exercise commenced on Sunday near Rawalpindi.

According to ISPR, flags of both the countries were hoisted and national anthem played to mark the opening of joint military exercise at a ceremony.

Major General Hamayun Aziz of Pakistan Army and senior colonel Liu Agiou of People's Liberation Army China represented their respective countries in the opening ceremony.

The joint exercise is aimed at sharing mutual experience and information in medical field through a comprehensive training programme in near real time environment.

The exercise is particularly designed within the scope of disaster relief operations caused due to massive floods and terrorist attacks on relief camps. The exercise will also provide an opportunity to exchange latest technological advancement in medical field to improve medical operations during peace and war.

The joint military exercise 'Peace Angel 2014' will certainly pave the way for further cementing the existing bilateral relations between the armies of the two countries.

Our Monitoring Desk adds: An Indian naval ship on Sunday arrived at the Chinese port of Qingdao to take part in rare naval exercises with vessels from China, Pakistan and other nations, Indian media reported on Sunday.

INS Shivalik, an indigenously built stealth frigate has been invited by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy to take part in the event marking its 65th anniversary. This is the Shivalik's second visit to China as it had visited Shanghai last year along with three other Indian naval ships as part of a goodwill tour as the two countries attempt to build maritime cooperation.

An Indian naval ship also took part in the PLA Navy's 60th celebrations in 2009.

Significant feature of the Shivalik's tour this year is that it takes part in joint naval exercises being organised by PLA Navy in which a naval ship from Pakistan, besides vessels from Bangladesh, Singapore, Brunei and Malaysia and few other countries are scheduled to take part.

A Pakistani naval destroyer was the first to arrive at Qingdao port.

The naval exercises involve search and rescue besides joint communication and coordination.

The PLA Navy has cancelled an event involving a parade of the fleet in which President Xi Jinping, the head of the Chinese military, was scheduled to take part. It was cancelled in view of the ongoing efforts to search for the Malaysian airliner which went missing with 239 passengers onboard, 153 of them Chinese nationals. The US reportedly did not send any of its ships to take part in the event, while China has not invited Japan.

A Chinese naval spokesman said the Japanese navy was not invited due to 'erroneous' policies of Japan's leadership over the disputed islands in the East China Sea.

The US and Japan however would take part in the 21-member Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) being held on the sidelines. India, along with Bangladesh and Mexico are the observers in the event.

WPNS member countries include Australia, Canada, Chile, France, Indonesia, Japan, Cambodia, Tonga, Malaysia, New Zealand, Brunei, Papua New Guinea, China, Peru, the Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Russia, Vietnam, Thailand and the US.

The programme will last till April 24.

PAF CHIEF CALLS ON AZERI PM

Air Chief Marshal Tahir Rafique Butt, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, called on Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Artur Rasizade on Sunday.

Both the dignitaries remained together for sometimes and discussed various matters of defence and military cooperation, says a press release issued here.

The Air Chief assured high officials of Azerbaijan of strengthening military as well as civilian cooperation between the two countries in general and the two Air Forces in particular.

Later in the day, the Air Chief called on Colonel-General Zakir Hasanov, Defense Minister Azerbaijan, and Major General Ramiz Tahirov, the Air Forces Commander of Azerbaijan.

Earlier, the PAF chief, who is on a three-day official visit to Azerbaijan, also visited Defense Ministry, Military Academy of the Armed Forces Azerbaijan, High Military School, and Education and Training Center of the Armed Forces.

April 21, 2014 Continued

Mon

April 22, 2014

Tue

All Day

Pak Navy gets recognition of WPNS -- APP

Pakistan Navy was formally accorded the Observer Status of the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) on Tuesday.

The decision to this effect was announced at the plenary meeting of the 14th WPNS meeting at Qingdao, China which was attended by the naval chiefs and high level reps of the member navies.

WPNS was formed in 1988 to enhance cooperation amongst the navies of West Pacific rim nations. Since then, the WPNS has emerged as an important regional maritime collaboration forum. It comprises of 21 member navies namely, Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, France, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Tonga, United States, Vietnam and four Observer navies which include Bangladesh, India, Mexico and now Pakistan.

The WPNS aims to increase cooperation and interoperability amongst international navies, as well as to build trust and confidence between the member countries by providing a framework to enable the discussion on maritime issues of mutual interest, exchange of information and personnel and demonstration of capabilities.

April 24, 2014

Thu

All Day

Nawaz Sharif arrives in Gwadar -- The Nations

Gwadar- Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif arrives in Gwadar to review the law and order situation of Balochistan, as well as development projects in the province.

The Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif, along with the senior provincial minister Nawaz Sanaullah Zahri, received him at PNS Akram Base. The PM will be briefed on the law and order situation. He is expected to meet key provincial ministers during his meeting. Sharif will also chair a meeting on the developmental projects in the province.

All Day

Pakistan hints at economic corridor from Gwadar to Kashgar -- Daily Times

LAHORE – President Mamnoon Hussain on Saturday said that an economic corridor was going to be established from Gwadar to Kashgar which will strengthen the economy of not only Pakistan, but also the neighbouring countries including Iran, Nepal, Russia, Middle East and the Central Asian Republics.

Was addressing the concluding ceremony of the South Asia Labour Conference, he urged SAARC member countries to work together to fight poverty, ignorance, social injustice and intolerance. He hoped that the conference would be helpful in evolving an effective labour policy and improving socio-economic lift of the working class.

Mamnoon said the day was not far away when Pakistan would be a very important country of the region within a span of five years and play a dynamic role for regional development. He suggested that labour conferences should be held in all SAARC states turn by turn to enable the members to benefit from the experiences of one another for the betterment of their masses.

The president said more than half of the population of Pakistan consists of youth and there was a great need to develop the human resources of the country. The representatives of International Labour Organisation and the European Union also attended the conference.

پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری سے خطے میں خوشحالی آنے لگی، صدر ممنون حسین فوٹو: پی Alakhbar -- ائی ڈی

لاہور: صدر مملکت ممنون حسین کا کہنا ہے کہ پاکستان اگلے پانچ سال میں خطے کا سب سے اہم ملک بننے والا ہے جب کہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری سے خطے میں خوشحالی آنے لگی۔

لاہور میں پہلی جنوب ایشیائی لیبر کانفرنس کی اختتامی تقریب سے خطاب کے دوران صدر مملکت کا کہنا تھا کہ آج پولیو کے کیسز کی وجہ سے پاکستانیوں پر بیرون ملک پابندی کی باتیں ہو رہی ہیں اس قسم کی باتیں کرنے والوں کو ملک میں امن و امان کا مسئلہ ہمارا اپنا پیدا کردہ نہیں۔ پاکستان کی نصف سے زائد آبادی نوجوانوں پر مشتمل ہے اور ملک کے انسانی وسائل کو ترقی دینے کی اشد ضرورت ہے، آئندہ 5 سال میں پاکستان خطے کا سب سے اہم ملک بن جائے گا اور اس کی بنیادی وجہ پاک چین راہداری کی تعمیر ہے، گوادریس سے کاشغر تک اقتصادی راہداری کے قیام سے نہ صرف پاکستان بلکہ ایران، نیپال، روس، مشرق وسطیٰ اور وسطی ایشیائی ریاستوں سمیت ہمسایہ ملکوں کی معیشت بھی مضبوط ہوگی اور روزگار کے مواقع بھی بڑھیں گے۔

ممنون حسین نے کہا کہ محنت کشوں کی فلاح و بہبود کے لئے علاقائی تعاون خوش آئند ہے کیونکہ باہمی تعاون سے ہی خطے کے کروڑوں افراد کا معیار زندگی بہتر بنایا جاسکتا ہے، وہ امید کرتے ہیں کہ سارک لیبر کانفرنس سے رکن ممالک میں ایک موثر لیبر پالیسی وضع کرنے اور محنت کشوں کی سماجی و اقتصادی زندگی میں بہتری لانے میں مدد ملے گی، اس کے علاوہ جنوب ایشیائی لیبر کانفرنس ہر سال مختلف رکن ممالک میں منعقد ہونی چاہئے تاکہ علاقائی ممالک عوام کی فلاح و بہبود کے لئے ایک دوسرے کے تجربات سے فائدہ اٹھا سکیں۔

All Day

PR working to connect Gwadar to Kashgar through rail link -- Daily Times

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways is actively working to implement Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's vision of connecting Gwadar to Kashgar through rail link.

According to an official source, Railways Minister Khwaja Saad Rafiq, among other proposals for next Public Sector Development Programme, has included a scheme for setting up a dry port at Havelian as part of Pakistan-China economic corridor.

The second important project in the regard is up-gradation of ML-1 railway track from Karachi to Peshawar, which currently can accommodate trains with 100-120 kilometer per hour speed. The up-gradation will increase speed up to 150 kilometer per hour.

The project also includes dualisation of track from Khanewal to Peshawar, which will help curtail the travel duration between Karachi and Peshawar.

The source said that due to certain initiatives, a decrease of Rs 7 billion has been recorded in Pakistan Railways losses in last 10 months, which were Rs 36 billion when Ghulam Ahmed Bilor left the ministry.

All Day

Pakistan to be most vital country of region soon: Mamnoon -- The News
Pakistan to be most vital country of region soon: Mamnoon

KARACHI: Pakistan will be the most vital country of the region soon given the steps being taken by the federal government in all endeavours.

So said President Mamnoon Hussain while addressing the members of the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA) at the Governor's House, Karachi, Tuesday evening. "Pakistan is God's greatest blessing but on account of a series of unfortunate developments, we have not been able to realize its worth", Mamnoon said. He said that Kashghar and Gwadar were planned to be connected by road and rail which would give a fillip to economic development. After the completion of this economic corridor, he said, not only Pakistan and China but all the countries of the region would be the beneficiaries.

"China will be investing dollars 32 billion in our infrastructural projects and Pakistan will be the most vital country of the region". Mamnoon said. "The ushering in of democracy in May 2013 has been a milestone development of the country's history and our manifesto is to improve the economic lot and the living conditions of the commonfolk", he continued.

In this context, he stressed his government's resolve to work hammer and tongs to mitigate the power shortage in the country and to arrest inflation. In this regard, he announced that the present government had already brought inflation down to a single digit figure. Foreign exchange reserves, he said, were maintaining a steady upward climb.

Manpower, he said, was the country's greatest asset. "However, if we don't provide opportunities to our youngsters, it will be disappointing", he said, and added that the government had a number of education advancement programmes on the anvil.

He also mentioned the youth employment and talent schemes that the government, he said, had on the anvil. Coming to the matter of foreign policy, he said that Pakistan's foreign policy would be one of reconciliation with neighbours and there would be a special endeavour to mend fences with India and Afghanistan. It was for this reason, he said, that the first foreign dignitary Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had met after his election was a representative of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. "We shall vigorously pursue the matter of mutually advantageous trade with India", he said, and in this context mentioned the trade going on between the two halves of Kashmir. He said that it was his government's endeavour to remove the glitches along the Line of Control in Kashmir.

Pakistan, he said, was aware of the changes taking place in the region and would base the formulation of the policy on these changes. In this regard he mentioned the recent Afghan elections and the exit of the US forces from there.

Ties with Russia, he said, were very favourable through various international forums and the Russian offers to build various infrastructural projects for Pakistan. Coming to ties with the US, he said that no doubt there were hiccups but ties, on the whole, had been positive. Both countries, he said, had common values.

Pak-European Union (EU) ties had been cordial, he said, and in this regard mentioned the grant of GSP status to Pakistan by the EU recently. The EU, he said, had been a major investor and trading partner.

Talking about Pakistan's economic conditions, he said that there were factors that could prompt the purchase of 9 billion dollars worth of the recently issued Eurobonds but the government preferred to purchase worth just \$2 billion of them as purchase worth of 9 billion would have exerted a heavy pressure on the dollar which could have hit our exports. As a goodwill gesture, Mamnoon announced a gift of Rs1 million to the PIIA.

The president spoke in Urdu with a little smattering of English. In fact all the

speakers chose to speak in Urdu. Earlier, Dr Masooma Hassan, Chairperson, PIIA, in her very chaste and crisp Urdu, thanked the president for having agreed to attend the occasion despite his busy schedule. She hailed his role in the strengthening of democracy. She narrated the genesis of the PIIA back in 1930 in New Delhi and the service it had rendered in helping the governments in Pakistan frame the foreign policies.

Journalist SM Fazal, thanked the president for the donation of Rs1 million and mentioned the important place the institute was given at an international conference in Australia. Journalist Agha Masood compered the proceedings.

All Day

Sri Lanka Requested to Establish Trade Office in the Strategic Port of Gwadar -- News LK

The Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan, Pakistan, Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali, along with a group of provincial assembly members, called on President Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees this morning.

At the meeting, Jamali requested Sri Lanka to establish a trade office in the strategic Port of Gwardar, which is located in Balochistan. The port will serve as a gateway to the strategically significant Strait of Hurmoz, which has been described as the world's most important oil choke point with 16 million barrels of crude oil transiting every single day. The port is a part of a larger effort by Pakistan to establish a Pakistan-China economic corridor.

President Rajapaksa also briefed the visiting provincial members of the significance of the Hambantota Port, which revives the historic silk route and is also strategically located just 10 nautical miles away from the world's busiest east-west shipping lane.

In addition to collaboration in the shipping sector, Jamali also requested President Rajapaksa for assistance in the education sector to train math, science and English teachers in his Province. While expressing how thrilled they were to see Sri Lanka win the T20 Cricket World Cup this year, the provincial members appreciated great friendship with Sri Lanka.

“Even though we're in two different countries, our hearts are together,” Speaker Jamali told President Rajapaksa adding that he wanted to expose the members to “countries which are very brotherly and have mutual respect.”

Minister of External Affairs Prof. G.L. Peiris, Secretary to the President Mr. Lalith Weeraratunga and Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs Mrs. Kshenuka Senewiratne were present for the meeting.

All Day

Zong to pay \$516m licence fee in one go -- The Nations

Zong to pay \$516m licence fee in one go

ISLAMABAD - Zong, the only cellular company that won 4G along with 3G, has decided not to avail the option of paying licence fee in instalments and has decided to make the whole payment of \$516 million in one go.

China Mobile (Zong) has won two licences, 3G in 2100 MHz band and 4G in 1800 MHz band, 10 MHz in each band. Company has bought 3G license for \$306 million and 4G licence against \$210 million. Government had given the opportunity to all companies to deposit 50 per cent upfront and the remaining could be paid in 5 instalments in 5 years but the said company has decided to make the whole payment upfront. “We are going to make the whole payment of more than \$500 million. We have decided to pay in dollars instead of Pak rupees”, Chief Executive Officer, Zong Dr Fan Yunjun, said while addressing a news conference here on Tuesday. He also termed it a demonstration of friendship between Pakistan and China.

Dr Fan Yunjun also said that the company was going to launch 3G services very soon in the country. During the press briefing he also gave a video presentation on

the difference between 3G and 4G.

Dr Zong also said that with the penetration of only 10 per cent broadband, GDP will grow by 1.4 per cent additionally. The voice communication, he said, has been increasing in Pakistan and Zong's customer base increased from 10 million in 2011 to 25 million till March 2014.

"Now we will support digital society in Pakistan," he said and added that the 3G and 4G services would benefit banking sector, transportation, security and many other sectors of the economy by putting in place value addition to maximise growth. On the subject of affordability of 3G and 4G services, he said, "Zong has already introduced the cheapest tariff for calls and internet services and in the future it will come up with more option to cater the needs of subscribers and to attract more customers". Regarding improving services in Pakistan, he said that there was still need for bringing improvement in services. "We are improving our network and things will further improve in this regard," he added.

All Day

APP -- گوادر کی ترقی کیلئے سیاسی اور عسکری قیادت ایک صف پر ہے: وزیراعظم
وزیراعظم نواز شریف کا گوادر پہنچنے پر آرمی چیف جنرل راحیل شریف نے پرتپاک استقبال کیا۔ نواز شریف کا کہنا ہے کہ گوادر کی ترقی کے لئے سیاسی اور عسکری قیادت ایک صف پر ہے۔

گوادر: وزیراعظم کا بیلی کاپٹر پی این ایس اکرم بیس پر اترا تو اس موقع پر آرمی چیف جنرل راحیل شریف نے انکا استقبال کیا۔ ان کے ہمراہ کمانڈر سدرن کمانڈ لفیٹننٹ جنرل ناصر خان جنجوعہ بھی تھے۔ وزیراعظم کے ہمراہ وزیراعلیٰ ڈاکٹر عبدالملک بلوچ، وفاقی وزرا اسحاق ڈار اور احسن اقبال بھی گوادر پہنچے۔ وزیراعظم کو گوادر میں ترقیاتی کاموں، پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری سمیت دوسرے منصوبوں پر تفصیلی بریفنگ دی جائے گی۔ اس موقع پر وزیراعظم کے استقبال کے لئے صوبائی وزیر ثناء اللہ زہری بھی موجود تھے۔

All Day

Bilateral ties: China promises energy support, says Weidong -- The Express Tribune

Ambassador of China to Pakistan Sun Weidong has said that his country would provide Pakistan with advanced energy technology to improve the country's transmission and transformation system.

In an interview with Radio Pakistan, the ambassador said China would also give energy management expertise to Pakistan in a bid to deal with the issue. "China was already executing the Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project, Tarbela expansion and Nandipur Power Project," said Weidong. "Additionally, the Chinese government has been encouraging Chinese institutions to finance Port Qasim, Thar Coal Power Project and other renewable energy projects."

Weidong added that China would also uplift the energy cooperation with Pakistan and wanted the latter to take full advantage of the bilateral energy working group. "Pakistan-China friendship is at its full momentum based on solid public support and strong people to people contact."

He said the visits of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President Mamnoon Hussain was of great significance. "PM Sharif visited China twice within a year and both counterparts exchanged visits within a six-week period."

Highlighting the economic ties between Pakistan and China, Weidong said bilateral trade in 2013 had risen to \$14.2 billion witnessing 14.5 % increase than the previous year.

Chinese investment in Pakistan increased to \$1.2 billion during the same period with 99.9% increase over the last year.

Weidong informed that Chinese investment in Pakistan had touched \$2.2 billion, making the latter its second largest trade partner and its largest investment destiny. According to Weidong, China is implementing various projects in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) states, maintaining close cooperation with Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) countries in addition to supporting regional projects like Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India Pipeline (TAPI), Iran-Pakistan pipeline and KASA.

Commenting about the planned Pak-China Economic Corridor, Weidong said the project would comprise energy, transportation projects and an economic zone that would cover all major parts of Pakistan thus bringing people from both the countries closer.

He also mentioned the two meetings of the joint cooperation committee on the project in which both the sides agreed to accelerate the implementation of related projects.

"Additionally China and Pakistan are engaged in upgrading the Karakorum Highway and Chinese companies are interested in working on various other projects including highways, railways, urban metro system, ports and shipping."

Weidong said China was also building a cross-border fiber optic cable project to enhance connectivity between the two countries.

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All Day

'Exhibitions, exchange of delegations must to boost Pak-China trade' -- BR

Tariq Sayeed, Vice President CACCI, Founder and former president SAARC CCI, former president FPCCI and Patron-in-Chief Pak-China Business Council, said that trade can only grow if we participate in exhibitions in each other's country and exchange delegations frequently. Pakistan-China friendship is truly time tested, truly good and deeper than ocean and higher than mountains.

Tariq Sayeed spoke about FPCCI's participation in the Kunming exhibition every year in China. However, he said there is still the room for a lot of improvement in Pak-China relations. Tariq Sayeed also said that now, we are exporting textiles to China, whereas we are also getting export orders for towels, which is a positive development. We have signed an FTA, an investment agreement and two agreements on services. We also have a currency swap agreement with China, while we have set up a working group on energy.

Tariq Sayeed said that Kunming offers Pakistan a good platform for exhibiting our products, B2B meetings and for taking delegations. The Kunming fair has a very

bright future because the Chinese are promoting it in South Asia very well. They are visiting all countries of the South Asian region to invite businessmen to participate, which is a great way of attracting interest. Tariq Sayeed further stated that volume of bilateral trade between the two countries increasing day by day and has crossed US \$14 billion. However, the share of Pakistan's exports is not significant as compared to imports from China but there are still many business opportunities available for increasing Pakistan's exports. Pakistan's exports to China are nearly US \$3 billion while imports from China to Pakistan are approximately US \$11 billion. He said that today, Pakistan is exporting non-traditional items such as handmade scarves and handmade textiles to China, besides rice, which is a very positive development.-PR

All Day

Such TV -- چین کا (تائیپ) گیس پائپ لائن منصوبے میں شمولیت کا منصوبہ

چین نے اپنی بڑھتی ہوئی توانائی کی ضروریات کے پیش نظر ترکمانستان، افغانستان، پاکستان، بھارت (تائیپ) گیس پائپ لائن منصوبے میں شمولیت کا منصوبہ بنا لیا یہ منصوبہ ایران پاکستان گیس پائپ لائن کو درپیش امریکی پابندیوں کے باعث سامنے لایا گیا ہے۔

خبررساں ایجنسی کی رپورٹ کے مطابق چین گوادر سے چین کے لیے تائیپ گیس پائپ لائن بچھانے کا منصوبہ بنا رہا ہے جس سے گوادر توانائی کوریڈور میں تبدیل ہو جائے گا۔

رپورٹ کے مطابق بنگلہ دیش پہلے ہی ترکمانستان سے رابطہ کر چکا ہے جس کے پاس اس گیس کے وسیع ذخائر موجود ہیں اور اپنی توانائی کی ضروریات پوری کرنے کیلئے تائیپ منصوبے کا حصہ بننے کی کوشش کر رہے ہیں۔ حکام نے کہا کہ جیسے ہی ترکمانستان اور امریکی گیس کمپنیوں کے مابین گیس نکالنے کا معاہدہ حتمی شکل اختیار کرے گا۔

چین اور بنگلہ دیش منصوبے میں شامل ہونے کے لیے مذاکرات شروع کر دینگے۔ چین پہلے ہی گوادر پورٹ کا آپریشنل کنٹرول حاصل کر چکا ہے۔ جہاں اس نے انڈسٹریل سٹی گیس پائپ لائن میں دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا تھا لیکن اس منصوبے کی غیر یقینی صورتحال اور ایک عرب ملک اور امریکہ کی طرف سے دباؤ کو دیکھتے ہوئے اپنا ارادہ ترک کر دیا تھا۔

All Day

Jhang -- گوادر پورٹ پاکستان کی ترقی کی چابی...حق کی بات ... شہاب محمود

وزیراعظم پاکستان نواز شریف نے قومی اسمبلی میں اپنے پہلے خطاب میں پاکستان کے اہم مسائل پر قوم کو اعتماد میں لیا اور بڑے واضح اور صاف طور پر کہا کہ وہ قوم کو دلکش نعرے اور پُر تعیش وعدے کی خیالی جنت میں نہیں رکھیں گے۔ پی پی اور اس کی اتحادی جماعتوں نے ملک کی اقتصادی ناکامی میں بڑھ چڑھ کر حصہ لیا۔ قومی اقتصادی حالت میں انہوں نے ایسی گوئی فٹ کی کہ اب نئی حکومت کو ملک کی اکنامی کی حالت کو اپنی اصل جگہ پر لانے کے لئے ایک جامع اقتصادی پلان کی ضرورت ہوگی اور یہ کام اتنا آسان نہیں جو عام آدمی کو نظر آ رہا ہے۔ مگر امید پر دنیا قائم ہے۔ نواز شریف نے تمام سیاسی جماعتوں کو وطن عزیز کو اقتصادی اور دیگر مسائل سے نکالنے کے لئے مشترکہ ایجنڈا جلد لانے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا ہے۔ اس کے لئے میان صاحب کو تمام سیاسی جماعتوں کا تعاون درکار ہوگا۔ قوم امید کرتی ہے کہ پاکستان کی تمام جمہوری طاقتیں پاکستان کی اقتصادی ترقی کیلئے ایک ہو جائیں گی۔ مولانا فضل الرحمن ٹھیک کہتے ہیں کہ امن کے بغیر ملک کی اکنامی کو بہتر نہیں کیا جا سکتا۔ ضرورت اس چیز کی ہے کہ باتیں کم کی جائیں اور عمل تیز اور عمل کی ہی ہمیں ضرورت ہے۔

بلوچستان میں اس وقت بلوچستان کی تاریخ کی ایک ایسی حکومت پہلی بار سامنے آئی ہے جس کو پاکستان کی عسکری اور سیاسی قوتوں کی مکمل حمایت حاصل ہے اور اگر میں یہ کہوں کہ یہ ایک خاص جمہوری عوامی حکومت ہے تو یہ درست ہوگا۔ پاکستان کے اقتصادی نظام کی ترقی کیلئے ایک اچھا جمہوری نظام کا ہونا اشد ضروری ہے۔ میان نواز شریف نے اقتدار کی سیاست کے فارمولا پر عمل کرتے ہوئے یہ اہم چیز بلوچ عوام کو دے دی ہے اور جمہوری نظام اللہ کے فضل سے ہمارے پاس اس وقت موجود ہے۔ اب صرف عمل کی ضرورت ہے۔ کراچی پورٹ اور گوادر پورٹ دونوں پاکستان کے لئے اہم ہیں۔ کراچی میں امن و امان کی حالت سب کے سامنے ہے۔ ملکی و غیر ملکی سرمایہ کار اب کراچی میں مزید سرمایہ کاری نہیں کر رہا۔ اگر کراچی کے امن کو بحال کر لیا جائے تو اس سے بہتر چیز اور کوئی نہیں ہوگی مگر عمل ضروری ہے۔ پاکستان کے ساحلی شہر گوادر اس وقت عالمی سرمایہ کاری کے لئے سب سے بہتر جگہ ہے یہاں امن و امان کی صورت حال دیگر علاقوں سے کافی بہتر ہے۔ اس لئے عالمی سرمایہ کار کمیونٹی اس وقت گوادر پورٹ میں دلچسپی لے رہے ہیں صرف ہمیں اپنی تیاری کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ چینی سرمایہ کار پہلے سے ہی وہاں موجود ہیں۔ نواز حکومت بنانے کے بعد اب غیر ملکی سرمایہ کار گوادر میں سرمایہ کاری کا سوچ رہے ہیں۔ گوادر پورٹ پاکستان کی ترقی کی ایک چابی ہے اور یہ چابی نئی حکومت کے پاس ہے۔

نواز شریف وزیراعظم پاکستان خود گوادر کی ترقی میں سب سے زیادہ دلچسپی لینے والے رہنما ہیں اور گوادر کی ترقی میں نواز حکومت ایمان رکھتی ہے۔ بلوچستان کے عوام نواز شریف کو پسند کرتے ہیں اور ان کی عزت کرتے ہیں اس لئے بلوچستان کی بزنس کمیونٹی کو میان نواز شریف سے بہت ساری امیدیں ہیں۔ گوادر پورٹ کی طرف سب سے پہلے اقتصادی نظر میان نواز شریف نے ڈالی تھی۔ گوادر پورٹ کا قیام بھی ان کی سابق حکومت کے اہم کارناموں میں سے ایک ہے۔ آج بھی گوادر پورٹ نواز شریف کی حکومت کی توجہ میں سب سے آگے ہے اور پاکستان کی ترقی کا ایک اہم پلیٹ فارم ہے۔ گوادر پورٹ کی بنیاد وزیراعظم پاکستان نواز شریف نے رکھی تھی گوادر پورٹ کے لئے نواز شریف کی خدمات کو بلوچستان کے عوام قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتے ہیں

اور نواز شریف خود ذاتی طور پر بلوچستان میں اقتصادی سرگرمیوں میں اضافہ دیکھنے کے خواہشمند ہیں اور انشاء اللہ نواز حکومت گوادر پورٹ کو عالمی سطح کا اہم اکنامی زون بنانے میں اپنا کردار ادا کرے گی کیونکہ گوادر میں پاکستان کی ترقی و خوشحالی کا سنگ بنیاد نواز شریف نے رکھا اور پاکستان کی ترقی و خوشحالی کا سفر بھی گوادر سے شروع ہوگا اور میاں نواز شریف کی ٹیم اس پر سب سے پہلے توجہ دے گی۔

All Day

'Chinese companies willing to invest in Pakistan and work with genuine partners' -- Daily Times

'Chinese companies willing to invest in Pakistan and work with genuine partners'

FAISALABAD: Wang Zihai President of Chinese Companies working in Pakistan has appreciated a proposal of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) to launch joint ventures by utilizing the existing infrastructure of local industries and said that he would like to arrange match-making meetings between willing and prospective entrepreneurs from China.

He was talking to Engr. Suhail Bin Rashid, President FCCI to discuss the follow-up of the visit of Yantai Chamber to FCCI on March 29, 2014.

He said that Chinese Companies are very comfortable in Pakistan and more companies are willing to invest in Pakistan if they are provided opportunities to work with genuine and willing partners. He said that Pak-China Chamber will arrange a Chinese Textile Machinery Exhibition in Faisalabad within next couple of months. It will not only help Chinese companies to market their products but also help local textile tycoons to further improve their quality of products by replacing old machinery with the state of the art technology and equipments.

He said that the Exhibition would be arranged in collaboration with FCCI in the display center of the University of Agriculture Faisalabad. He also expressed his strong desire to work with FCCI for the establishment of a 'collaborative Research Institute' to provide required information to Pakistanis as well as Chinese Investors by conducting sector specific market intelligence and surveys etc.

Wang also discussed establishment of Chinese Training Institute to impart training to enhance productivity of local workforce in addition to teaching them how to work with Chinese engineers and companies. This Center will also offer 'Chinese Language Course' for the workers attached with Chinese managers and supervisors.

Earlier Engr Suhail Bin Rashid substantiated his idea of joint ventures with Chinese companies and said that the local industrial units having infrastructure, machinery and technical know. The Chinese investors and traders willing to expand their business could pay their equity and start production without any delay.

He also offered space in FCCI complex for a proposed Chinese Cell and said that this location will enable Chinese firms to have direct access to the 4500 members of FCCI. They could also utilize the facilities of auditorium and board room for holding conferences and meetings within the Chamber's premises.

Regarding training of Pakistani work force President FCCI said that 14 public sector training institutions are available in Faisalabad that could immediately start required training courses of different duration to meet the requirement of skilled workforce for Chinese companies.

These institutes could also start tailor made programs for the Chinese industries, he added

He said that we are holding a meeting just today to discuss and prepare feasibility report regarding potential industrial units who intend to join hands with Chinese investors and this information would be immediately shared with the Pak-China chamber.

Farhan Latif, Founder Member of the Pak-China Chamber said that Wang has agreed to set up collaborative research institute in National Textile University where infrastructure is already available. The Chinese firms will provide only teaching staff and other necessary gadgets to start various courses.

Salahuddin Hanif Secretary General Pak-China Chamber provided software for the translation of business documents from Chinese to English and from Chinese to English language. He also assured to provide another android based programme to translate Chinese into English and vice versa.

The meeting was attended by Ch Muhammad Asghar, VP FCCI, Rehan Nasim Bharara former VP FCCI, Jaleel Ahmad Malik, Rana Ikram Ullah and others who also shared their views on this occasion.

May 4, 2014

Sun

All Day

PR working to connect Gwadar, Kashgar -- APP

Pakistan Railways is actively working to implement Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's vision of connecting Gwadar to Kashgar through rail link.

Sources said that Railways Minister Khwaja Saad Rafiq, among other proposals for next Public Sector Development Programme, has included a scheme for setting up dry port at Havelian as part of Pakistan-China economic corridor.

The second important project in the regard is up-gradation of ML-1 railway track from Karachi to Peshawar, which currently can accommodate trains with 100- 120 kilometer per hour speed.

The up-gradation will increase speed up to 150 kilometer per hour. The project also includes dualization of track from Khanewal to Peshawar, which will help curtail the travel duration between Karachi and Peshawar.

The source said that due to certain initiatives, a decrease of Rs 7 billion has been recorded in Pakistan Railways losses in last 10 months, which were Rs 36 billion when Ghulam Ahmed Bilor left the ministry.

The source said process of acquisition of 58 new locomotives in Railways' fleet would be completed by the end of this year, which will bring a prominent change in the public transport system. These locomotives have American and German machines.

Pakistan Railways has already increased its freight services and now 26 freight trains are functional. This initiative has increased railways revenues.

At present, 96 locomotives are engaged with passenger trains.

According to the source, Pakistan Railways is also working on commercialization of its various services, which will further increase its revenues.

May 5, 2014

Mon

All Day

Media role vital to transfer Pak-China friendship to new generation:Pervaiz Rashid -- APP

ISLAMABAD, May 5 (APP): Federal Minister for information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, Senator Pervaiz Rashid said on Monday that media could play an important role in transferring Pak-China friendship to the new generation.

May 6, 2014

Tue

All Day

Pakistan, Afghanistan to resolve CASA-1000 tariff issues soon -- BR

Pakistan and Afghanistan Tuesday expressed their commitment to expeditiously resolve the tariff issues related to Central Asia-South Asia-1000 (CASA-1000) project.

The commitment was made during the meeting of Finance Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar with Deputy Minister of Finance of Afghanistan, Mustafa Mastoor at the sidelines of 47th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Development Bank (ADB) at Astana Kazakhstan.

The Finance Minister highlighted the importance of this project for regional integration which he said would also strengthen the bilateral relationship.

Dar congratulated the Afghanistan government on holding of successful and peaceful Presidential elections in Afghanistan.

The Finance Minister also held a meeting with Assistant Governor, China Development Bank, Xiaoyu Zhao.

He appreciated the China Development Bank's role in the formation of the Pak-China Investment Company Limited and also for its interest to invest in Pakistan's infrastructure projects.

Assistant Governor, Zhao assured the Finance Minister of the Bank's continued interest in the development projects undertaken by the present government.

All Day

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: PM approves over \$38bn projects -- Pakistan Today

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has approved the over \$38 billion worth China-Pakistan Economic Corridor prioritised/early harvest projects and directed the Ministry of Planning and Development to seek approval of the federal cabinet prior to formally signing an agreement with China.

Copy of the official document disclosed that Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform had sent a summary regarding 18 different projects including power, roads, railways, Gwadar port, energy sector etc of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to the premier Nawaz and sought his nod, which he gave and directed the officials to put the projects before federal cabinet for formal approval during its next sitting. After getting final approval from cabinet, Pakistan will ink five years long agreements with China. These projects will be extendable for the next five years as well, as per the provision of proposed projects. However, if any country is interested to make an end to the agreement then it will have to inform the other country six months prior to the initiation of next five years span of time, an agreement clause says.

It is noteworthy that though the said summary containing projects of the economic corridor was sent to various government departments, ministries as important stakeholders of these projects, unfortunately not a single stakeholder bothered to share comments/ view point with the planning ministry, officials said.

Earlier, the two countries during the 2nd Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting held in Beijing-China on February 19, 2014 resolved to translate the high level of mutual trust and cooperation and agreed that the Economic Corridor, by combining China and Pakistan's respective development strategy, would be conducive to their goals of developing economy and improving people's livelihood as well as bring benefits to regional common development and prosperity. "The two sides should work together to ensure that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor starts to take practical shape soon and yields tangible benefits," a Joint statement between the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on "Deepening China-Pakistan Strategic and Economic Cooperation" issued on February 19, 2014 stated.

Documents also revealed that planning ministry has included high priority early harvest projects (HPEHP) worth \$34.490billion. Some of the projects with estimated cost are mentioned in below for convenience: 2x660mw coal based power projects (IPP) at Port Qasim with estimated cost\$1.800billion, Jetty plus infrastructure of Gaddani as IPP (preferably) or public sector with estimated cost of \$1.000b, 10x660mw coal based power project at Gaddani \$9.000b, Power Evacuation from Gaddani to National Grid (IPP) \$2.000b, 3.5MT/A coal mining project Thar Block-II SECMC \$0.800b, 2x660mw coal based power projects at Sahiwal (Government of Punjab) \$1.800b, 2x660mw coal based power projects at Sheikupura (IPP) \$1.800b, 2x330mw Thar power coal plant SCMC \$0.800b, solar power park at Bahawalpur \$0.160b, 2793mw (Three) hydro power projects with estimated cost of \$3.00billion, Karakoram high way (phase-II) with estimated cost of \$3.500b, rehabilitation & up gradation of Karachi-Lahore plus Peshawar (ML-1) Railway track with estimated cost of \$3.650b, Gawadar Package \$1.060b, Orange Line (underground in Lahore) with estimated cost of \$1.600b, Jhimpar wind power 200mw with estimated cost of \$0.320b etc.

It was also learnt from the document that Karakoram highway (phase-I) up gradation and reconstruction of 487km, Karachi-Lahore motorway Multan-Sukkur section (375km), up gradation/rehabilitation of ML1, construction of dry port at Havelian, Eastway Expressway (18.9km), Gawadar International Port and many other related projects are part of the overall document approved by the premier. Energy sector projects are also included in the list of projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor prioritized/early harvest projects that have so far been approved by the premier.

End.

May 11, 2014

Sun

All Day

Pak China media cooperation urged by Chinese scholar -- Pakistan Today

Chinese media scholar Jin Qiang, who is currently visiting Pakistan to write a research book on Pakistani media, has urged the media institutions of Pakistan and China to enhance collaboration in joint research projects and journalist exchanges to boost people to people ties

He made these comments while meeting with Director General, South Asian Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI), Dr. Maria Sultan during a visit to her Office. Says a press statement issued on Sunday.

In the meeting both the scholars, exchanged views on enhancing bilateral cooperation between School of Journalism of Hebei University, China and SASSI University in the academic and research programs.

The Director General briefed the various research projects of SASSI and lauded the initiatives of Hebei University School of Journalism for such an unprecedented project focusing on media of Pakistan and assured her cooperation to accomplish the research work.

While highlighting the Pakistan China bilateral economic partnership, Dr. Maria Sultan added that Pakistan and China need to explore new dimensions of cooperative partnership while media is vital power to boost this partnership boost people to people ties, scholarly exchanges, and joint research programs, she added.

Mr. Jin Qiang is visiting Pakistan on the invitation of Pakistan China Institute, under the chairmanship of Senator Mushahid Hussain, to write a book on the Pakistani journalists, focusing various aspects of the media, its evolution, press laws, role and challenges in last six decades. The travelogue book will be published in Chinese and English language while the book will be first book on media of Pakistan being written by a Chinese scholar.

All Day

Pak-China economic corridor envisages industrial cooperation from Gawadar to Kashgar: Bokhari -- APP

KASHGAR: Chairman Senate Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari has said that Pakistan China Economic Corridor envisages close trade relations and industrial cooperation from Gawadar to Kashgar.

He said this while addressing a reception hosted in honor of the Senate delegation by the Chairman of the Chinese People's political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

The Chairman Senate is leading a delegation of Senators including Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari, Rozi Khan Kakar, Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah, Begum Najma Hameed, Haji Muhammad Adeel and Mufti Abdul Sattar.

The invitation of this visit was extended by Chairman of the CPPCC. The Chairman Senate expressed his pleasure to visit Urumqi. "I was highly impressed by the insight of the leaders as well as their warmth for Pakistan", the Chairman Senate added.

He said that Urumqi is a great cultural and historical city. "I am glad that Urumqi and our historical city Peshawar have sisterly relations".

Both cities are repository of great cultural heritage, the Senate Chairman remarked. He emphasized the need to deepen relations between Urumqi and cities of Gilgit and Baltistan and our Northern Areas. He also underscored the need to further enhance educational and cultural links. "I am so grateful to the Chinese People's political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) to give us an opportunity to see Urumqi", Nayyer Bokhari stated.

He said that Pakistan and China have stood by each other during the most testing times, and added, "We need to even further strengthen this strategic partnership in the 21st century."

He said that Pakistan will continue to support China on the issues of its core interest, i.e, Taiwan, Tibet and East Turkish Islamic Movement.

He condemned the terrorism attacks that have recently occurred in Xinjiang. He appreciated the development which China has achieved in the last thirty years under wise Chinese leadership and Communist Party's unrelenting efforts to change the destiny of China.

He expressed the confidence that China will be able to realize the "Chinese dream" envisioned by President Xi Jinping.

His vision of Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Cooperation is in accord with our own perspective of economic and regional integration.

He also mentioned the establishment of Kashgar Economic Zone and said that it will promote economic and business linkages between our business communities.

He thanked the CPPCC leadership for the hospitality and warm reception. It is pertinent to mention that the delegation will proceed to Beijing today where it will meet the Chinese President Xi. Jinping and senior leadership of the CPPCC.

All Day

Multibillion rupees to be allocated for mega projects -- The News

ISLAMABAD: The government will finance multibillion rupees mega development projects in the upcoming Budget 2014-15, including Lahore-Karachi Motorway, Metro Bus service, various projects of Pak-China Economic Corridor regarding establishment of rail and road linkages, official sources told The News on Tuesday.

The government has decided to include Havelian Dry Port, upgradation and construction of rail link from Havelian to Gwadar, upgradation of Karakoram Highway, land acquisition for Lahore-Karachi Motorway, completion of Metro Bus service in Rawalpindi / Islamabad and construction of Dasu and Bhasha hydropower projects in the next Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), the officials said.

"All ministries / divisions have forwarded 150 to 200 development projects for inserting into the Public Sector Development Programme for 2014-15 but the government has decided to include a few mega projects in the list for the next fiscal year," the officials said.

However, they confirmed that the Planning Division has not yet finalised the list of PSDP projects as Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has left for US on Monday night and would return back within the next few days.

Sources close to the minister said that Iqbal had given instructions to the federal secretary of the Planning Division regarding the government's priority for the next PSDP.

The exercise to sort out projects continued on Tuesday and the list will be finalised within the next few days, the sources said.

According to an official communication sent out by the Finance Division to the Planning Division, the available resource envelop for the next PSDP stood at Rs525 billion against a revised allocation of Rs425 billion for the outgoing fiscal year.

Initially, the government had envisaged Rs540 billion for the PSDP in the ongoing fiscal year but Rs115 billion allocated has been linked with the FBR's desired collection of Rs2,475 billion, the sources said.

After the FBR's inability to achieve its initial tax target, the PSDP was also slashed downward from Rs540 billion to Rs425 billion, they said.

On Metro Bus project in the twin cities of Islamabad / Rawalpindi, the government had already released Rs7.5 billion and the remaining amount of Rs15.5 billion would be earmarked in the next PSDP, the sources said.

For the laptop scheme, the sources said, it was not part of the PSDP so the Finance Division had released Rs4 billion for this initiative.

The Finance Division had allocated bloc allocation in the last budget to undertake different initiatives of the incumbent government, including absorbing a half of interest payment cost of the PM's Youth Loan Programme, Rs3.5 billion for the interest-free loans and some other schemes.

The government has envisaged four priority areas for the next development budget, including energy, human resource, infrastructure development and improved governance as forefront in its development agenda, the sources said.

The government has finalised its priority list, as funds for those low priority projects would be stopped where only 25 percent funds were spent so far the sources said, adding that the government would give top priority to those development projects in the next PSDP where 70 percent work has been completed and the remaining 30 percent resources would be allocated to accomplish it within a year.

The sources also said that the projects where 50 percent work has been completed,

the government would provide the remaining 50 percent resources within the next two years to complete the ongoing schemes.

There are around 1,200 ongoing schemes in the PSDP list and throw forward would go up if more new schemes were inserted into the PSDP list, the sources added.

All Day

PM approves nine projects worth US\$1.7bn to make Gwadar port functional -- APP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Ports and Shipping Kamran Michael on Thursday informed the National Assembly that Prime Minister has approved nine projects costing US \$1.7 billion to make Gwadar Port functional.

Replying during Question Hour in the House, the minister said that the port is the third Deep Sea Port of the country which is ready in all respects to cater for both import and export.

Presently it is handling import of bulk urea of TCP as per decision of ECC and in near future it will handle the export goods also.

Gwadar Port can handle ships of 50,000 DWT making it comfortable for the imports as well as importers to ship maximum cargo on single large ship, the minister informed.

Parliamentary Secretary Industries and Production Rao Muhammad Ajmal Khan said that the government did not determine the prices of cement.

Cement industry is in the private sector as such prices are governed by market mechanism only and the government has no control on any price fixation, Rao Ajmal added.

He said that prices of several items including cement are monitored by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics and as per report retail prices of cement for the week ended on April 2014 at federal and provincial capital cities were as follows Islamabad Rs 513, Lahore Rs 515, Karachi Rs 533, Peshawar Rs 501 and Quetta Rs 550 per bag.

Parliamentary Secretary said that the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) is the apex SME development organization, working under the administrative control of Ministry of Industries and Production.

He said SMEDA is taking key initiatives for the establishment and promotion of new domestic and small industries in the country including SMEDA help desk services which provide guidance to new and existing SMEs.

Rao Ajmal said that SMEDA has prepared around 170 pre-feasibility studies and the objective of the pre-feasibility study is primarily to facilitate potential entrepreneurs in project identification for investment.

Prefeasibility studies cover various aspects of project concept development, start-ups and production, marketing, finance and business management, he added.

Rao Ajmal said that Prime Minister's Youth Business Loans (PMYBL) for young entrepreneurs is a facility provided by the government to encourage private persons to establish their small scale businesses and industries.

PMYBL is covering Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). SMEDA provided business counselling to the loan applicants.

All Day

Civil N-tech co-op to continue: China -- The Nations

ISLAMABAD - Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, Sun Weidong, has said his country would continue its assistance to Pakistan in acquisition of civil nuclear technology within the UN framework.

The Chinese ambassador Thursday won hearts of the members of National Assembly's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, which invited him for briefing on Pak-China bilateral ties and cooperation in various fields. Chairman of the committee Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari moderated.

On the occasion, Weidong said that his country is coordinating with Pakistan in five sectors including energy, water management, defence, agriculture and communication.

He briefed the committee on the status of various projects being undertaken in Pakistan.

In this regard, he cited numerous Chinese projects like the Gwadar-Kashgar economic corridor, electricity projects in Port Qasim, Bahawalpur, transfer of technology for environment-friendly thermal power plants, and numerous highways and motorways projects.

Ambassador Weidong also emphasized the need for promoting people to people contacts to further cementing the bilateral ties between the two brotherly neighbours and highlighted the efforts for promotion of Chinese language in Pakistan.

The Chinese ambassador also highlighted China's active participation in acquisition of recently privatized 3G and 4G technologies, and would also be investing further in communications sector.

"China desires transparent elections in Afghanistan, since these elections are important for Afghanistan", he stressed; "since Afghan masses had suffered a lot and had struggled through all their sufferings," he added.

He also expressed China's cooperation with Pakistan in the war against terror, since China was also a victim of terrorism as perpetuated by 'East Turkmenistan Movement', while joint production cooperation for manufacturing of warplanes like JF-17, and J-100 was also underway.

The committee member Mahmood Khan Achakzai felt that Chinese interaction in Pak-India relations could help a lot, while PTI's Shah Mahmood Qureshi paid glowing tributes to unique featured Pak-China relations.

May 18, 2014

Sun

All Day

TCP imports 61,000 tonnes of urea under Saudi facility -- APP

KARACHI: The Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) has so far imported around 60,795 tonnes of urea under a credit facility of \$125 million given by Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), official sources said on Saturday.

Though the exact quantity of imported urea would depend on international market prices but official estimates place the quantity in the range of 320,000 to 335,000 tonnes.

Sources said that vessel Ocean Flower with 30,000 tonnes of the fertiliser is expected to arrive at Gwadar Port on Monday. Earlier a vessel New Legend Pearl unloaded 30,795 tonnes of urea at Gwadar Port on April 24 and another vessel 30,000 tonnes at Qasim Port on May 4.

However, official sources confirmed that urea unloaded at port Qasim's fully automated bulk cargo terminal averted handling losses of up to 600 tonnes which has translated into financial savings to the tune of Rs28-29 million for the TCP.

The sources said that another vessel loaded with urea is expected to arrive on May 23.

Financial agreement to this effect was signed between Economic Affair Division and SFD on February 17, 2014 and commercial agreement between TCP and SABIC was signed on March 26, 2014.

According to agreed shipment schedule the import of entire quantity will be completed by March 2015. However, as per commitment SABIC will supply 170,000 tonnes urea by end June this year. Sources said that last year credit facility of \$100 million was provided by SFD against which TCP imported 267,000 tonnes urea from SABIC.

May 19, 2014

Mon

All Day

NHA attaches top priority to early completion of Gwadar link roads --

APP

ISLAMABAD, May 19 (APP): National Highway Authority (NHA) has been attaching top priority to complete the ongoing federal road projects to connect Gwadar with rest of the country.

All Day

Pak-China govts working for implementation of 32b package: Shahbaz --

APP

LAHORE, May 19 (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has said that governments of Pakistan and China are working speedily for the implementation of Chinese development package of 32 billion dollars for Pakistan.

All Day

RAC puts Pak-China friendship on display -- APP

Rawalpindi Arts Council (RAC) Tuesday held an inter-collegiate poster competition to highlight development agreements recently signed between Pakistan and China.

More than 60 students from different colleges of Rawalpindi and Islamabad participated in the contest titled "Journey of development from Kashgar to Gwadar."

The economic corridor Gwadar-Kashgar is considered a milestone in the history of Pak-China friendship, which would benefit three billion people in the region.

Leading artist, Mehmood Ali and RAC Resident Director Waqar Ahmed adjudged the competition.

Sumaira Sultan from RAC bagged first position, Fartashiya Khan from Government Waqar-un-Nisa College clinched second position, while Faryal Masood from Government College Gawalmandi and Shewana Zareen from Postgraduate College got third position collectively.

Shiza from Government Sir Syed College, Wah Cantt secured fourth prize. Addressing the prize distribution ceremony, Senator Najma Hameed said Pak-China friendship and bilateral cooperation is unprecedented, which is taking roots with each passing day. She also highlighted various aspects of bilateral ties between the two friendly neighbouring countries, and its impact on regional progress and prosperity.

All Day

China-Pak economic corridor to boost trade, tourism, industry: NHA Chairman -- APP

China-Pak economic corridor to boost trade, tourism, industry: NHA Chairman

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Highway Authority (NHA), Shahid Ashraf Tarrar has said that Pakistan-China economic corridor will boost, trade tourism, industry and agriculture of the entire region.

He expressed these view while talking to a representative delegation of Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly.

He said that communications sector has been the top priority of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

The delegation was given a detailed briefing on Raikot-Islamabad Highway. n this occasion, Member Planning NHA Raja Nosherwan, General Manager Design Asim Ameen and other high officials were also present.

While highlighting the significance of the said project, the Chairman said that the Prime Minister is putting special emphasis on China-Pak Economic Corridor so that trade ties with China and Central States could be further strengthened and the region could witness rapid economic growth and prosperity.

The Chairman NHA said that this highway is also important because four new dams close to this highway namely; Thakot, Pattan, Dassu and Diamer Basha have also been planned.

He said that these dams will help the country overcome its power shortage.

The delegation was told that 487 kilometers long Raikot-Islamabad Highway project is part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor on which a memorandum of understanding was signed between Pakistan's Ministry of Communications and China Road and Bridge Corporation on 19 February this year in China.

Under the project, Raikot-Islamabad Highway will start off from Pak-China border and will connect to the existing Karakoram Highway and reach Islamabad and will be further extended to Gwadar in the near future.

Chinese ships will use this route as a trade corridor for their world trade through sea because the Kashghar-Gwadar route is much shorter than Kashghar-Beijing route, and by taking on this route, the ships will save their travel time by two weeks.

The realignment of the 24 kilometers of the existing Karakoram Highway is also part of this project, and this highway will be 2 lane from Khajrab to Mansehra, 4 lane from Mansehra to Islamabad and 6-lane from Islamabad to Gwadar. Work on its feasibility study is in full swing and will be completed by June this year.

To accommodate the four proposed dams along this highway, the National Highway Authority plans to reconstruct 230 kilometers of the Karakoram highway under the new design.

The members of the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly thanked the Chairman NHA and forwarded some valuable suggestions regarding ongoing projects. The delegation included Members Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly Saeed Afzal, Ibadat Ali, Assistant Executive Engineer Gilgit-Baltistan Council Secretariat Mahmood Hussain.

All Day

Journey of development from Kashgar to Gwadar highlighted at RAC -- The News

Journey of development from Kashgar to Gwadar highlighted at RAC

The Rawalpindi Arts Council (RAC) organised a poster competition titled 'Journey of Development from Kashgar to Gwadar' highlighting agreements with the Republic of China for the construction of motorway from Gwadar to Kashgar.

The Gwadar-Kashgar Economic Corridor is an important milestone in the history of Pak-China friendship and this project would benefit three billion people in the region.

More than 60 students from Rawalpindi and Islamabad participated in the competition. Famous artist Mehmood Ali and RAC Resident Director Waqar Ahmed adjudged the competition.

According to their decision, Sumaira Sultan from RAC bagged first position,

Fartashiya Khan from Government Viqar-un-Nisa College, Faryal Masood from Government College, Gawalmandi, and Shewana Zareen got third positions collectively, while Shiza from Government Sir Syed College, Wah Cantonment, secured fourth prize.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Senator Najma Hameed said that the Pak-China friendship and cooperation have moved forward at an “unprecedented” pace during the present phase. The vision of collaboration and connectivity shown by the leadership of the two countries is likely to “usher in a new era (of development and progress) for the region,” she added.

RAC Resident Director Waqar Ahmed was of the view that students highlighted Pak-China friendship through their brush nicely.

All Day

Chinese team visits Gwadar port -- APP

Chinese team visits Gwadar port

GWADAR: A Chinese delegation visited the Gwadar deep sea port on Wednesday to review arrangements for making it functional.

Gwadar Development Authority Director General Dr Sajjad Hussain Baloch gave a detailed briefing to the delegation on Gwadar Port, Gwadar City and other projects pertaining to Gwadar.

The Chinese delegation expressed their interest in investing in Gwadar City, steel industries, cement factories, fisheries, ship breaking yard, fibre boat making, tourism and others.

The delegation was informed that work on phase-1 of Gwadar was completed while feasibility report to connect it with Khanjrab via rail and road links was also prepared.

The Chinese officials offered their cooperation for provision of different civic facilities in Gwadar city including the electricity supply, sewerage system and others.

Published in Dawn, May 22nd, 2014

All Day

Railways to establish rail links between Gwadar-Jacobabad -- APP

Railways to establish rail links between Gwadar-Jacobabad

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Railways was considering two proposals to establish new rail links between Gwadar and other parts of the country in connection with China-Pak Economic Corridor.

One proposal for linking Gwadar with Karachi along Makran Coastal Highway is 700 km and second aims Linking Gwadar with Jacobabad via Turbat, Punjgur, Besima and Khuzdar is 1048 km, an official of Pakistan Railways told APP.

A PC-II amounting to Rs. 135.500 million for carrying out feasibility studies of the above mentioned proposed links has been approved by Planning Commission for which funding would be provided in fiscal year 2014-15.

The official said that actual ground work would commence after completion of the feasibility study.

The project could be completed by 2017-18 provided the financial and economic viability of the scheme is established and availability of requisite funds is ensured as determined in the feasibility study, he added.

He said the proposals are also a part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor framework.

All Day

Pak, China sign \$1.6b Lahore Metro Train agreement -- Observer

Pak, China sign \$1.6b Lahore Metro Train agreement Friday, May 23, 2014 - Shanghai—Signing ceremony of historic \$1.6 billion agreement for first ever Metro Train Project in Pakistan took place at Shanghai Thursday.

Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif signed on behalf of the Pakistan government, while Chairman National Development and Reform Commission China, Xu-Shaoshi signed the agreement on behalf of China.

Chinese President Mr. Xi. Jiping and President of Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain were also present on the occasion.

Terming the agreement on Metro Train Project with China as historic, Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif said that today is a day of great rejoicing for the people of Pakistan. He said that Metro Train Project would prove to be a landmark in the history of the country as it would provide modern and better travelling facilities to the general public, besides brining about a revolution in the transport system.

He said the Chinese government will provide investment for Metro Train Project, while Chinese companies will design, construct and monitor the project, whereas Punjab Government would provide all necessary facilities in this regard.

All Day

Pak-China Corridor: Rs 250 billion allocation proposed for 19 projects -- Business Recorder

Ministry for Planning, Development and Reforms has proposed allocation of Rs 250 billion for 19 Pak-China Economic Corridor projects for 2014-15 under Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) but the Finance Ministry is reportedly facing difficulties in arranging Rs 200 billion, it is learnt.

According to sources, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is holding a meeting on a daily basis in the Prime Minister Office to discuss Pak-China Economic Corridor and other development projects. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, secretaries and high officials of related ministries are attending the meetings. The source said during a meeting the prime minister was informed that Rs 250 billion was proposed by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms but the Finance Ministry indicated its inability to arrange Rs 200 billion though it stated that China may extend Rs 50 billion loan to Pakistan for these projects.

The sources said the prime minister has directed the two ministries to give a detailed briefing on the financing and cost of the Corridor projects. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government has placed as many as 19 projects on priority basis defined as to be completed during its tenure.

The estimated cost of 19 projects is \$34.49 billion. Most of the projects relate to energy and include: 2x660 MW Coal-Based Power Projects (IPP) at Port Qasim, estimated cost \$1.8 billion, Jetty+Infrastructure at Gaddani as IPP (preferable) or public sector, estimated cost \$1 billion, 10x660 MW Coal-Based Power Projects at Gaddani, estimated cost \$9 billion, Power Evacuation from Gaddani to National Grid (IPP), estimated cost \$2 billion, 3.5 MT/A Coal Mining Project, Thar Block-II SECMC, estimated cost \$0.8 billion, 2x660 MW Coal-Based Power Projects at Sahiwal (Government of Punjab), estimated cost \$1.8 billion, 2x 660 MW Coal-Based Projects at Sheikhpura (IPP), estimated cost \$1.8 billion and 2x330 MW Thar Power Coal Plant SCMC, estimated cost \$0.8 billion.

Other energy projects include Neelum-Jhelum Transmission Line estimated cost \$0.15 billion, and Jhimpir Wind-Power 200 MW, estimated cost \$0.32 billion, Solar Power Park at Bahawalpur, costing \$0.16 billion, and 2,793 MW (three) Hydro Power Projects, costing \$3 billion (i) 720 MW Karot Hydro Power Project (ii) 873 MW Suki Kanari Hydro Power Project; and (ii) 1,100 MW Kohala Hydro Power project.

The transport sector projects included Karachi-Lahore-Motorway (Mandate on BOT

basis), cost \$2 billion, Karakoram Highway (Phase-II) Raikot to Islamabad, cost \$3.5 billion, Fiber Optic Project, cost \$0.050 billion, Rehabilitation & Up-gradation of Karachi-Lahore-Peshawar (ML-1) Railway Track, cost \$3.65 billion, Gwadar Package estimated cost \$1.0600 billion, and Orange Line (Underground in Lahore), cost \$1.6 billion. Sources told Business Recorder that Pakistan negotiating team was reluctant to accept some of the conditions that were proposed by the Chinese, however, these conditions including agreeing to the use of Chinese companies, equipment and engineers, were finally accepted after reportedly receiving instructions from Pakistan.

All Day

Govt prioritises mega development projects in PSDP -- The Nations

Govt prioritises mega development projects in PSDP

ISLAMABAD - The government on Friday approved multibillion rupees mega development projects for the upcoming budget 2014-15, including Lahore-Karachi Motorway, Metro Bus service, Construction of New Rail Link from Islamabad to Muzaffarabad via Murree and other important projects.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif chaired a meeting to give a final look at the public sector development programme (PSDP) before presenting it at Annual Plan Coordination Committee (APCC) and National Economic Council (NEC). The APCC will meet on Monday to approve the PSDP as well as macroeconomic plan for next fiscal year. Sources informed that federal government has given much importance to the mega projects as against small/ medium projects in the budget for upcoming fiscal year. Therefore, the government has approved multibillion projects in budget. The high level meeting under the chair of Prime Minister has approved the Lahore-Karachi Motorway project. Sources informed The Nation that Lahore-Karachi Motorway has been divided into three phases, with estimated cost of Rs700 billion. The land acquisition cost has been estimated at Rs60 billion which will be made part of the PSDP list for next fiscal year. The first two phases of Lahore-Karachi Motorway having a cost of Rs332 billion will be financed through PSDP. Similarly, the meeting has also approved other mega projects like Construction of Faisalabad - Khanewal M-4 Motorway 57 km and Rawalpindi-Islamabad Metro Bus project. The meeting also approved the allocation for Construction of Diamer Bhasha Dam (4500 MW), Dasu Hydro Power Project (2160 MW). It has also approved the initiatives of feasibility study for construction of New Rail Link from Islamabad to Muzaffarabad via Murree, Feasibility study for construction of New Rail Link from Havelian to China border, Feasibility Study to connect Gwadar with Karachi through rail, Approach roads to New Islamabad International Airport, New Gwadar International Airport project, Jetty and Infrastructure development at Gaddani, Gwadar Port Economic Free Zone project and Pak-China Technical & Vocational Institute at Gwadar and Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park at Lal Sohna Park Phase-II (600 MW).

It is worth mentioning here that government has allocated Rs 525 billion for public sector development programme (PSDP) for the upcoming financial year 2014-15 against the revised allocation of Rs 425 billion of the outgoing fiscal year. The APCC would approve the PSDP on Monday.

The federal government did not issue the working paper to ministries/ divisions or provinces prior to the APCC meeting to incorporate their suggestions/ proposals in the development budget. The government would present the working paper in the meeting to be held today. The representatives of provincial governments especially from Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa may argue that they are unprepared because of non-availability of the working paper.

The APCC meeting, to be presided over by Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, would be attended by ministers for development from four provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan and all the federal secretaries and heads of autonomous corporations.

Under the macroeconomic plan for next fiscal year, which is likely to be approved in today's meeting, the government would set GDP growth target at 5.1 percent and inflation at eight percent for upcoming financial year 2014-15.

Meanwhile, the official statement issued here stated Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has said that we have embarked upon the road to progress and the projects initiated by our government will usher our country into an era of prosperity. These projects will not only create millions of job opportunities in the country but also raise the living standard of our people.

Prime Minister told the participants that each penny in our kitty is a public trust and emphasised upon efficient use of public money. Prime Minister was given a detailed briefing on the PSDP projects included in the next financial year budget. PM was told that each project, whether small, medium or large has been evaluated with reference to cost, importance, priority and time frame. The meeting was attended by Minister Finance Ishaq Dar, Minister Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Hamza Shahbaz MNA, Capt (r) Safdar MNA and senior officials of the concerned ministries.

All Day

Pakistan, China sign deal to set up largest power transmission system -- APP

ISLAMABAD: China has agreed to set up three heavy electricity transmission lines in Pakistan, in the first-of-its-kind project that will help Pakistan check the spiraling energy crisis by efficiently transporting power from generation sites to end users through a reliable and effective transmission system.

Under a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in Islamabad between National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDCL) and the China Electric Power Equipment and Technology Co Ltd (CET), the latter will develop three 600 KV power transmission lines from south to north.

"One 600kV will be set up from Gadani to Faisalabad, one 600kV transmission line from Gadani to Lahore and one 600kV transmission line will be developed from Matari to Lahore on the basis of Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOT)," according to the agreement.

The NTDCL is Pakistan's national grid company responsible for the transmission of the electric power services between the generators and the distributors through the national grid.

The CET is the international arm of the State Grid Corporation of China (SGCC), the largest utility company of the world and the seventh largest company in the world with assets exceeding \$ 340 billion and international investments in grids in Brazil, Phillipines and Portugal.

"This is the single largest investment on BOT basis in the transmission lines sector history of Pakistan," Shahid Malik, CET's representative in Pakistan told. "The project once completed will give Pakistan a new robust transmission system."

The NTDCL will facilitate the CET in identifying the routing of the project and the locations of the substation(s) if any, the agreement reads, adding that the Chinese company will conduct its own study, with support and assistance of the NTDCL, to determine the technical feasibility and economic viability of the project.

"The NTDCL, on behalf of the government of Pakistan, will coordinate with federal and provincial entities concerned during the conduct of feasibility study and in subsequent project activities," it said, and added that the project is subject to approval by the PPIB, NEPRA and all other relevant authorities.

The NTDCL will provide CET the land for the substation and right of way for the transmission line.

"The project will not be treated less favourably than other transmission IPP projects in accordance with the applicable laws and policy," the MoU, which is to be governed by the laws of Pakistan, reads.

The project will be processed on fast-track basis and the timelines of development will be expedited as much as possible subject to mandatory requirements under relevant policies and regulations, the agreement, which is effective for a period of 12 months or till the execution of LOI, whichever is earlier, says.

The NTDCL, after the commercial operations date, will pay a service fee comprising of O&M and recovery of investment made by the CET during the term of the project.

The demand for electric power in Pakistan is sharply increasing due to increasing population and the growing industrialization. However, Country's obsolete transmission and distribution system is unable to sustain the load, causing frequent tripping of grid stations and the electricity load shedding.

Another major factor is that most of the hydropower electricity is generated in the North and most of the thermal power is produced in the South, contrary to the maximum load areas that are in the central part of the country. A reliable and

effective transmission system is vital in this scenario especially so that the generated power could reach the end user with minimum losses.

End.

All Day

PM orders land acquisition for Diamer-Bhasha dam -- The Nations

PM orders land acquisition for Diamer-Bhasha dam

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister has asked the relevant authorities to ensure the completion of the land acquisition process of Diamer-Bhasha dam in most probably by August, 2014, Chairman Water and Power and Development Authority (Wapda) told The News on Friday.

Zafar Mehmood said the volume of allocation for this purpose will be decided in a meeting of the Annual Plan Coordination Committee (APCC) that is to meet next Monday.

Sources in the Finance Ministry and Planning Commission said the APCC is likely to recommend Rs525 billion federal development budget for 2014-15 with 4.14 percent gross domestic product growth for the ongoing fiscal and projected growth of 5.1 percent for the next fiscal year. The recommendations need the approval of the National Economic Council.

The NEC that is to meet with the Prime Minister in the chair on May 29 will finalise the development budget outlay and the allocation for the Diamer-Bhasha dam project, Mehmood said.

"I'm going to the site of the dam to accelerate the process of land acquisition, which will be completed in the current calendar year."

About the funding of the project, the Wapda Chairman said that Pakistan would first exhaust the option of the international financial institutions (IFIs), including the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, for acquiring the loans for this mega project.

To a question, he said that Manila-based ADB has never refused to lend the loan for the project. However, it says that since the project is too huge, it requires mammoth financing and the bank is unable to arrange this fund on its own.

The ADB says it is ready to fund, if other main donor banks also participate in extending the loan.

The Wapda chief said Pakistan's government is hopeful to persuade the main IFIs for arranging the funds for this important project.

He said the PM has also opposed the Dasu dam allocation for which the World Bank is ready for funding.

However, the executive board of the bank will soon decide about the volume of loan to be extended for Dasu dam.

Wapda officials said that detailed drawings of the dam would be completed by March 2008. As of August 2012, the project faced several setbacks due to major sponsors backing out from financing the project.

Both the World Bank and ADB refused to finance the project as according to them its location was in the disputed territory. They asked Pakistan to get a no objection certificate from neighbouring India.

But on 20 August 2013, the Finance Minister Ishaq Dar claimed to have convinced the World Bank to finance the Diamer-Bhasha project without the requirement of the NOC from India. He also said that the ADB had agreed to become the lead finance manager for the project.

On 27 August 2013, Dar said that the work would start on both Dasu and Diamer-Bhasha dams simultaneously. He also said that the Diamer-Bhasha project would take 10 to 12 years to complete.

The meeting held with the Prime Minister in the chair approved the allocation for the construction of Diamer-Bhasha dam (4,500 megawatts), Dasu hydropower project (2,160 MW), Faisalabad-Khanewal M-4 Motorway 57 kilometers and Rawalpindi-Islamabad metro bus project.

The meeting also discussed and approved the initiatives of the feasibility studies for the construction of a new rail link from Islamabad to Muzaffarabad via Murree, new rail link from Havelian to Pak-China border, railway link between Gwadar and Karachi, approach roads to New Islamabad International Airport, New Gwadar International Airport project, Jetty and Infrastructure development at Gaddani, Gwadar Port Economic Free Zone project and Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute at Gwadar and Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park at Lal Sohanra Park phase-II (600 MW).

In the meeting, the PM said: "We have embarked upon the road to progress and the projects initiated by our government will usher our country into an era of prosperity. The said projects will not only create millions of job opportunities in the country but also raise the living standard of our people."

The PM was presiding over the meeting to finalise the public sector development programme's allocation for the next financial year.

The premier directed the officials to expedite the initiation of the work on Lahore-Karachi motorway. He was told that the work on this project would be started by the end of the current year.

The PM told the participants that each penny in the national kitty was a public trust. He emphasised on an efficient use of public money.

The Finance Minister, Minister Planning Ahsan Iqbal, member of parliament Hamza Shahbaz, Capt (Retd) Safdar and senior officials of the concerned ministries attended the meeting.

PM was told that each project, whether small, medium or large had been evaluated with reference to cost, importance, priority and timeframe.

All Day

China keen to invest in setting up refinery at Gwadar -- The News

KARACHI: A delegation of China Logistic Association met members of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and said that they are ready to make investment in the establishment of an oil refinery at Gwadar, a statement issued by the FPCCI said on Saturday.

Ma Renhong, secretary general of the Logistics Association of Guangdong Province, China, said that there were already investment in Gwadar and China is also ready to make further investment for the establishment of cold storage, warehouses and oil refinery in Gwadar.

The new proposed Silk Road will link Gwadar Port with the Kashgar and would create huge employment opportunities for the backward provinces of both the countries, he said.

"This also creates huge opportunities for establishment of economic and industrial zones," the statement quoted Renhong, as saying. He invited the Pakistani businessmen to participate in the fifth Guangzhou International Logistics Equipment and Informationization Exhibition to be held in June.

In his address of welcome, Zakaria Usman, president of the FPCCI, said that the Gwadar Port will provide a shortest route for trade to China and Central Asian economies.

"Gwadar Port will be a milestone in increasing not only bilateral trade but also integrating the regions of Central Asia and South Asia economically," he added.

Pakistan's geographical proximity to the landlocked Central Asia and relatively under-developed Western China and the mutual trust that marks Pak-China relations are two of the main causes for Chinese interest in building the Gwadar Sea Port, the FPCCI chief said.

He expressed the hope that China's investment in Pakistan will strengthen trade relations between the two countries from the present bilateral trade of \$12 billion to \$15 billion by 2015.

Usman said that Pakistan attaches great importance to Pak-China friendship and appreciates the interest of Chinese companies to invest in the development projects in the country.

All Day

Gwadar Port to help boost trade with China, CAC FPCCI -- The Nations
Gwadar Port to help boost trade with China, CAC FPCCI

Karachi - The Gwadar Port will provide a shortest route for trade to China and Central Asian economies.

This was stated by the Mr. Zakaria Usman President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) on the visit of Chinese delegation to FPCCI. He said that Gwadar port will be a milestone in increasing not only bilateral trade but also integrating the regions of Central Asia and South Asia economically. Pakistan's geographical proximity to the landlocked Central Asia and relatively under-developed western China and the mutual trust that marks Pak-China relations are two of the main causes for Chinese interest in building the Gwadar Sea Port, he added. He expected that China's investment in Pakistan would strengthen trade relations between the two countries from present volume of bilateral trade US\$12 billion to US\$ 15 billion by 2015.

He said that Pakistan attaches great importance to Pak-China Friendship and appreciates interest of Chinese companies to invest in development projects in the country. The Chinese delegation comprised five members led by Mr. Ma Renhong Secretary General of the Logistics Association of Guangdong Province, China. Renhong stated that their association is first logistic association, which is making investment in Gwadar and their country is ready to make investment for the establishment of cold storage houses, ware houses and oil refinery in Gwadar. He further said that new proposed Silk Road will also link Gwader port with the Chinese

city Kashgar and will create huge employment opportunities for the backward provinces of both countries. This also creates huge opportunities for establishment of economic and industrial zones. He also invited the Pakistani businessmen to participate in 5th Guangzhou International Logistics Equipment and Informationization Exhibition to be held in June 2014.

From FPCCI side, the meeting was also attended by Mr. Shaukat Ahmed Senior Vice President FPCCI and Mr. Khurram Sayeed Vice President-FPCCI and other prominent businessmen. The meeting was concluded with the presentation of the FPCCI Crest to Chinese delegation.

All Day

Making presence felt: Chinese group to set up exhibition centre at Gwadar -- The Express Tribune

The capacity of the exhibition and display centre will be for more than 50,000 different Chinese products, said the official.

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese Guangdong Logistic Industry Association will establish a huge display and exhibition centre at Gwadar port with capacity of displaying more than 50,000 varieties of Chinese products at a time.

This was agreed by a six-member delegation of the Guangdong Logistic Industry Association, who visited the port along with the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Chinese Overseas Ports Holding Company, Pakistan to examine the port for establishing one of the largest exhibition centres of Chinese goods.

A senior official of the Gwadar port told The Express Tribune that the delegation led by the general secretary of the Guangdong Logistic Industry Association visited Gwadar Port from May 22 to 24 and met port officials and businessmen at Gwadar. The Chinese industrialists agreed to establish one of the largest exhibition centres in Pakistan over a land piece of 25-acre. The capacity of the exhibition and display centre will be for more than 50,000 different Chinese products, said the official. According to the official, after establishing this display centre, there will not be a need for Pakistani businessmen to visit China for import and export purposes, rather they will be able put their orders to the representatives of hundreds of Chinese companies available at the display centre.

The official said that soon formal agreements will be signed between Pakistani authorities and Guangdong Logistic Industry Association, where Pakistan will provide land in the port and the association will establish the exhibition centre and make the investment. The official was hopeful that more such business delegations will huge investment to the port.

Gwadar Port Authority Chairman Dostain Khan Jamalini said that development work on the port has started, and all efforts are being made to make it operational at the earliest possible time as Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has given it highest priority. He said that the Chinese company responsible for operation of the port had also submitted a business and marketing plan a few ago, which is under review. The next step would involve acquiring funds from the Chinese government and inviting private Chinese investors to inject money into various businesses in the free trade zone of the port.

All Day

Pakistan focusing on infrastructure development program: Ahsan -- APP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Reform, Professor Ahsan Iqbal here on Tuesday said that Pakistan was focusing on infrastructure development program through which South Asia, China and Central Asia could be integrated for the development and prosperity of the region.

Talking to a delegation of Chinese Communist Party headed by Director General, Tian Duanhui, the Minister said that Pakistan and China should work closely to strengthen partnership at all levels.

He said that region could see greater economic development and prosperity through Pak-China mutual projects like Pak-China economic corridor.

"Pak-China friendship is the cardinal principle of Pakistan's state policy no matter which party is in power", he added.

Every political party, every citizen sees Pak-China friendship with utmost respect and esteem.

The minister said that unprecedented success of China was a model for every country which was fighting to eliminate poverty and underdevelopment and to achieve prosperity.

He said that economic transformation required aligning political stability with economic reform in the country adding that Chinese leadership had been successful in coupling political stability and economic change which led to tremendous progress and prosperity of China.

Pakistan, he said needed to learn from the experience of China to enable sustainable development adding that PMLN government came in power on the agenda of economic development and had been successful in stabilization the economy during last year.

Through long term planning in the form of Vision 2025 to be launched next month, inclusive growth and development of the country would be sought, he added.

The delegation also attend a session on `Governance, Capacity Building and National Development which was organized by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform.

The delegation is visiting Pakistan to share Communist party of China's governance capacity building strategy and lessons for Pakistan. It will also learn the good practices that are being used in Pakistan.

Addressing the session, Tian Duanhui said that Pakistan and China were two brotherly countries and should learn from each other's experiences.

He said that fundamental reason of unprecedented development of China was the presence of strong central government and political stability adding that reforms and economic development were closely linked with the stability of the country.

In China all state organs supported economic reforms and consolidated the government's reform agenda, he added.

While addressing the session, Prof. Fan Jida, Chinese Academy of Governance said that from 1978 to till date China had been successful in maintaining the economic growth rate of 10% which made China the second largest economy of the world with per capita income more than US\$ 16,000.

He said that unprecedented economic growth was achieved through four guiding principles including market oriented reforms based on incentive system, were brought in China by encouraging people to innovate and excel in professions.

Secondly, reforms were introduced incrementally after successful pilot projects, thirdly, a balanced approach was used in introducing economic development and reforms keeping political stability in the country, he added.

Finally, collective wisdom was used in decision making by involving, learned, scholars and researchers in the process of decision making, he added.

He further told that after 1978, China adopted more open policy by developing relations with the neighboring countries and in order to consolidate its policy and to take it one step ahead in 21st century China was liberalizing through Pakistan China Economic Corridor and Silk Road Economic Corridor.

All Day

Govt allocates Rs73 billion for Pakistan-China trade corridor -- APP

Govt allocates Rs73 billion for Pakistan-China trade corridor

ISLAMABAD: The PML-N led government has envisaged an allocation of over Rs73 billion in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for the next budget 2014-15, in order to execute development projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the News learnt on Tuesday.

According to a list of PSDP projects cleared by the Annual Plan Coordination Committee (APCC) the government is going to utilize over Rs 49 billion on construction of roads and motorway under CPEC in the next fiscal year.

The APCC will be presented before the National Economic Council (NEC), which is scheduled to meet on May 29 under chairmanship of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

The government has also envisaged an allocation of Rs 30 billion for land acquisition, relocation of utilities and compensation for 859 kilometer long Lahore-Karachi Motorway in the next budget.

According to the sources, the Lahore-Karachi Motorway is going to be accomplished in next three years on cost sharing basis.

The PSDP for 2014-15 envisaged an allocation of Rs 6 billion for Lahore-Abdul Hakeem Khanewal Section (276 km) on BOT basis with GOP share of 30%. The total cost of this project stands at Rs 41.400 billion out of which the government is going to allocate Rs 6 billion.

Under CPEC, the government has allocated Rs 5.5 billion for Multan - Sukkur Section (387 km) with credit financing share of 90:10 percent in the next budget. Islamabad will provide financing share of 10 percent out of total estimated cost of this project stood at Rs 245.983 billion.

The government's allocation for Sukkur - Hyderabad Section (296 km) on BOT basis has been envisaged at Rs 3 billion in the next PSDP for 2014-15 against total cost of Rs 44.400 billion.

Also allocated is Rs 4.5 billion for Raikot - Havelian - Islamabad Section (460km) of the Karakorum Highway with credit financing of 90:10 plus land by Chinese bank and GOP respectively.

Under the Ports and Shipping Division, the PSDP for 2014-15 will finance eight projects in shape of CPEC initiatives in the next fiscal year.

The government has envisaged an allocation of Rs 691 million for acquisition of land for Gwadar Port Free Zone. In addition expenditures of Rs 50 million for construction of break waters, Rs 400 million for construction of Eastbay Expressway, Rs 50 million for dredging of berthing area and channel for additional terminal, Rs 300 million for Infrastructure Development for EPZA and GIEDA, Gawadar, Rs 400 million for Necessary Facilities of Fresh Water Treatment, Water Supply and Distribution Gawadar, Rs 200 million for Pak-China Technical & Vocational Institute at Gawadar and Rs 100 million for Up-gradation of Existing 50 Bed Hospital to 300 beds at Gwadar have also been earmarked.

For improving Railways under CPEC initiatives, the government has earmarked Rs 100 million for conducting Feasibility Study to connect Gwadar with Karachi, Feasibility Study from Gwadar to Besima and from Besima to Jacobabad via Khuzdar.

The government has allocated Rs 10 million for establishing China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Support Project at Ministry of Railways, Rs 250 million for feasibility study for Up-gradation/Rehabilitation of Mainline 1 (MLI) and New Dry Port at Havelian (Balder) in District Haripur under China-Pak Economic Corridor.

Another Rs 300 million has been allocated for Feasibility study (PC-II) for Construction of New Rail Link from Havelian to Pak China Border (682 K.M).

In order to meet requirements of power sector under CPEC, the government has allocated Rs 1 billion for jetty plus infrastructure at Gaddani, Rs 10 billion for Power Evacuation from Gaddani to National Grid (Faisalabad) and Rs 10 billion for Power Evacuation from Gaddani to National Grid.

May 29, 2014

Thu

All Day

Economy to be dominant in Pak-China ties: Shahbaz -- APP

FAISALABAD: Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has said Pakistan-China friendship is being converted into an economic engagement as a Chinese company will invest Rs200 billion in the Ruyi Masood Textile Industrial Park.

Addressing the ground-breaking ceremony of the industrial park to be set up at the M-3 Industrial City here on Wednesday, the chief minister said the Chinese leadership and people had taken a conscious decision to support Pakistani people in every field and the Chinese group had extended a helping hand to Pakistan in the hour of need.

He said the initiative of Chinese group would bring heavy investment to Pakistan that would benefit the people and make the industrial park a hub of trade activities.

He said the project would promote the textile sector that would ultimately strengthen the national economy. It would provide employment to thousands of people, enhance the workers' expertise and increase textile exports.

He said the plant would be made functional within days as the government had completed the entire process within seven months.

CM says China's industrial park initiative to bring heavy investment

The chief minister claimed after four years abundant electricity would be available for the people and they would not face unemployment, dearth of healthcare facility owing to power suspension.

He said the country would soon produce 4,000MW electricity through a single project like China.

He said the Chinese company would also set up two 270-megawatt each coal-fired generation plants at the industrial park.

Yafu Qiu, the chairman of Shen Dong Ruyi, the company establishing the industrial park, also spoke on the occasion.

All Day

European fish import from Pakistan to begin through Gwadar Port in two months: National -- Business Recorder

The European countries have lifted ban on fish import from Pakistan which would begin in next two months through Gwadar Port, bringing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to the country besides boosting exports as well as increase the port throughput significantly.

This was stated by the port and shipping minister Kamran Michael while briefing the National Assembly Standing Committee on Ports and Shipping, which met here on Thursday with Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah in the chair. "Since the Gwadar Port establishment it could not be operational optimally and resultantly no significant increase was observed in trafficking," the minister said.

Dostain Khan Jamaldini Chairman Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) said that no export is being made through the port since its establishment and only urea and wheat is being imported. However, now the country is self-sufficient in wheat as well and only urea is being imported. The country has imported about 5.8 million metric tons of urea and wheat since the port was made operational, the chairman added. He further said that Trade Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) has tendered to import about 150,000 metric tons of urea where major chunk would be imported through Gwadar Port. Minister said that China has planned to set up warehouses and processing zone at Gwadar Port after import/export would increase through the port and resultantly handsome revenue would be generated.

Dostain Khan said the former port operator M/s Port Singapore Authority Gwadar International Private Ltd was unsuccessful in bringing business to the port and future expansion of its infrastructure. Similarly, GPA was unable to fulfil its obligations, ie, provision of land for free zone and providing immediate connectivity as spelled out in the port operation Concession Agreement. Since May 2013 the port Concessional Right are transferred to the new operator China Overseas Ports Holding Company Limited (COPHCL). Both sides have agreed on a long-term bilateral trade and economic corridor programme, ie, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). During 2013-14 a number of decisions were taken and plans were approved, which are in process of being executed.

To resolve an obligation of GPA, the government is providing funds for establishment of Gwadar Port Free Zone. The Free Zone would be managed by the subsidiary of COPHO, namely, Gwadar Free Zone Company. Its execution will start in 2014-15. Port will cater for transshipment; export and import (through processing and manufacturing at local level) will bring Foreign Direct Investment to the country, boost exports, and would increase the port throughput significantly.

Chairman GPA further said that to resolve the port connectivity with the highway network, the earlier planned project, "Construction of Gwadar Port Eastbay Expressway" has now been agreed upon for funding under Opec. The project is in appraisal phase and its execution will start during the 3rd quarter of 2014-15, he added. Chairman further said that Gwadar is the only deep sea port of the country however during last three year no dredging at the port has been carried out which negatively affecting the port standard. However after nod of Prime Minister now the GPA will start the dredging work again with a cost of Rs 1.5 billion.

Chairman GPA said that 13 projects worth Rs 2.45 billion related to the development of Gwadar port are proposed in next financial year while 3 projects worth Rs 130.5 million were proposed for the outgoing fiscal year and would be completed by June 30. He further said that the new operator (COPHC) has started "recovery" of existing available infrastructure & equipment on the port. COPHC is finalising Operational Plan of the port in consultation with GPA. GPA has suggested that the recovery phase of the Operational Plan should be completed by December 2014 so that a good throughput level is agreed for 2014-15.

Chairman GPA said that Secretary General Ma Renhong along with his team of Guangdong Logistics Industry Association, Guangzhou, China apprised GPA that they are interested to open a large exhibition / display of more than 50,000 Chinese

products & brands at Gwadar Port. The proposed exhibition display center will be established on 25 acres of land. The proposal is currently under negotiation between GPA and GLIA who have agreed in principle to consider this unique trade and commerce initiative at Gwadar port. This large display center is expected to be completed in the second half of 2015. The team leader also apprised GPA of establishing "Marine Silk Route" between Guangdong and Gwadar via sea.

All Day

Pak-China friendship turns into economic contacts: CM -- APP

LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has said that Pak-China friendship has turned into useful economic contacts and energy projects of 20,000 megawatts will be set up in the country including Punjab under Pak-China Economic Corridor. He said that journey towards light and elimination of darkness has started and within a few years, agriculture will develop, economy will strengthen while industrial sector will flourish and Pakistan will be able to stand on its own feet. The Chief Minister expressed these views at the signing ceremony of memorandums of understanding between a prominent Chinese group Shandong Ruyi and different industrial groups of Punjab at Chief Minister's Office, here on Thursday. Chairman Shandong Ruyi group Yafu Qiu, senior officials of Huang Shang Dong, China, Provincial Ministers, Chief Secretary, prominent industrialists and notable from different walks of life were present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister said the project of Ruyi Masood Textile Park in Faisalabad is a very important step towards strengthening of Pak-China friendship and according to an estimate, an investment of Rs 200 billion will be made in the textile park. The Chief Minister said that 1320 mw coal power plant being set up with the help of China in Sahiwal will start production of electricity in December 2016. He said that the Chinese group is making total investment in the coal power plant. He said that investment of billions of dollars by Chinese investors in Pakistan is a big gift for which Pakistani nation is grateful to Chinese investors. He said that Chinese investors have taken a lead by making investment in development projects in Pakistan which is a proof of their deep love and affection for the Pakistani nation. He said it is high time for Pakistani investors to come forward and make maximum investment in the interest of the nation.

Chairman Shandong Ruyi group, Yafu Qiu while speaking on the occasion said that Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif is a very dynamic and practical person and his deep love and sincerity has motivated Chinese investors to invest in Pakistan. He said that his group will try its best to complete energy projects even before the timeframe in accordance with the vision of Chief Minister Punjab.

Earlier, four memorandums of understanding were signed between Shandong Ruyi group and different industrial groups of the Punjab. Chief Minister Punjab Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif was the chief guest on the occasion. On behalf of Shandong Ruyi Group, Masood Textile Mills and JK Spinning Mills, Chairman Shandong Ruyi Technology Group Limited Yafu Qiu, Chief Executive Officer Masood Textile Mills, Shahid Nazir and Director JK Spinning Mills Faiq Javed signed the document. Under a joint venture, Shandong Ruyi Group and JK Spinning Mills will set up a fabric printing unit of 200 million meter annually at Ruyi Masood Industrial Park. With regard to MoU between Shandong Ruyi Group, Masood Textile Mills and Crescent Sugar Mills, Chairman Shandong Ruyi Technology Group Ltd. Yafu Qiu, Chief Executive Officer Masood Textile Mills Shahid Nazir and Naveed Gulzar of Crescent Sugar Mills signed the document. Crescent Sugar Mills as a joint venture with Chinese group will establish weaving unit of 20000 power looms at Ruyi Masood Industrial Park. Shandong Ruyi Science and Technology Group Company Ltd and Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd, Karachi Branch also signed an MoU. Under the agreement, both the institutions under Pak-China economic development strategy will promote mutual cooperation in the projects of textile and related infrastructure and a project development coordination group will be

. Shandong Ruyi Group and Pak-China Investment Company Ltd. also signed an MoU under which speedy measures will be taken regarding the implementation of the projects under Pak-China Economic Corridor.

May 31, 2014

Sat

All Day

New CIIT capmus to be established at Gwadar -- Observer

New CIIT capmus to be established at Gwadar

Islamabad—Federal Minster for Science and Technology Zahid Hamid, said that government will soon establish a new campus of COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) in Gawadar.

Federal Minster for Science and Technology made these remarks during a meeting with the Chief Minister Balochistan Dr.Abdul Malik on Friday . Highlighting the importance of the CIIT Gawadar Campus the Minister said that market oriented disciplines would be taught to the students like Marine sciences, Geo physics, Information Technology, Management Sciences and Oceanography. He reiterated the commitment of the government and said that development in the field of science and technology was the top priority of the present government.

The CIIT campus at Gawadar will provide a quality education to the students of Balochistan in their own province, the Minister added. He also offered scholarships for the Students of Balochistan at the CIIT main campus at Islamabad. Dr. Abdul Malik readily accepted the offer and expressed his gratitude to Mr. Zahid Hamid and the federal government for opening campus of this prestigious institute in Gawadar which will definitely go a long way in the economic prosperity of the people of Balochistan.—APP

All Day

Economic corridor Country to benefit from uplift in west China: Ahsan -- APP

Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has said that Pak-China Economic Corridor gives more advantages to China as it would help it develop western part of the country. "We wanted to tag ourselves with the project to take advantage of the development in western part of China," he said, adding that "while it gives advantage to China, Pakistan also gets opportunity to take benefit."

In response to questions of senators that maximum benefit of the project would go to China, he said that China would have taken another route for the planned development of its western part if Pak-China Economic Corridor was not undertaken. Senator Talha Mehmood and others said that Pakistan has been unable to take full benefit of the opportunity. China needs Pakistan's support to develop western part through the project; he said adding that maximum benefit of the economic corridor would go to China.

Senators have raised voice of dissent on change of original route here on Wednesday during the Senate Standing Committee on Finance presided over by Nasreen chaired. We will not accept change of route because Pashtuns and Balochs have been completely cut off in the new route, said Senators Ilyas Balour, Fateh Muhammad Hussani and Talah Mehmood. Talah Mehmood said that the Maulana Fazlur Rehamn had also spoken to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on the issue and was later conveyed that change of route because Chinese government wanted. Talha added that when chief of his party raised the issue with Chinese Ambassador, he said that the Chinese government said it has nothing to do with it.

While expressing serious concerns over change in original route, the committee recommended to the government that route alignment of Pak-China Economic Corridor must be approved by the Council of Common Interest (CCI).

Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said that the government has decided to go for completion of eastern part in the first phase on Built Operate and Transfer (BoT) basis and in the second phase to western route via D I Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhawa and Dera Bugti of Balochistan to Gwadar. The Minister said that completion of the eastern route through Punjab and Sindh would take around four years and once this route would become operational on commercial basis, the government would have resources to undertake the western route as well. He said that completion of west route was not possible as no one is available to undertake it on BOT basis and the government would have to borrow for it.

June 16, 2014

Mon

All Day

PR to lay new track between Karachi, Gwadar -- APP

LAHORE - Pakistan Railways (PR) is planning to lay a track to link Karachi with Gwadar seaport to promote trade.

The Railways sources told APP on Sunday that the new track would fulfil the needs of transportation of goods to Gwadar in future. Moreover, the PR was in liaison with China for preparing studies about construction of Khuzdar, Baseemah, Jacobabad and Dera Ghazi Khan main line (ML-2) and China would finalise this studies till the end of December 2015. It is important to mention that China would bear all expenditures of the study about laying the new railway line. The Pakistan Railways is focusing on speeding up revenue generating activities under the direction of PR minister Khwaja Saad Rafique.

The PR is also working on restoration of ECO train for Turkey via Tufan and Zahdan. This train would make possible for traders to transport their goods through train among Turkey, Iran, India and Pakistan. The department is also planning to construct a dryport for container-holding at Havelian near Abbotabad for facilitating those traders in future who import or export goods from or to China. After construction of the port about two million tons of goods could be transported between Khunjab and Havelian.

June 18, 2014

Wed

All Day

Railways to establish links between Gwadar-Jacobabad -- APP

Railways to establish links between Gwadar-Jacobabad

ISLAMABAD -The Ministry of Railways was considering two proposals to establish new rail links between Gwadar and other parts of the country in connection with China-Pak Economic Corridor. One proposal for linking Gwadar with Karachi along Makran Coastal Highway is 700 km and second aims Linking Gwadar with Jacobabad via Turbat, Punjgur, Besima and Khuzdar is 1048 km, an official of Pakistan Railways told APP. A PC-II amounting to Rs. 135.500 million for carrying out feasibility studies of the above mentioned proposed links has been approved by Planning Commission for which funding would be provided in fiscal year 2014-15. The official said that actual ground work would commence after completion of the feasibility study.

The project could be completed by 2017-18 provided the financial and economic viability of the scheme is established and availability of requisite funds is ensured as determined in the feasibility study, he added.

He said the proposals are also a part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor framework.

All Day

China plans 1,800 km-long rail link with Pakistan that runs through PoK
-- The Economic Times

Beijing: China has reportedly commissioned a 'preliminary research study' to build an international rail link connecting its border province of Xinjiang to Pakistan.

China has allocated funds for preliminary research on building an international railway connecting its westernmost city of Kashgar in Xinjiang with Pakistan's deep-sea Gwadar Port on the Arabian Sea, state-run China Daily quoted the director of Xinjiang's regional development and reform commission, Zhang Chunlin as saying today.

"The 1,800-km China-Pakistan railway is planned to also pass through Pakistan's capital of Islamabad and Karachi," Zhang said at the two-day International Seminar on the Silk Road Economic Belt being held in Urumqi, Xinjiang's capital.

"Although the cost of constructing the railway is expected to be high due to the hostile environment and complicated geographic conditions, the study of the project has already started,"

China and Pakistan have already signed a multi-billion-dollar deal to construct an Economic Corridor through PoK connecting Kashgar with Gwadar by improving the existing Karakorum road link.

China is now running the port just opposite the Gulf of Oman, an important route for oil tankers. China plans to build a pipeline network to download the oil from ships and pump it across to Xinjiang through the proposed pipeline network.

All Day

Pacra maintains ratings of Pak China Investment Company -- APP

The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited (Pacra) has maintained long-term and short-term entity ratings of Pak China Investment Company Limited (PCICL) at "AA-"(Double A minus) and "A1+" (A One plus), respectively. These ratings denote a very low expectation of credit risk emanating from a very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. Meanwhile, positive outlook has been assigned to these ratings.

The ratings reflect sovereign parentage - jointly owned by Governments' of Pakistan and China, implying strong sponsors' support. The company's management is drawing a plan to grow its business on multiple fronts. Cognisant of concentration in earnings, the company intends to establish a sustainable non-fund based revenue stream.

In this regard, the role of China Advisory Desk is planned to be strengthened. Regarding fund based business, besides gradually expanding its loan book, the company has allowed its treasury function to operate in certain new investment avenues. Importantly, the management is committed to strengthen its risk management framework in line with the growth objectives. The ratings draw comfort from the company's robust liquidity and significantly higher capital adequacy providing the company ample room to grow operations.

The outlook on the ratings is positive. This captures the focus of new senior management in developing strategic vision of the company. This is also reflective in business plan with high focus on Chinese investment. Additionally they are also emphasising better control environment including strengthening of policies and procedures. Meanwhile, upholding good governance standards is important.

All Day

Pak-China economic corridor world's future -- The Nations

LAHORE - Pak China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Shah Faisal Afridi said here Monday that Pak-China economic corridor would empower half of the world's population living in Asia, by developing special trade routes between China and Pakistan.

Appreciating present government's endeavors for implementing economic corridor project, he termed it the most important agreement signed between Pakistan and China till now, adding that it was future of the world because three billion people from China, South Asia and Central Asia would benefit from this corridor.

Afridi urged government to implement this project in a way that population of Pakistan at large was benefitted. "Pakistan's prosperity is no more a longer journey as the current leadership is working diligently on such projects whose outcomes would be visible and bright in a shorter period of time," he observed.

Recently China has commissioned a preliminary research study to construct an international rail link connecting its province Xinjiang's border to Pakistan.

According to Chinese officials, this new rail link, which runs through the Pamir Plateau and Karakorum mountains, would be one of the hardest to build. The proposal, when implemented, would re-open the economic artery blocked for years, he added.

President PCJCCI said, the federal government had announced six development schemes worth Rs 130 billion under the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor, marking the beginning of a process that would transform the country into a transit hub for the second largest economy of the world.

The reason behind this vital importance was that 60 percent of oil was being imported from gulf countries that reached China after covering the distance of 16,000 kilometres, he said, adding that after the completion of Gawadar Port project, the distance would reduce to 2500 kilometres only which was, from all aspects, more safe and feasible.

He affirmed that in the rapidly changing geo-strategic and security environment, both countries were likely to face many regional and global challenges. It was need of the hour that leadership of both countries should pace up work for cementing the traditional Sino-Pak relationship with an exclusive focus on the economic corridor project that would bring economic prosperity for Pakistan and underdeveloped western region of China as well, he said.

All Day

ECNEC okays Rs 440b development projects

Islamabad—The Executive Committee of National Economic Council on Thursday approved a dozen development schemes worth Rs428 billion including projects related to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and raising of Balochistan Constabulary.

Under the chair of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, the ECNEC also approved the construction of Karachi-Multan-Lahore Motorway Project's Sukkur-Multan leg. The approval came just days before a Pakistani delegation is set to leave for China to discuss financing issues of infrastructure and energy sector projects that will be completed under the economic corridor project.

The 387-kilometer long Sukkur-Multan project will be completed at a cost of Rs259.4 billion. 90% of the project cost will be funded by China, according to a handout issued by Ministry of Finance after the ECNEC meeting. The remaining cost of the project will come from PSDP.

The project is expected to be completed by October 2017 and will be executed by National Highway Authority. The project envisages construction of 387 km long, six lanes, Sukkur-Multan section and is part of 1,148 km Karachi-Lahore Motorway.

The body also approved land acquisition, affected properties compensation and relocation of utilities for construction of the Motorway. This will cost Rs51 billion.

With the approval of the land acquisition and construction of a section of the Karachi-Lahore motorway, the issue of Pak-China corridor route has been settled. In order to address security concerns on the old western route through Balochistan, the government has opted for the new Eastern route despite protestations from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan parliamentarians.

The old route was along the western lines of the country but passes through some restive areas. Pakistan and China have agreed to construct the economic corridor that will give access to western parts of China to Gwadar port for international trade and secure energy supplies for the future.

The ECNEC approved a project for raising the Balochistan Constabulary at a cost of Rs5.2 billion. The project is aimed at assisting police and district administration in maintaining law and order in the crisis hit province.

The project will see a 10,000 strong Balochistan Constabulary for which 6,000 personnel will be recruited and 4,000 reserve police personnel will be merged into this force to raise it to 10,000 members.

The constabulary will also be responsible for ensuring security along the economic corridor.

The body also approved acquisition of land for establishment of Free Trade Zone in Gwadar at a cost of Rs6.5 billion. The project aims to acquire 2,281 acres of land for establishing a free trade zone at Gwadar Port and 1,627 acres of the required land would be acquired from private land owners.

The meeting also approved the widening and improvement of the 250 km long Kalat-Quetta-Chaman Road section of National Highway N-25 with a revised cost of Rs19.2billion.

At a cost of Rs30.5 billion the ECNEC cleared the Hasanabdal (Burhan)-Havelian Expressway. A project for flood emergency reconstruction of bunds and canals was approved at a cost of Rs26.9 billion. Almost Rs19.2 million of the funds would be acquired from foreign loan.

The body also approved a project for evacuation of power from Wind Power Plants at Jhimpir and Ghoro Wind Clusters located in district Thatta and Jamshoro in Sindh with a modified cost of Rs11.3 billion.

An amount of Rs4.9 billion, in principle, was also approved for Prime Minister's programme for provision of laptops. The program aims at distributing 100,000 laptops amongst students studying in any public sector higher education institute across the country.

The ECNEC approved rehabilitation and up-gradation of Trimmu Barrage and Panjnad Headwork's with a rationalised cost of Rs16.8 billion including Rs14.9 billion loan by Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The meeting also approved dualisation and improvement of 64 km long Mandra-Chakwal Raod project at a revised cost of Rs4.7 billion. The project was originally cleared by former Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf but became controversial afterwards.

July 5, 2014

Sat

All Day

NHA asked to start Hassanabdal-Mansehra Expressway projects -- APP
Islamabad— Acting Speaker National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Minister for Religious Affairs and MNA Umer Ayub Khan Friday visited the Head Office of National Highways Authority (NHA).

Chairman NHA, Shahid Ashraf Tarar gave a detail briefing to the Acting Speaker and others about the ongoing projects including Expressway from Hassanabdal to Mansehra, Pak-China Economic Corridor and development work of Hazara Division.

Shahid Ashraf informed that the Expressway between Hassanabdal to Mansehra would comprise of six lanes and the department has completed survey work of the project.

He said that Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved the said project which would cost over Rs. 30 billion.

Regarding the project between Pak-China Economic Corridor, the Chairman said that the project would be completed with the cooperation of China.

Shahid Ashraf also gave a detailed briefing about the expansion and carpeting of Khanpur Road between Taxila to Haripur and assured the Acting Speaker that work would be started on the project soon.

Murtaza Abbasi said the Expressway was very important project which would also benefit the people of Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir Valley.

He said the areas of Hazara Division and Northern Areas were rich of natural beauty but foreign and local tourists were facing problems due to poor road infrastructure.—APP

All Day

6 Massive Chinese Projects That Are Reshaping The World -- REUTERS

6 Massive Chinese Projects That Are Reshaping The World

In recent years, Chinese companies have begun a huge wave of construction that is already reshaping the world. Here are six of the most ambitious projects.

\$32 billion - China-Pakistan economic corridor

An enormous project to connect Gwadar port in southern Pakistan to the west of China involves roads, railways and oil and gas pipelines and will eventually give China a highly-coveted port in the Indian Ocean. When the corridor is finished, it will serve as the main gateway for trade between China and the Middle East and Africa. Control of Gwadar port was transferred to China's state-owned Overseas Ports Holding company in February 2013. Earlier this year, a plan to build an airport at Gwadar was also agreed, as well as the laying of fibre-optic cables between the Chinese border and Rawalpindi.

\$13 billion - Nigeria's high-speed railway

In May, China Railway Construction Corporation inked a £7.6 billion contract to roll out an 860-mile high speed railway across Nigeria for trains traveling at 75mph. So far there have been no details on the route of the line.

\$11.1 billion - Algeria's East-West Highway project

First launched in March 2007, an ambitious project to build a six-lane toll road across Algeria has been hit by confusion, allegations of bribery and delays for workers' salaries.

China Rail Construction Corporation and CITIC won contracts for parts of the highway, while a Japanese consortium also won a construction contract.

When finished the highway will run 756 miles from the Moroccan border to the Tunisian border, connecting Algeria's coastal cities.

\$1.7 billion - Baltic Pearl Project

On the coast of the Gulf of Finland, south-west of St Petersburg, China is building a new town for 35,000 residents.

With £1 billion of investment from the Shanghai Industrial Investment Company, the project was scheduled to take six to eight years but has slowed since the financial crisis.

When finished, the town will have 14,000 apartments, five schools and nine kindergartens, as well as shopping centers, restaurants and cinemas. However, there has been criticism of poor conditions for the construction workers and traffic and access problems getting to the town.

\$1.5 billion - West Texas wind farm

In 2011, Shenyang Power Group (SPG) signed a deal to develop a 36,000 acre wind farm in West Texas, one of the largest in the United States. Chinese-made turbines will power the plant, funded by a £880 million loan from China's Export-Import Bank.

\$1.3 billion - Nigeria's Zungeru hydroelectric power plant

Last July, on a visit to Beijing, Goodluck Jonathan, the Nigerian president, agreed a deal to build a 700MW dam on the Niger river, roughly 90 miles from Abuja. Construction will take five years and three-quarters of the cost will be loaned by China to Nigeria for 20 years at 2.5 per cent interest.

Additional reporting by Adam Wu

Read more: <http://www.businessinsider.com/six-massive-chinese-projects-shaping-the-world-2014-7#ixzz37fdJEL6t>

All Day

Joint Pak-Chinese venture to launch electric car -- Business Recorder

A joint Pakistani-Chinese venture intending to launch a tandem type hybrid car has approached the Ministry of Industries and Production (Mol&P) to get pioneer status. The company's representative Major General Mian Abdul Qayoom (retired) in a letter to Secretary Industries and Production, Raja Hasan Abbass has given details of the project and issues being faced by the company. Tandem type hybrid car is an electric car with an added petrol extender adding about 100 km range.

According to M/s Qural Cassettes Limited, the company submitted its proposal for the grant of pioneer status as envisaged in the government policy for the manufacture of electric cars in collaboration with M/s SHIHAO LOCOMOBILE, Chongqing of China. However, Engineering Development Board (EDB) did not consider the company eligible for the grant of pioneer status on the following grounds: (i) that the EDB had already granted an approval to M/s. Korakoram Motors for manufacturing electrical cars some time in 2013; and (ii) for grant of pioneer status, it has been stipulated that the applicant would make minimum investment of Rs 500 million.

M/s Qural Cassettes Limited maintains that to the best of its knowledge, Korakoram Motor has not, so far, commenced the manufacture of electric cars, as no such cars are seen on the road. The company argues that the condition for pioneer status is not appropriate as it tends to support only those who are already very rich and denies less privileged investors from "innovating" new ideas/technologies.

Tandem Type hybrid Car, the company adds, would be the first car of its kind produced in Pakistan, which would normally, be run electrically and use the "extender" as a stand-by-for another 100-miles, if the batteries cannot be charged immediately. This would be an ideal transport to be used in cities without causing environmental pollution. The company pleads that this joint venture with Chinese entrepreneurs deserves to be granted pioneer status, along with all other duty concessions permissible to Pioneer Industries, under the existing policy.

All Day

PM directs fast execution of Economic Corridor projects -- APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Friday chaired a meeting at the PM's House to review the progress of projects under the Pak China Economic Corridor and directed for their timely completion.

On Gaddani Power Project, the Prime Minister gave instructions to expedite the work on jetty at Gaddani on priority basis.

The Prime Minister said China was an earnest trading partner of Pakistan and its cooperation would yield economic benefits in the country.

He said these projects would end the load shedding of electricity and bring new industries in the country.

The Prime Minister was given a briefing by Minister for Planning, Ahsan Iqbal about the development projects, being undertaken by Chinese companies.

The meeting was attended by Chief Minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif, Finance Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Water and Power Khwaja Asif and Minister for Railways Khwaja Saad Rafiq.

The Chief Minister Punjab said the Chinese collaboration in the projects was a catalyst in expediting the process of development in the country.

Ahsan Iqbal briefed the Prime Minister that all out efforts will be taken to complete the development projects in the span of three years that includes Port Qasim Power Plant of 660 MW, Coal fired Power Plant of 1260 MW in Sahiwal, Wind Power Project of 250 MW in Ghoro and 660 MW coal-fired project in Thar.

The Prime Minister was told that timely review and timeline matrix of the respective projects had been formulated.

Ahsan Iqbal said China and Pakistan mutually agreed to follow the timeline.

Special Assistant to PM on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi, Secretary Water and Power Nargis Sethi, Secretary Planning Hassan Nawaz Tarar, Secretary External Affairs Division Saleem Sethi and Secretary Communication Babar Yaqoob Fateh Muhammad were also present.

All Day

China-Pak Corridor, a key initiative to help meet energy shortfall: Ahsan -- APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Prof. Ahsan Iqbal has said China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a key initiative which will help Pakistan in meeting energy shortfall and linking with regional economies particularly China.

The Minister made these remarks while chairing the meeting of Steering Committee on Energy Projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) here on Saturday.

The minister said Chinese Government was keen to pursue the CPEC and has shown trust in government's policies. However, he said, that "we have to deliver results according to strict timelines and work on full capacity to avail this historic window of opportunity."

The Steering Committee Meeting reviewed feasibility studies of energy projects under CPEC; demand and supply framework of ongoing and new projects; integrated plan for generation, transmission and distribution; payment modalities of power purchase agreements; curtailing power losses and integrated coal logistics plan for coal power projects.

The Meeting was attended by Chief Minister of Punjab Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Minister for Water and Power Khwaja Asif, Secretary Planning Hasan Nawaz Tarar, Secretary Water and Power Nargis Sethi and representatives from Ministry of Railways and Economic Affairs Division.

Addressing the meeting, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal said during his recent visit to China along with Chief Minister of Punjab, the delegation requested Chinese authorities to prioritize Pakistan's energy projects.

Chinese government expressed its full commitment to help Pakistan overcome energy challenge, he added.

The Minister also shed light on the importance of Gaddani Energy Park which has been dedicated as Pak-China Energy Park, which will be country's biggest energy projects with 6,600 Megawatt capacity.

Prof. Ahsan Iqbal stressed on integration of work to bring about synergy.

He called for an integrated plan for coal logistics for energy projects and also directed the committee to address observations of Chinese authorities.

He highlighted that generation of electricity was not the only issue but transmission and distribution mechanism must also be upgraded to take electricity to consumers, as an increase in generation will overload the already over-loaded transmission lines.

He urged the committee members to demonstrate highest quality of work to ensure better results.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister of Punjab Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said that this economic corridor was a golden opportunity for Pakistan.

He said, "It's now or never. We have to accept the challenge and pounce on this opportunity. History will never forgive us if we failed to do so."

He said that everyone including politicians, bureaucrats and technocrats must come together for betterment of Pakistan and bring this country out of darkness.

He shared with the committee that in the last decade energy mix of Pakistan which was tilted towards hydel energy but unfortunately it was shifted to thermal energy which damaged the economy in general and energy sector in particular.

He said "we have to act and act fast."

He directed the authorities to complete the projects by 2017 positively.

Federal Minister for Water and Power Khwaja Asif informed the committee that the ministry was working on strict timelines and ensuring transparency and timely completion at all costs in projects.

Progress on different energy projects under CPEC such as Coal-Based Power Projects at Gaddani, Jetty + Infrastructure at Gaddani, Quaid-e-Azam Solar Power Park, Rail Projects (ML-I), coal based power projects at Port Qasim was also discussed.

Meeting of Steering Committee will be held frequently to monitor the progress of energy projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Federal Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal also constituted a working group comprising of representatives from Ministry of Ports and Shipping, Ministry of Water and Power, Pakistan Railways and Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform to address the issues related to transportation of coal.

Steering Committee has been constituted by Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Planning Prof. Ahsan Iqbal to expedite work on energy projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor on war-footing basis after the recent visit of high level delegation led by Chief Minister Punjab and Federal Minister for Planning to China

All Day

Progress on energy, CPEC reviewed -- Dawn Newspaper, Block N, Lahore, Pakistan

Chief Minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif and National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Xu Shaoshi after their meeting at Diaoyutai State Guest House.—INP photo

Chief Minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif and National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Xu Shaoshi after their meeting at Diaoyutai State Guest House.—INP photo

BEIJING: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal and Chief Minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif, who are on a three-day visit to China, held several meetings on Tuesday to follow up progress on various energy and infrastructure projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

A statement released by the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing said that the ministers held meetings with the Chinese National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China Development Bank, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), Exim Bank, National Energy Administration (NEA) and heads of Chinese corporate sector.

Ahsan said the meetings helped in developing a roadmap for faster execution of CPEC projects, particularly with reference to their mode of financing.

He said almost all of the ground work including land acquisitions, policy interventions where necessary and other necessary arrangements had been finalised enabling the investment environment to be more conducive and set for execution of the early harvest projects.

Ever since the signing of the landmark memorandum of understanding (MoU) in July last year, whereby the two governments had mutually agreed to embark on the project of an economic corridor between the two countries, tangible progress had been achieved, he said.

A meeting of the joint coordination committee overseeing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will be held next month in the federal capital

The minister said that in just one year visible progress on the corridor was a “testament to the commitment of the visionary leadership of both the countries to the corridor’s realisation”.

He said that projects in energy sector would help Pakistan overcome its energy crisis and boost economic growth rate whereas infrastructure and transportation projects would improve connectivity and give boost to trade between the two countries.

The minister said that the Gwadar Port was the gateway of the corridor project and would be developed into a modern port city.

He informed that the meeting of the joint coordination committee (JCC) overseeing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor would be held and hosted in Pakistan by the end of the next month (August) in Islamabad. The delegation also discussed agenda for the JCC meeting.

Shahbaz Sharif also held several meetings with heads from the Chinese corporate sector and emphasised timely execution, quality control, transfer of technology, localising production, joint collaboration, personnel training, and community social welfare in projects.

All Day

Raikot-Islamabad highway construction NHA's priority -- APP

Islamabad—National Highway Authority (NHA) will build 487 km Raikot-Islamabad Highway on priority basis as it forms part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

This highway is also important because four new dams close to this highway namely; Thakot, Pattan, Dassu and Diamer Basha have also been planned.

He said that these dams will help the country overcome its power shortage, an official of the NHA informed APP.

Highlighting the significance of the said project, the official said that the present government was putting special emphasis on China-Pak Economic Corridor so that trade ties with China and Central States could be further strengthened and the region could witness rapid economic growth and prosperity.

He said that Raikot-Islamabad Highway will start off from Pak-China border and will connect to the existing Karakoram Highway and reach Islamabad and will be further extended to Gwadar in the near future.

The realignment of the 24 kilometers of the existing Karakoram Highway was also part of this project, and this highway will be 2-lane from Khanjrab to Mansehra, 4-lane from Mansehra to Islamabad and 6-lane from Islamabad to Gwadar. To accommodate the four proposed dams along this highway, the National Highway Authority plans to reconstruct 230 kilometers of the Karakoram highway under the new design.

He said that Pakistan-China economic corridor will boost, trade tourism, industry and agriculture of the entire region.

The official said that communications sector has been the top priority of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. Raikot-Islamabad Highway project will become part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor on which a memorandum of understanding was signed between Pakistan's Ministry of Communications and China Road and Bridge Corporation in February this year in China.—APP

July 19, 2014

Sat

All Day

China will establish an industrial park in Gwadar -- Dawn

China will establish an industrial park in Gwadar. This was stated during the visit of a delegation from China, led by Liu Jin M, GM Investment Banking Department, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.

The other two industrial parks would be established in Lahore and Faisalabad.

Officials of Gwadar Development Authority said the visit was in line with a series of policy initiatives under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and bilateral and multilateral understandings between different Chinese and Pakistani public-sector, as well as private sector companies and organisations.

The objective of ICBC-HBL-Holly group delegation's visit to Gwadar was mainly to have an on-site investigation for top priority Industrial Park at Gwadar.

Additionally, the team met local businessmen of Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industry and some investors, who had come from Karachi, Lahore and other parts of Pakistan.

The Chinese investors expressed their interest to jointly work as industrial park / free zone operators, developers and investors.

All Day

New \$3 bn LNG project ready for Gwadar -- The News

Another fast-track three billion dollars mega project, an LNG terminal at Gwadar and a pipeline to Nawabshah, is being launched by the Nawaz Sharif government with Chinese collaboration.

In a major strategic move, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources (MoPNR) has decided to build the LNG terminal and pipeline through a Government-to-Government (G2G) arrangement with China. Experts say this would mean that the project will not be advertised for open international bidding.

"We are running from pillar to post to get this mega LNG terminal-cum-pipeline included in the list of early harvest projects agreed with China and once it is included, it will take three to four years to get commissioned," Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi told The News.

"We have already sensitised the prime minister about the proposed LNG project at Gwadar and hope to get this project in early harvest projects list." China has promised to provide \$35 billion in projects relating to the economic corridor and energy related projects and this new project will also be funded through the same scheme.

Two Chinese companies have already shown interest in building the LNG terminal at Gwadar and lay down the pipeline. The pipeline will require \$1 billion and over \$2 billion will be needed to construct the terminal with LNG handling and re-gasification facilities and to erect large LNG storages facilities.

"This will be the second LNG terminal as the first fast track terminal is being constructed by Engro's ETPL (Elengy Terminal Pakistan Limited) at Port Qasim, which is scheduled to be completed by March 31, 2015 but we are hoping that the terminal will be completed by December this year," the minister said.

Mentioning the LNG project at Gwadar, the minister said, whenever the US sanctions now imposed on Iran are lifted, this Nawabshah-Gwadar pipeline will be extended backwards from Gwadar to MP 250, a point at Pak-Iran border for the import of Iranian gas. Its capacity will be increased to one billion cubic feet of gas per day.

The Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline will have the same specifications with diameter of 42 inches that is proposed for the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline. According to officials, since Pakistan is unable to lay down the 781-kilometre-long pipeline from the Iran border to Nawabshah because of Pakistan's inability to arrange foreign funding, it has been decided to lay down the pipeline from Gwadar to Nawabshah under the G2G arrangement with China that will transport at least 500 mmcf/d after re-gasification of imported LNG.

To a question, the official said that LNG terminal to be constructed at the Gwadar Port will have handling capacity of 690 mmcf/d and in addition, large LNG storage depots at Gwadar will also be constructed from where after re-gasification, gas will be transported to Nawabshah to be injected into the national gas network.

All Day

China asks Pakistan to submit details of all development projects -- APP

ISLAMABAD: Secretary of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms, Hassan Nawaz Tarar on Monday said that China has asked the Government of Pakistan to submit details of all the development projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Support Project.

This was told by the secretary in a meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Reform which met under the Chairmanship of MNA Abdul Majeed Khan Khanan Khail.

The session was attended by its members and officials of the ministry.

The secretary told committee members that the National Development and Reforms Commission of China (NDRC) has decided to start work on the development projects as soon as possible.

He said that the purpose of the MoU between China and Pakistan, regarding the China-Pakistan economic corridor, was to increase trade links between the two countries through a network of rail, fiber, optic cables and energy pipelines.

"Pakistan is interested in enhancing foreign investment in the country.

"The government also wants to overcome the current energy crisis, while the Chinese government requires access to Gwadar port," said the secretary.

Tarar also said that the federal government will not borrow loans from China on behalf of the provinces.

"It will be the responsibility of the provinces to get loans from China for their development projects," he said.

"The government will not take a loan from China for the power projects," the secretary said.

Tarar also informed the committee that the ministry also forwarded a summary regarding the census to the CCI for approval.

He said that it has been pending for the past year due to the concerns of Balochistan Chief Minister Abdul Malik Baloch.

All Day

China's Xi to visit India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka soon -- South Asian Media

Officials say that Xi's visit could be some time next month as dates are being worked out in coordination with the three countries

Chinese President Xi Jinping plans to visit India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in the coming weeks and his programme is being coordinated with the governments of the three countries.

While Chinese officials maintain that dates are being finalised, Pakistan daily Dawn today reported that Xi will be visiting the country later this month to lay foundation stone for some mega projects.

However officials say that it could be some time next month as dates are being worked out in coordination with the three countries.

It may be that Xi will travel to Pakistan, go to India and later Sri Lanka, according to indications.

In the recent past, Chinese leaders, including Premier Li Keqiang last year visited India first before travelling to Pakistan, a close ally of China.

This will be Xi's first visit to the subcontinent after taking over as president.

Li visited New Delhi last year making it his first destination abroad after taking over office to show the importance the new Chinese leadership attached to ties with India.

Xi's visit to New Delhi figured prominently in the Chinese President's first meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the BRICS summit in Brazil last month.

Xi will be the first Chinese President to visit Sri Lanka, which in recent years has become a significant ally for Beijing in the Indian Ocean region specially in the backdrop of China's plans to build a 'Maritime Silk Road' for which it has also invited India to take part.

The Dawn report quoted Foreign Ministry officials as saying that during his visit to Pakistan, Xi would lay the foundation stone of the Lahore-Karachi motorway section and a couple of power generation projects.

During Xi's visit officials of the two countries would also give final touches to the proposed Pakistan-China railway link.

The countries are finalising plans to build an Economic Corridor between China's Xinjiang and Pakistan's Gwadar Port which is being developed by Chinese firms.

China has announced USD 32 billion to be invested in next seven years in various Pakistani projects for infrastructure building and power, the Dawn said.

All Day

Pakistan to lay down gas pipeline from Gwadar to Nawabshah -- The News

Abbasi told The News in an exclusive interview that there are international sanctions on import of natural gas from Iran. He cited as a recent example the fine of about \$9 billion imposed on the largest French bank, BNP Paribas, because of its financing transactions with Iran and other countries in violation of the U.S.-imposed sanctions.

However, he added, his government is working to find ways to revive the IP pipeline project. The minister expressed keenness of his government about resolution of the energy crisis in the country at the earliest.

Asked whether the IP project, which is yet to be launched and is bound to miss the deadline of December 2014, is really on track, Abbasi said Pakistan is committed to the IP project. "We need the gas and we want the gas," he added.

Despite the eagerness expressed by successive Pakistani governments for the project, no government has been able to move ahead on it. Pakistan faces a daily shortage of about two billion cubic feet of natural gas.

The medium-term solution to this problem is import of gas through pipelines or in the form of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Although the outgoing PPP government held ground-breaking ceremony of the IP project in early 2013, no tangible development has taken place related to work on this important project.

The IP gas pipeline project has been conceived to import 750 mmcf (million metric cubic feet per day) gas from Iran's South Pars gas field over the Pakistan-Iran border. The project is being implemented on a segmented approach under which each of the two countries is responsible for the construction of the pipeline in its territory.

Iran, which has the world's second-largest known gas reserve, has already completed most of the work on the pipeline. The exact deadline for the completion of the project is December 31.

Besides reducing the increasing supply-demand gap, imported natural gas is the cheapest and most suitable fuel for power generation. The imported gas will help in reduction of power outages in the country. Moreover, it will lead to avoidance of costly thermal generation through diesel and furnace oil.

Meanwhile, a senior official of the Federal Ministry of Petroleum expressed caution at reports Pakistan will receive exemption over the delay in its execution of the project. The official, who asked not to be named, said the petroleum ministry made no such statement, calling it an unsubstantiated report. The confidentiality needed in commercial contracts needs to be maintained, he added.

Islamabad correspondent adds: Iran was told that Pakistan was going to initiate the laying down of 711 kilometers of pipeline from Gwadar to Nawabshah as a part of the LNG import project and whenever the U.S. sanctions on Iran were lifted, the pipeline would be extended by 70 kilometers to Iranian border, said the petroleum minister.

"Whenever the U.S. sanctions are lifted, this Nawabshah-Gwadar pipeline will be extended backwards from Gwadar to MP 250, a point at Pak-Iran border for the import of Iranian gas."

Pakistan has already invoked the clauses pertaining to force majeure and excusing event written in the agreement in view of the U.S. sanctions that have factually impeded Pakistan from initiating the laying down of the pipeline.

This invocation is to avert the penalty of \$2 million per day from January 1, 2015 to be imposed by Iran in case of Pakistan's failure to lay down by December 31, 2014, the 781 km pipeline from Iranian border to Nawabshah under the gas sales

purchase agreement signed between the two countries,

Abbasi told this scribe that his ministry was going to table in the meeting of the economic coordination committee the summary of LNG project at Gwadar along with a pipeline to be laid down to Nawabshah for approval.

The minister said the secretary petroleum and natural resources is to visit Iran some time in this month to sensitize the authorities in Iran that Pakistan is serious on IP project, but it does not initiate the project because of the economic sanctions on Iran.

The minister said the LNG and IP projects will be initiated through the tender process or under the government-to-government arrangement with the help of China.

Companies from China, Japan and Russia have shown interest to build the LNG terminal at Gwadar port and lay down the pipeline, he said. After the ECC approval, "We will try to get this project included in the list of early harvest projects to be pitched before China for funding and completion of the project."

The pipeline will require \$1 billion and over \$2 billion be needed to construct the terminal with LNG handling and re-gasification facilities and to erect large LNG storages facilities.

"This will be the second LNG terminal as the first fast track terminal is being constructed by Engro's ETPL (Elengy Terminal Pakistan Limited) at Port Qasim, which is scheduled to be completed by March 31, 2015) but we are hoping that the terminal will be completed by December this year," the minister said.

The Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline will have the same specifications with a diameter of 42 inches proposed for the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline. According to officials, it has been decided to lay down the pipeline from Gwadar to Nawabshah under the G2G arrangement with China that will transport at least 500 mmcf/d after re-gasification of imported LNG.

This pipeline will be connected with Iranian border and import 1 billion cubic feet gas per day. This means that the capacity of pipeline to transport the gas will be at 1.5 billion cubic feet gas per day. The official said that LNG terminal to be constructed at the Gwadar Port will have handling capacity of 690 mmcf/d.

All Day

China agree to finance two coal projects in Pakistan -- Gulf Today

Official sources said that China has agreed to finance two coal projects in Pakistan's desert region of Thar in order to minimise the lingering power crisis in the country.

An official source said that "Financing will be arranged through a mix of local and foreign finance - primarily from China and the equity requirement for both the projects has been completed."

Thar projects included under the Pak-China economic corridor priority projects list and both mining and power projects have been categorised as Early Harvest Projects.

With two projects, Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company will setup 6.5 million tonne per Capacity Mine (to support 1200MW) with estimated cost of USD 1 billion.

For the second project, Thar Power Company will construct 2x300MW sub-critical mine mouth power plant which is scalable to 5,000MW with an estimated cost of USD 900 million.

According to a presentation made at the energy conference in Woodrow Wilson Centre, Washington DC last month, Pakistan would provide sovereign guarantee of USD 700 million for the Mining Project.

In order to give economic rationale of Thar coal projects, it was stated that 44% of Pakistan's current energy supply is imported since the annual oil import bill stands at an unsustainable level of around USD 15 billion. Coal conversion can reduce the import bill significantly.

Tariff after coal conversion is estimated to reduce to USD 10 per KWh from the current RFO based tariff of USD 19 per KWh to USD 22 per LWh. The approach is to install new boilers on imported coal and retrofit the remaining plant as required, enhancing plant life in-line with extended PPA term. MoUs have been signed by four RFO based Independent Power Projects (IPPs) with the government of Pakistan for coal conversion.

All Day

Pak-China Economic Corridor to open avenues of cooperation in agriculture sector: first CAC Pakistan Summit opens -- Business Recorder

Pak-China Economic Corridor will open up new avenues of co-operation in agriculture sector as it would also pave the way for transfer of technology pertaining to agro-chemicals, pesticides, fertilisers and seeds. This was upshot of speeches delivered at the opening ceremony of 1st CAC Pakistan Summit jointly organised by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and CCPIT Sub-Council for Chemical Industry with the support of Punjab government here on Tuesday.

Provincial Minister for Agriculture Dr Furrakh Javaid, LCCI President Engineer Sohail Lashari, Vice-Chairman CCPIT Sub-Council for Chemical Industry Ma Chunyan, LCCI Senior Vice President Mian Tariq Misbah, Vice President Kashif Anwar, Chairman Standing Committees Sheikh Muhammad Arshad and Jawaid Saleem Qureshi were the main speakers.

There was consensus among the speakers that 'Pak-China Hybrid Wheat Industrialization Co-operation Agreement' would greatly help develop Pakistan's agriculture sector through new varieties of seeds. Speaking on the occasion, Provincial Minister for Agriculture Dr Furrakh Javaid said the CAC Summit and Exhibition is a unique opportunity for our agriculturists as it would enable them to learn about Chinese expertise in the agriculture sector. He said Chinese co-operation in all fields of the economy is matchless.

The Minister said the Punjab government is striving to educate the farming community as the research in agricultural field would remain useless if it does not reach the farmers. He said Punjab government is taking every possible step to strengthen agriculture sector that is evident from the fact that it has given flat rate of Rs 10.35 per unit for the tube wells. He also expressed the resolve that a subsidy of Rs 14 billion for the agriculture sector would be disbursed after consultation with stakeholders so that the benefit could reach the quarters concerned.

Vice Chairman CCPIT Sub-Council for Chemical Industry Ma Chunyan said that trade of pesticide has an important role in the total two-way business of \$12 billion. She said in 2013, pesticides amounting to \$172 million were imported from China while import of fertilizer remained at \$309 million.

Ma Chunyan said China is the largest exporter of pesticides chemicals as it exported 300 million types of pesticides in the year 2013. She said 2,400 Chinese enterprises are directly linked to this sector. She said the Chinese co-operation with Pakistani agriculturists would write new success stories in coming years. She said the CAC Exhibition has in its fold chemical, machinery, seeds, pesticides and fertilisers, etc. She also thanked the Chief Minister Punjab Mian Shahbaz Sharif and LCCI President Engineer Sohail Lashari for extending unmatched support for the successful happening of this mega event.

The LCCI President Engineer Sohail Lashari in his address stressed the need for Public Private Dialogue as a pre-requisite to revolutionise the agriculture sector that holds the key to progress and prosperity. He said it is the only area where a little attention could do miracles as it does not need that amount of electricity required to run the industrial wheel. He said Pakistan is the only country of the South Asia to have CAC exhibition that would certainly strengthen the country's agriculture sector.

He also called for construction of water reservoirs as shortage of water may pose a serious threat to the agriculture sector in coming years. "This is white oil but, unfortunately, we are more focused on black oil instead of taking care of our future generations that are likely to suffer because of water shortage," he said.

Chairman Standing Committee on Agriculture Jawaid Saleem Qureshi urged the government to form task force to deal with the regulatory and marketing issues of the agriculture sector. He said Punjab's agriculture sector could generate extra revenue of over Rs 100 billion if agro-input prices are controlled. He said the subsidy allocated for the agriculture sector could be utilised to provide cheaper fertilisers and pesticides to the farmer by paying GST to the government. Elaborating the point, he said if the government pays the GST on pesticides and fertilisers through the subsidy it would enable the farmers to have cheaper inputs.

All Day

10,400 megawatts projects: Beijing to make required funding -- BR

Pakistan and China have signed an agreement according to which Beijing will fund 14 hydel and thermal power projects of 10,400 MW in Pakistan on first priority list. Pakistani delegation led by Secretary Water and Power Nargis Sethi comprised senior officials from the Ministry, Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB), Economic Affairs Division (EAD) and Planning Division. The team held detailed negotiations with the Chinese government and finalised an agreement which will later be submitted to the federal cabinet for approval.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has congratulated his energy and economic team on obtaining approval of the Chinese government for putting the following 14 power projects, which would generate 10,400 MW of electricity, on first priority list: (i) Port Qasim (coal fired) 1320 MW; (ii) Sukki Kanari (hydropower) 870 MW; (iii) Sahiwal (coal fired) 1320 MW; (iv) Engro Thar (coal fired- mining of block 2) 660 MW; (v) Muzafargarh (coal fired) 1320 MW; (vi) Gwadar (coal fired) 300 MW; (vii) Quaid-e-Azam solar park (Cholistan) 1000 MW; (viii) United Energy (wind power, Karachi) 100 MW; (ix) Dawood (wind power, Karachi) 50 MW; (x) Sachal (wind power) 50 MW; (xi) Sunnec (wind power) 50 MW; (xii) Rahimyar Khan (coal fired) 1320 MW; (xiii) SSRL Thar (coal fired) 1320 MW; and (xiv) Karot (hydropower) 720 MW. These projects would commence immediately and be in operation by the year 2017-2018. In addition, there are few other power generation projects totalling 6445 MW which would be completed in the second phase on a fast track basis.

The Prime Minister said that this gesture of the Chinese government manifests the deep cordial relations the country has with Pakistan as well as showing the confidence of the international community in the policies of the government. The Prime Minister was pleased to note that the MoUs that Pakistan had signed with China in the recent past are now being translated into on-ground projects. He expressed the confidence that this massive addition to the power sector of the country would prove immensely beneficial in overcoming electricity shortages. He said this is part of the government's energy roadmap which aims at ensuring provision of cost effective electricity to the masses. He said these are the fruits of democracy which have started to reach the people.

He said the government's desire and focus is on removing unemployment, eliminating power shortage and bringing economic prosperity and "we will stay the course". When contacted a spokesman for Water and Power said that as and when the team reaches Islamabad, a detailed briefing will be given to media.

All Day

Korea offers assistance to build new shipyards at Karachi, Gwadar -- APP
ISLAMABAD – While showing keen interest in second shipyard being built in Pakistan, Korea has offered assistance to build the new shipyards at Karachi and Gwadar.

This offer was made to the Minister for Defence Production Rana Tanvir Hussain during his visit to Korea. The minister, who is visiting on invitation of Minister for Defence of Korea Gen (retired) Kim Tae Young, was received warmly by Korean authorities.

Pakistan has appreciated their desire and has asked the Korean authorities to look into it favourably. Besides, Korea showed interest in the ammunition, shipping and aircraft industries and offered further avenues of collaboration.

During the visit, Korean Defence Minister held key meeting with Rana Tanvir Hussain in which he thanked Pakistan for always standing by Korea since 1950's, when it was faced with the wars. Korea, he said is ready to cooperate with Pakistan in all the fields of defence production.

He commended the recent stride in the defence industry of Pakistan and expressed hope for larger and greater avenues of joint collaboration. Pakistani delegation also appraised the Korean authorities of the new B-7 level APCs being indigenously built in Pakistan.

"We have by the Grace of Allah Almighty been able to develop one of the best B-7 Protection Vehicle" the minister said. He also said that the strides in communication systems by Pakistan is significant, however if Korea and Pakistan can further collaborate, it will emerge as one of the best Radio Telecom System.

The minister then held meetings with the Services Chiefs in Korea, Vice Defence Minister Korea, Lee Young Geol. A dinner in honour of the minister was hosted by Korean defence minister which he graciously accepted.

The visit is termed as most successful by Korean and Pakistani authorities. Pakistani delegation consisted Additional Secretary, Maj Gen Raza Muhammad, and Joint Secretary Air Commodore Farrukh Bashir Defence Attache in Korea from the Ministry of Defence Production.

All Day

China working to dominate sea routes as US loses interest -- The Gulf's news

China working to dominate sea routes as US loses interest

The oceans will be the world's 21st century battlefields as new and old economic powers will struggle to dominate the maritime trade routes along which 90 per cent of global trade moves, and use their navies to deliver power to where they seek to achieve political or military gain. They also have an eye on the minerals and other treasures under the seas that cover two thirds of the globe.

China has a clear understanding that it needs to control the seas and it has been working to a global blue water strategy for decades. For the rest, it is concerned that the US does not have a similar consensus over its national strategy and is simply trying to stretch out its Cold War navy into an uncertain future.

Former Defence Secretary Robert Gates' excellent book *Duty* is very revealing about the short-term thinking Washington. His memoir is full of references to budget cuts and fighting Congressional special interests, and he does not speak of any decades-long duty to preserve freedom on the ocean routes.

The Chinese deep water strategy is defined most recently in the 2013 defence white paper that points to a more strategic focus on maritime development, according to the East West Centre. For the first time both the Communist Party Congress and National People's Congress agreed that "safeguarding maritime rights and interests" and "protecting overseas interests" were significant goals for the People's Liberation Army.

And this has been in the making for a long time. Liu Huaqing commanded the Chinese Navy from 1982 to 1988 when he defined a very clear three-stage strategy that was described in the 2006 classic *China's Rising Sea Power* by Peter Howarth. The first stage was for China to be capable of controlling what the Chinese call "the first chain of islands" close to their shores by 2000, and then the "second chain of islands" by 2020, which would take them to the famous Nine-Dash Line that defines China's claim to all of the South China Sea right up to its worried neighbour's shorelines. The third phase was to create a blue-water navy capable of exercising global influence by 2050.

Today's naval dramas

Today's naval dramas in the South China Sea are the outcome of the second phase of Huaqing's decades-old plan to control the "second chain of islands" as China scuffles with its neighbours including the Philippines, Vietnam, South Korea, Japan, and even far away Malaysia.

Only this week the Philippines protested about recent Chinese "sovereignty patrols" after two Chinese survey vessels were spotted near Reed Bank, an oil-rich area 144km from the nearest Philippine coast.

And from May to August this year the China National Offshore Oil Corporation anchored a large oil rig about 120 nautical miles (222km) east of Vietnam's Ly Son Island and 180 nautical miles from China's Hainan Island, apparently reinforcing China's claim that it owns the nearby Paracel Islands.

But is not just China that is looking anxiously to the sea. More than half the world's annual merchant fleet tonnage passes through the choke points of the four Straights of Malacca, Sunda, Lombok and Makassar. Two thirds of South Korea's energy supplies, 60 per cent of Taiwan and Japan's energy and 80 per cent of China's crude imports all go through the South China Sea, according to Robert Kaplan writing in his new book *Asia's Cauldron*.

And that is why what happening in the South China Sea is so important to the Gulf states. They have lost most of their long-term customers in Europe and the Americas, and they are forging new relationships in the Far East with China, South Korea and Japan.

All these states are well aware of the vital importance of Gulf hydrocarbons to their economic survival, but while Japan and South Korea are relying on their ally the US to continue to keep the seas open, China is making its own arrangements.

China has very little interest in the politics of the Gulf and avoids making any political interest in its trading partners affairs, but it does want to buy and transport as much oil and gas as it can from the Gulf.

Indian Ocean ports

This is why China has built four ports in the Indian Ocean, which it either controls or has long-term rights: in Chahbahar in Iran which is Iran's only port outside the Gulf

with access to the Arabian Sea, and Gwadar in Pakistan, both of which have land routes running through Iran to Afghanistan, making them potentially the end of an overland trade route from China.

China has also built a substantial port on Ramree Island in Myanmar where a large oil terminal meets oil and gas pipelines running up into China. The fourth Chinese port in the Indian Ocean is their half of Hambantota in Sri Lanka which was opened in 2010.

This means that China does not have to rely on the weakening American will to police the maritime trade routes, and by Huaqing's 2050 target China could potentially enforce its own preferences on how goods should move through the South China Sea.

This would be a serious danger to Japan and Korea and their Gulf suppliers, who need to prepare to counter this threat, even if the Americans are not there to help.

All Day

Gwadar port has bright future, says Chinese envoy -- Dawn

GWADAR: The Chinese Consul General in Karachi, Ma Yaou, has said that his country is playing an important role in the development of the Gwadar port and making it fully functional is part of its efforts.

Speaking at a function at which three buses donated by the China Overseas Port Holding Company were handed over to the education department for local schools, he said Beijing would utilise all available resources for making Gwadar port the best port in the region. He said the Chinese company had determined its priorities for the welfare of local people, especially in the education and health sectors.

He said the proposed 'economic corridor' from Gwadar to Kashgar in China would bring economic revolution in the region.

"The Gwadar port has a very bright future and after completion and becoming functional it will emerge as a major economic hub in the region."

The company has also given a grant to the district hospital and government boys and girls schools in Gwadar.

Gwadar Port Authority's Chairman Dostain Khan Jamaldini said the town's distance from China through the corridor would be 1,635km.

He said the authority had prepared a comprehensive plan to ensure that local people benefitted from the port. "The Gwadar Port Authority will implement welfare plans, including health and education projects, with funds to be provided by the China Overseas Port Holding Company."

He said welfare of local fishermen would not be ignored and steps would be taken to promote the fisheries industry with which a majority of the population of the area was associated.

The chairman of the Chinese company handed over the buses to Education Secretary Ghulam Ali Baloch.

The Chinese consul general also visited the port, civic centre, the Gwadar Development Authority Hospital and the district hospital.

All Day

China: her development will definitely benefit Pakistan -- Daily Times

China: her development will definitely benefit Pakistan

Since the reform and opening-up was initiated in 1978, China has made remarkable achievements in development. As the former President of the World Bank, Mr. Robert Zoellick comments, "China's economic performance is a unique development success story. Not only did the economic growth soar with the annual rate of 10%, but hundreds of millions of people were lifted out of poverty. China has become the second-largest economy in the world and shifted to a middle-income country from a low one". Last year, China contributed to nearly 30% of the global economic growth. Our prosperity is certainly a boon to the world.

At present, China's economy is generally stable, with steady progress of structural adjustment. In the first half of this year, China's GDP growth rate has reached 7.4%, a little lower than that of 1980s and 1990s. However it is still hard to earn. In the backdrop of slow recovery and weak growth of the global economy, China's growth rate is relatively high. It is really remarkable to win such achievements.

China's economy can be regarded as a blue chip, a rising and potential stock, with a big economy, large foreign exchange reserves and broad market. In particular, the population in the central, western and northeastern regions accounts for over 60% of the national total and per capita GDP has just exceeded 5000 US dollars. To narrow the gap between urban and rural areas and among different regions will unleash huge potential of growth. No longer in pursuit of soaring growth rate and with more attention on quality and efficiency, China will enter into a new stage of upgrade. As an analogy, compared to a 9 or 10 year-old kid, a young man of 19 or 20 years old will not care much about his growth of height, but the academic performances, which, to China's economy, means quality, innovation and efficiency. Enterprise is like a basic cell, whose prosperity influences the whole economy. China encourages enterprises to strengthen independent innovation, enhance competitiveness and get better profits. We seek not only expansion but strength of the industrial economy; not only "Made in China", but "Created in China"; not only reasonable price but good quality.

With such achievements, we have to examine and improve ourselves. Although China's economy as a whole ranks second, its per capita GDP is only 6800 US dollars, ranking after 80 in the world. There are 200 million people living under the poverty level. China is still a developing country over long period of time. The risks and challenges like downward economic pressure and uneven development cannot be ignored.

But in the long run, there are conditions in place for China's economy to achieve sustained sound growth and embrace bright prospects. We have found a development path in line with China's national conditions, which we will unswervingly follow. We properly handle the relationship among and between reform, development and stability. Stability is the prerequisite. Without it, nothing can be accomplished or achieved. Reform is the driving force and guarantee of social development and progress. Development is the ultimate objective and end-result.

Today, China's development, with a strong tenacity, is based on increasing employment, focus on balanced development, stress on improving people's livelihood and promote social progress. We are able and also confident to keep the economy running in a reasonable range with high quality and efficiency, in order to realize the "China Dream", which means, to achieve national prosperity, revitalization and people's happiness.

What does a peaceful and progressive China mean to Pakistan? I think it means more opportunities for development, strong mutual support and expanding common interests. Pakistan is bound to benefit from China's development. The China-Pakistan relationship will also be consolidated, enhanced and upgraded in the course of China's development.

Both China and Pakistan are developing countries, shouldering the shared task of development. As a close and friendly neighbor, we expect a Pakistan that lives up to its full potential, a Pakistan that is stable, strong and prosperous, a Pakistan realizing its own vision and dreams.

Linked by the ancient Silk Road, China and Pakistan has a long history of friendly exchanges. China-Pakistan relationship, over the changing times and international

politics sets a good example for state-to-state relations. Over the past year, it has made much new progress:

First are the mutual exchanges in political area. Leaders of our two nations have frequently and successfully exchanged visits in recent years. These high-level exchanges have injected impetus for China-Pakistan strategic cooperation. We will maintain high-level exchanges, and improve existing dialogue and cooperation mechanism. We will firmly support each other's core interests and concerns, further enhancing political cooperation and mutual trust.

Second are mutual benefit and win-win results in economy. The Bilateral trade volume has reached 7.3 billion US dollars from January to June in 2014, with growth rate of 9.97%. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor goes well with substantive results. Currently, we are actively promoting construction and operation of Gwadar Port, starting to construct RuYi-Masood Textile Industrial Park in Faisalabad and lots of power plants like Thermal Power Plant in Port Qasim and Solar Power in Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park in Bahawalpur. Some other projects are being implemented or soon to be implemented in other parts of Pakistan. These have made significant contributions to the enhancement of local economies and people's livelihood. Chinese government will continue to encourage Chinese enterprises to invest in Pakistan, support Pakistan's economic and promote social development. Third is sharing weal and woe in security. China supports Pakistan to formulate and implement counter-terrorism strategy based on its own national conditions and for the efforts to maintain the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We should advocate common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security in Asia, strengthen security cooperation, and jointly fight against terrorism forces for regional peace and stability. With the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, more and more Chinese citizens have come to live and work in Pakistan. We appreciate Pakistan's efforts to provide a good environment for cooperation and security.

Fourth is the close exchange in culture. This year, an Art troupe from Kashgar has made a fabulous cultural show, arousing strong applause in Pakistan. Chinese delegation of calligraphers and artists successful visited Pakistan and held an art exhibition of more than 100 paintings from 48 well-known Chinese painters. After Islamabad and Karachi, the third Confucius Institute is being built in Faisalabad. Another 117 students with Chinese government scholarships has gone to China as exchange students. We should further expand friendly exchanges, inherit and carry forward the traditional friendship between the two countries.

Fifth is strengthening regional and international cooperation. China and Pakistan play important roles in maintaining peace and justice in the region and the world. We work together to promote Afghanistan reconciliation process, and achieve peace, stability and development at an early date. China supports Pakistan playing a greater constructive role in regional and international affairs. We would like to work with Pakistan to safeguard peace, stability, development and prosperity in the world.

I do believe that with our joint efforts, the China-Pakistan relationship will maintain the strong momentum of growth and embrace a much brighter future in the coming years.

The writer is the ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

All Day

CM Sharif in China to discuss Economic Corridor -- SAMA

BEIJING: Chief Minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif on Tuesday arrived in Beijing to attend a meeting of Pakistan-China Joint Coordination Committee, SAMAA reported.

The CM, who is leading 11-member delegation, will finalize agreements on different development projects.

The joint coordination body will approve several projects in energy and infrastructure sectors, besides reviewing progress on Pak-China Economic Corridor, officials said.

According to sources, a final working report would also be prepared on construction of mega power projects in Pakistan with China's coordination. The body will also

review possibilities of construction of more power projects based on coal, wind and solar energy.

The delegation also comprises Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Ahsan Iqbal, Chief Minister Balochistan Abdul Malik, Federal Secretary Water and Power Nargis Sethi, Senior Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and other high officials.

All Day

‘China to help Pakistan complete uplift projects’ -- Daily Times

BEIJING: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has already announced Vision 2025 for rapid development of Pakistan adding that he is visualising completion of this vision with the cooperation of China within the stipulated time.

He expressed these views at the third session of Pak-China Joint Working Group held in Beijing on Wednesday to review progress on the proposed mega development project in Pakistan.

Ahsan Iqbal led Pakistani side while Chinese Vice President for Reforms Commission for National Development Xu Shaoshi represented his country.

In his remarks, Ahsan Iqbal said that Pakistan wants to finalise financial aspects of Pak-China corridor by the end of this year so that physical work on the project could be launched.

He said Pakistan appreciates Chinese assistance for economic development and hope that the forthcoming visit of Chinese President to Islamabad will help expedite pace of our economic progress. He said the government is paying special attention on the completion of mega projects in energy, transport and infrastructure development sectors. He expressed the confidence that Pakistan will be able to complete these mega projects up to 2018. In his remarks, Chinese Vice President Xu Shaoshi said his country wants to expedite development process in the region in collaboration with Pakistan. He said China would continue to work with Pakistan for completion of its development projects.

He said the Chinese government and private electric companies will continue to work for enhancing power generation in Pakistan to mitigate energy crisis. He said China wants to ensure sustainable progress on all mega development projects in Pakistan in the coming years.

All Day

Chinese president to visit Pakistan -- Dawn

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China are in regular contacts to firm up dates for Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Islamabad next month to witness the signing of about 14 investment agreements of over \$10 billion.

In Islamabad, Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong met Finance Minister Ishaq Dar to discuss economic cooperation, says an official statement.

"We are happy to see Pakistan-China Economic Corridor moving ahead smoothly," the statement quoted the ambassador.

Also read: China asks Pakistan to submit details of all development projects

He said the ongoing third round of the Pakistan-China Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) was in progress in Beijing and large projects in energy and infrastructure sectors would be taken up with the help of the Chinese government. He said China would continue to take the relations to higher levels. He praised Pakistan's support for the Asia Infrastructure Development Bank by becoming one of its founding members.

In Beijing, meanwhile, a JCC meeting also discussed agreements to be signed during the Chinese president's visit. Under the agreements, China would provide financial assistance for 14 energy projects and four major infrastructure projects, including Karakoram Highway Phase-II, development of Gwadar Port and Lahore-Karachi Motorway.

The Pakistani delegation to Beijing includes Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Balochistan Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch, Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal and federal secretaries.

Mr Shahbaz Sharif said President Xi's visit would be of "extraordinary importance".

He said during the visit the Chinese president would inspect the ongoing power and infrastructure projects and lay the foundation of new projects.

He said contractors for the Orange Line Metro Train project in Karachi would be

selected soon.

Mr Ahsan Iqbal said the construction of Khunjerab-Gwadar Motorway would result in wide-ranging economic cooperation in the region.

Dr Abdul Malik Baloch said that the process of acquisition of land for Gwadar Port had been completed. He said the law and order situation had improved over the past year and Balochistan would soon see a new era of progress and development.

APP adds: In Beijing, the Pakistani and Chinese officials reached a consensus to complete several short-term energy- and transport-related projects by 2017.

The consensus arrived at a meeting of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

According to a statement of the Pakistan embassy in China, the meeting was co-chaired by Hu Zucai, Vice Chairman National Development and Reform Commission of China, and Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal.

Mr Iqbal said a consensus had been reached on several power projects, adding that under the agreement 9,000 megawatts of electricity would be made available in the country by 2017-18.

He said Chinese companies would construct the Karachi-Lahore Motorway and the Multan-Sukkur section of the motorway on built, operate and transfer basis.

At Gwadar, he said, a modern airport would be built and a hospital and training facility and industrial parks would be set up.

August 30, 2014

Sat

All Day

A case study of Gwadar -- The Nations

LAHORE (PR) - A public defence of a PhD thesis titled, "Role of Maritime Strategy in National Security: A Case Study of Gwadar" was held at National Defence University, Islamabad. Cdr (r) Azhar Ahmad highlighted the importance of his research and convinced the audience about the need of paying more attention to the maritime sector.

He stressed the fact that nations which neglected their maritime sector often remained at the mercy of others. For a country like Pakistan with such a vast coast and geo-strategic location, it is imperative to have a vibrant and effective maritime strategy, to benefit from its maritime potential, he added.

"Pakistan needs to revamp its maritime sector and Gwadar is just the right catalyst to provide the foundation as well as the stimulus," he added. The audience and the examiners lauded the efforts of the researcher and approved his work for award of a PhD degree.

NDU launched its PhD programme in 2009 and Dr Azhar Ahmad became the first graduate of the pioneer batch. Besides, he is also the first to have earned the coveted degree of PhD in the discipline of 'Peace and Conflict Studies' in Pakistan. He is currently working as a "Distinguished Researcher" with a Chinese think tank and a "Senior Research Fellow" with the Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad.

September 2, 2014

Tue

All Day

**Oman grants \$17.5m for new Gwadar International Airport -- Observer
Staff Reporter**

Tuesday, September 02, 2014 - Karachi—The development of New Gwadar International Airport, the part of Pak China Economic Corridor is being carried out by Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority in collaboration with China Communication and Construction Company for New Gwadar International Airport.

According to CAA, the Oman Government has decided to grant \$ 17.5 million for New Gwadar International Airport out of which \$ 2.85 million has already been released, which has been utilized for Watch Towers, Boundary Walls and 18 KMs long road. In this respect an amendment to MoU has been agreed already and inked between Air Marshal (Retd) Muhammad Yousaf, Director General Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority and Mr. Wang Xiaoping, CEO of M/s China Construction & Communication Company at CAA Headquarters in Karachi.

All Day

China plans to revive Silk Route via rail links -- Daily Times

BEIJING - China is negotiating with Pakistan, Mongolia, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan to build three connective railroads to revive the ancient Silk Route and improve regional trade on the economic belt, a pet project of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Huang Shengqiang, head of the China Port Management Office, said Beijing has already opened 25 international airports and land ports as well as 12 special trade areas along the economic belt within the country. It will continue to build regional freight stations and create more trading platforms with Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Nepal. Huang was quoted by the state-run China Daily as saying, "China is planning to build a maze of silk roads, including the Maritime Silk Road (MSR), the pet project of President Xi, for which India has been invited to take part."

China wants India's participation in the BCIM (Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar) corridor, one of the Silk Road plans which connect India and China through Myanmar and a number of ports in the Asian region. The final plans for these silk roads and the objectives were expected to be released in the next few months. On Pakistan front, China has unveiled an ambitious Pak-China economic corridor project connecting the two countries. The multi-billion dollar project aims to connect the two countries with rail, road, oil and gas pipelines besides optic fibre links.

"China will make every effort to advance major cooperation projects that have been signed with countries along the Silk Road Economic Belt to bring tangible results to local residents," Chinese Vice-Premier Wang Yang said yesterday at China-Eurasia Expo at Urumqi. "The economic belt, which comprises more than 50 countries and could benefit more than 3.8 billion people, requires countries to work together to develop trade and lay out goals one step at a time," he said.

All Day

Gwadar Port will serve big ships for 50 years: CHEC -- The News

BEIJING: Shi Yingtao, Vice President China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) has said that Gwadar International Port will serve big ships for the next 50 years and will play a vital role in the regional trade and development.

Talking to Jang & The News at CHEC HQs in Beijing, the Vice President of CHEC which is doing major projects like Gwadar Port and Port Qasim in Pakistan stated that the Gwadar Port is being developed through Dredging and the 4,7 kms long channel has been dredged to 14 meter depth.

Gwadar Port is located at the apex of the Arabian Sea and at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, approximately 460 km west of Karachi.

Mr Yingtao stated that a 18.9 kms Eastbay Expressway will be built to help flow of goods from and to Gwadar Port which will also include a 4.3 kms bridge alongside the sea and it will be an engineering marvel. He told Jang and The News that the port is capable to load and unload biggest possible ships simultaneously.

The port berths length is over 700 meters and on requirement the berth length can be increased by two to three times.

The port is being built by CHEC in record time and Government of Pakistan has given the management control of Gwadar Port to China Overseas Ports Holding company.

Mr Yingtao said that CHEC is working on 32 projects and it also includes the Port Qasim project.

In another session with Jang and The News in Beijing, the Chief Economist of Chinese National Development Commission Mr Zhang Anyuan stated that Gwadar Port will be developed as a leading regional port. Mr Zhang said that an airport will be built at Gwadar and also a refinery will be built at Gwadar. A free zone and Export Processing Zone is also part of the Gwadar Port project.

Mr Zhang said that different vested interest groups were working against Chinese Pakistan Economic Corridor but it will be successfully built and economies of China and Pakistan will benefit from it.

All Day

China is planning to replicate the model of Shanghai Free Trade Zone (SFTZ) in Gwadar -- The Express Tribune

China is planning to replicate the model of Shanghai Free Trade Zone (SFTZ) in Gwadar, said Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Shah Faisal Afridi as he highlighted various investment projects on Tuesday.

The official said that China is also planning to invest \$50 billion into a number of projects including coal, solar and wind energy till 2017 under the Early Harvest Programme.

He added that these would enable Gwadar to create a nexus among Pakistan, Iran, China and Central Asian States that would ultimately generate billions of dollars in revenues along with several job opportunities.

"The SFTZ is a perfect model to be implemented at Gwadar. It was first used as a testing ground for a number of economic and social reforms in China and it proved very helpful in scaling up the country's economic growth," said Afridi.

The zone, he said, incorporated numerous relaxations in different sectors, under the FTZ's new capital registration system — foreign investors were no longer required to contribute 15% capital within three months and full capital within two years of the establishment of a foreign invested enterprise (FIE).

The 'one-stop application processing platform' was introduced at the zone, he said, which meant that applicants may obtain all the necessary documents for the company establishment under one roof.

The Chinese assistance in the development of this port is essential in positively impacting the country's economy.

All Day

China to invest \$50bn in development projects in Pakistan -- APP

ISLAMABAD: China intends to invest as many as \$50 billion by 2017 in various sectors of Pakistan's economy, particularly in energy sector to help the country overcome power crisis and help sustainable economic growth, President Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry Shah Faisal Afridi said.

"China has planned to replicate the model of Shanghai Free Trade Zone (SFTZ) by investing \$50 billion into a number of projects including coal, solar and wind energy till 2017 under Early Harvest Programme," Faisal said.

These projects would enable Gawadar to create a nexus between Pakistan, Iran, China and Central Asian States that would ultimately generate billions of dollars in revenues along with huge job opportunities in the region.

Afridi said that SFTZ is a perfect model to be implemented at Gwadar, asserting, the SFTZ was first used as a testing ground for a number of economic sectors.

The zone, he said, incorporated numerous relaxations in different sectors, under the FTZ's new capital registration system, foreign investors were no longer required to contribute 15 percent capital within three months and full capital within two years of the establishment of a foreign invested enterprise (FIE).

Meanwhile, official sources said that in addition to invest in power projects, China was also interested in already working in various projects of motorways and railways.

On energy front, Pakistan has been already working to generate about 10400 megawatt electricity with the help of Chinese investment and several projects were already underway to overcome energy crisis.

Beijing has designated three banks including Exim Bank that will provide loans to Chinese companies for investment in power, railway and transport sectors in Pakistan.

Federal government has given advertisements for investment in Gaddani power projects and a competitive bidding process will be initiated for upcoming power plants.

The successful bidders would have to show project feasibility reports to Chinese banks to qualify for the loans, sources said adding Pakistan government would not give any sovereign guarantees to Chinese investors who would install power plants in public-private partnership mode.

China was quite cognizant on the energy problems of Pakistan and that is why it has agreed to invest \$34 billion in the energy sector of the country, which is highest Chinese investment in any country.

The Chinese investment would include several projects in Sindh province including transmission of electricity from Thar to Jamshoro after setting up Mititari transmission line.

In addition imported coal would be utilized in power plants in coastal areas whereas local coal would be utilized for running power plants in Punjab province.

Sources said that vast coal reserves were available in Thar, however due to some quality issues coal would be imported for independent power producers.

For this purpose coal would be imported from South Africa, New Zealand and Indonesia.

All Day

The Chinese president has expressed his desire to visit Pakistan “as early as possible,” Foreign Office said -- Daily Times

As per the details, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz met the Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the SCO Summit at Dushanbe, Tajikistan on Friday. According to Pakistan's Foreign Office, President Xi conveyed his greetings to President Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. “He expressed good wishes and solidarity for the success of his government in its efforts for socio-economic development of Pakistan. President Xi said that he was looking forward to his visit to Pakistan as early as possible,” a statement from FO said.

The adviser said that the government and the people of Pakistan were very keen to welcome the President in Pakistan. His visit would further strengthen excellent bilateral relations. “President Xi terming Pak-China friendship as strategic and all weather, mentioned that these relations would remain insulated to changing time and situations and would strengthen with the passage of time.

All Day

**PAK-CHINA JOINT VENTURE IN AUTOMOBILE TO SET
EXPORT BASE -- APP**

PAK-CHINA JOINT VENTURE IN AUTOMOBILE TO SET EXPORT BASE

Friday, September 19, 2014 - Karachi—Leading Chinese group has expressed its interest to make Pakistan an export base country for automobiles under a joint venture with Pakistan in auto manufacturing. M/s. Zotye Holding Group is interested in having a joint venture with Pakistani firm M/s. Raja Group of Industries to make Pakistan the manufacturing base for export of Zotye vehicles to South East Asian markets.

This Chinese group is a modern automobile enterprise taking the R&D and Manufacturing of vehicle, new energy vehicle and key auto parts like engine, auto mould, transmission as its core business. In recent years, Zotye's every development and every breakthrough have got much care and kindness from different leaders at all levels. The Chinese state leaders such Xi Jinping, Zhang Dejiang, Yu Zhendgsheng had visited Zotye many times and given their affirmation and encouragement to Zotye's development.

Auto Sector is one of the emerging sectors in Pakistan exports and every effort is being taken by TDAP to promote the exports of Auto sector to the world. In pursuance of this objective Chief Executive, TDAP along with the departmental head of Engineering Division Mr. Athar Jamal Abro had detailed discussion with the said delegation members regarding various possibilities and support, which TDAP can offer. The CE, TDAP also assured the members about his personal commitment towards Auto Sector.

The business delegation comprising senior management from M/s. Zotye Holding Group led by Mr. Steven Xu, Assistant to President accompanied by Mr. Paul Liu, District Manager and Mr. Raja Tariq Rehman, Managing Director of M/s. Raja Motor Company Ltd met with Mr. S.M Muneer, Chief Executive, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan at TDAP-Head-Office, Karachi.

All Day

Only China can help Pakistan get out of economic, energy woes:

Analysts -- Dawn

ISLAMABAD - China, a trusted friend can help Pakistan to get out of its economic woes and energy crisis and it has already agreed to invest in Pakistan in different projects.

Realizing the importance of China, when Nawaz Sharif won elections in May 2013 and was poised to become the Prime Minister for an unprecedented third time, he met the visiting Chinese Premier Mr. Li-Keqiang in May 2013. This meeting laid the foundation of economic co-operation between the two countries, taking it to new heights.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif chose China for his first official visit after being sworn in to office which not only reflected his commitment to improve the economic conditions of the country but the role he envisaged China could play in achieving this goal. The present government has been holding in-depth talks with Chinese government since it came into power last year to strengthen and widen existing friendly relations between the two countries. The Chinese government committed to facilitate investment by Chinese companies in Pakistan and encourage Chinese companies by giving them comfort for their investments in Pakistan.

Today, China is one of the countries which not only has one of the largest foreign exchange reserves but has developed State of Art technology in various areas. Pakistan seeks both China's technology and investment to improve the life of its people. President of China, Mr Xi Jinping who was recently on a visit to India had to cancel his visit to Pakistan at the last moment, where he was due to sign contracts of 45.6 billion dollars, according to conservative estimates of government of Pakistan. These agreements envisaged an initial investment of 34 billion dollars.

The China Pak Economic Corridor Support Project (CPECSP) was approved by CDWP. Pakistan could have won many new deals upon arrival of Chinese President. According to the sources in the federal ministries of Pakistan many new agreements/MoUs between Pakistan and China in the fields of Energy, Infrastructure, Manufacturing, Railways, Communication, Information, Media, Culture etc. were ready to be signed. But still in the recent years Pakistan managed to attract a big chunk of Chinese foreign investment as a continuous process and many projects are under construction. Chinese government and Chinese private companies have already invested in different fields in Pakistan, especially in energy sector, road infrastructure and railways.

In the energy sector fourteen power projects including hydel, wind and coal projects with total investment of 15.5 billion dollars and a total production capacity of 10400 mega watts were likely to be signed during the visit and work on them was expected to start immediately. Besides, projects having total production capacity of 6120 mega watts are also contemplated to be installed with a total investment of 18.3billions dollars. These energy projects would meet the present and future needs of the country in increasing the growth rate and as well as stimulate economic activity which has been long held hostage due to deficiency of power in the country. China is also pouring its investment into alternate energy production. Bahawalpur solar park which is one of its own kind in South Asia and 100 MW Pakistan Wind energy project-II are under construction in this sector. This series of projects are expected to make the power sector strong contributory element in the National Development Scheme.

Projects for the construction of Lahore-Karachi Motorway and the Raikot-Islamabad section, necessary for the construction of Bhasha, another railway project for the expansion and reconstruction of existing line ML-1 having a length of 1736KMs and Havelian Dry port were also to be constructed with Chinese investment at the cost of US\$ 3.7billion. The Chinese had also agreed to invest in the establishment of economic zone, an optical fiber cable project and in the field of communications at the total cost of US\$ 1.64billion dollars.

All Day

Pakistan-China economic corridor conference at Intermodal Europe 2014

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Pakistan-China-economic-corridor-conference-at-Intermodal-Europe-2014

24 September 2014

As part of a Spotlight on Asia, the Pakistan-China economic corridor programme will be the focus of a conference session at Intermodal Europe 2014, which takes place from 11-13 November at the Rotterdam Ahoy.

Currently under development, the Pakistan-China (or Pak-China) Economic Corridor programme plans to connect Gwadar Port in southern Pakistan to China's north-western autonomous region of Xinjiang using highways, railways and pipelines to transport oil and gas.

The conference session, titled 'Developing the Pak-China Intermodal Economic Corridor to facilitate Sino-Europe Trade' will be presented by Mr. Aasim Siddiqui, Chairman of the All Pakistan Shipping Association (APSA), which is a stakeholder in the Pak-China Intermodal Economic Corridor programme.

"Pakistan is taking a new leap in the development of an intermodal network across the region with the strategic cooperation of China to develop the Pak-China Economic Corridor" explains Mr. Siddiqui. "It will also strengthen regional trade with South Asia, CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries and Western Europe."

During the conference session, Mr. Siddiqui will discuss the benefits that the economic corridor will offer, including an efficient and cost effective trade route between Europe and China, and highlight business opportunities, the trade facilitation programme and infrastructure development projects that will result. "Creating a new trade route can be a painstaking exercise and, as we are not cargo owners, Intermodal Europe 2014 provides us with a platform to share the plans with the businesses that will actually use the China-Pakistan economic corridor, and they can share their apprehensions and expectations," says Mr. Siddiqui. "It is a good opportunity to raise international awareness of the project, which is still in the development phase, and to get feedback from the right people."

The trading route will open new routes to create a direct link between Pakistan and China, reported to remove 6000 miles of unnecessary stops at Hong Kong, Singapore or the Middle East for example.

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All Day

Dar signs MoU for establishment of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank -- APP

Dar signs MoU for establishment of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Finance, Mohammad Ishaq Dar along with representatives of other countries that signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on establishment of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) had a meeting with Chinese President, Xi Jinping in Beijing.

According to a press statement issued by Finance Ministry here, President Xi Jinping on the occasion renewed his commitment to visit Pakistan and said he looked forward to undertaking the visit.

He felicitated Finance Minister Dar and representatives of other countries on signing the memorandum and said it reflected all the parties' aspiration, determination and action for unity and cooperation in pursuit of common development.

Xi said that he hoped all sides concerned would make concerted efforts to make the AIIB a financing platform of infrastructure construction featuring equality, inclusiveness and high efficiency, and multilateral development bank that meets the demand of all countries in the region.

Finance Minister, Ishaq Dar also congratulated the Chinese President on signing of the MoU on establishment of AIIB and added that government and people of Pakistan eagerly looked forward to his visit. The Minister said the AIIB would complement the efforts of the existing multilateral development banks, the statement added.

He said in Pakistan the need for developing new infrastructure is immense, adding they were happy that the bank would provide financing support for meeting infrastructure deficits in different Asian countries and help improve connectivity within the region. He also conveyed to the Chinese President and the people of China, the best wishes of the Pakistani leadership and people.

Meanwhile, Federal Minister of Finance, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Sunday met Chairman of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) Jiang Jianqing in Beijing and discussed investment opportunities for the bank in various sectors including infrastructure development of Gwadar.

According to a message received here from Beijing, Chairman Jiang Jianqing expressed his gratitude to the government of Pakistan for bestowing him with the Hilal-i-Quaid-i-Azam award.

He said that he was honoured and pledged support to strengthening Pak-China relationship.

Minister Ishaq Dar appreciated ICBC's continued support and expansion of its operations by opening up new bank branches in Pakistan.

He said that being the 6th largest in terms of population in the world, having sizeable middle class, a vibrant consumer market and owing to its geographic location, Pakistan was an ideal location for enterprises eyeing the regional market.

He said Pakistan ranked better in ease of doing business index among its neighbours. Together with a liberal investment regime and an enormous natural resource endowment, Pakistan offered promising prospects in assuring attractive investment returns in various sectors including energy, power, mining, agriculture and infrastructure, he added.

He hoped Industrial and Commercial Bank of China's partnering with enterprises in developing the potential would make it a mutually win-win situation for all parties.

Talking about the China Pakistan Economic Corridor he said both the countries had agreed to a profile of Early Harvest Projects. Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) could seize the investment opportunities thus available.

He pointed out that infrastructure development of Gwadar was one key area where the bank's cooperation could be useful. He said Pakistan's policy regime in the power sector was very rewarding. Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) may therefore consider supporting the Chinese entrepreneurs who are interested in installing power stations as IPPs under the rubric of agreed EHP of CPEC.

All Day

Chinese delegation visits Gwadar -- APP

GWADAR: A 20-member delegation from China comprising entrepreneurs, bankers, public representatives including the Mayor of Handan (Hebei Province) paid a 3-day visit to Gwadar.

The visit was jointly sponsored by Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) and Habib Bank Limited (HBL), which were working on a concept of development of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Gwadar. The said visit was in line with a series of policy initiatives under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and bilateral and multilateral understandings between different Chinese and Pakistani public-sector, as well as private sector companies and organisations.

While visiting Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) the delegation was welcomed by the Chairman GPA, Dostain Khan Jamaldini followed by a detailed presentation about the existing and future initiatives for promotion of sea-route economic activities through Gwadar Deep Sea Port vis-a-vis Gwadar Port Master Plan, enabling Gwadar for serving as a shortest route for Central Asia, South Asia and Middle East, especially linking vital silk route with China.

The chairman GPA called upon the Chinese delegation to make use of the facilities and special incentives including tax exemptions offered by the government of Pakistan and Balochistan government. He said the Sino-Pak relationship was spanning over six decades of time-tested, government-to-government and people-to-people interactions. He said the natural location of Gwadar Deep Sea Port makes it an ideal port for shipping activities due to its easy access and natural depth. He said the port was already being handled by a Chinese company, which testifies the commitment of the Chinese government for developing the area with the government of Pakistan.

In his keynote address the head of the delegation the Mayor of Handan (Hebei Province), Mr. Gao Heping eulogized the Sino-Pak relationship and said the Gwadar Port could play as a regional hub for inter-state trade activities.

All Day

China to actively support Pak in energy pipelines, railway -- APP

URUMQI - China was giving serious thought to its active participation in construction of Pakistan-China Railway and energy pipelines, senior official of the Chinese government Prof. Gao Jianlong said.

While speaking at media seminar held here on Thursday, he said that there has been rapid growth in Sino-Pak economic partnership in the recent years and hoped China's participation will be much more in socio-economic development of Pakistan in the coming years. The weeklong seminar, organised by the China's State Council Information office was being participated by journalists from nine neighbouring countries.

The government and the people of China, Jianlong said wish to see a strong and prosperous Pakistan. China, he said is prepared for construction of second line from Aksu to Kashgar and the railway from Ruoqiang to Hotan. He said that China was pushing forward its all-round partnership with its neighbouring countries including Pakistan.

About Xinjiang Autonomous Region's trade and economic ties with Pakistan, he said that it was going well and meeting the common needs of their people. He hoped that the construction of new Silk Road will give a big boost to China's relations with South Asia, Middle East and Central Asian Countries.

He also referred to Pak-China economic corridor project, and said that it would open avenues of bilateral cooperation between the countries in economic, cultural and social fields.

All Day

Immense potential in Pak-China cooperation: Sartaj -- Online

Islamabad- Advisor to the Prime Minister on the National Security and Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz, met the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing ahead of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process, to be hosted by China.

They discussed a wide range of bilateral economic and security issues.

The Adviser said that Pakistan and China bilateral cooperation had deepened over the years and as strategic partners, both countries had a common stake in regional cooperation, peace and stability.

Sartaj Aziz complimented China on hosting the 4th Round of Istanbul Process. Pakistan and China agreed to intensify efforts to contribute towards peace and stability in Afghanistan.

He said both countries are further reinforcing linkages in various fields including energy, communications, infrastructure, trade and connectivity.

The China-Pakistan economic cooperation had immense potential to promote economic wellbeing of the peoples of the two countries and the region.

All Day

Thar coal power plant to start production by March 2015 -- APP

The commercial production from Thar coal-fired power generation plant will be ready by June 2018 provided the financial closure is completed by March 2015, said Sindh Engro Mining Company (SECMC) Chief Executive Officer Shamsuddin Ahmed Sheikh.

"We are the biggest investors in energy and coal mining with an investment of US \$2 billion in the country," Sheikh told media during their visit to Tharparkar coal mines," said a statement issued on Thursday. The visit was organised by Engro Company (PVT) Limited to enable the journalists to see themselves the progress of the project of national importance.

Shamsuddin told the reporters: "Prosperity is inevitable for the people of Pakistan and Thar through exploration of the seventh largest coal mine resources blessed by Allah Almighty to this country."

He said this year both Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and former president Asif Ali Zardari jointly inaugurated the Thar coal mine for cheap generation of electricity to

the people and all the political parties including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) were supporting this mega project of national interest.

Shamsuddin appreciated the federal government for including Sindh Thar coal project in Pak-China Economic Corridor and one of the priority areas in the economic development of the country. Sheikh urged the government for implementing the incentive package announced by the Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet (ECC) including concessionary import of machinery and other equipments required for the exploration of coal mining at Thar.

All Day

'China keen to construct railway, energy pipelines in Pakistan' -- BR

'China keen to construct railway, energy pipelines in Pakistan'

China is giving serious thought to its active participation in construction of China-Pakistan Railway and energy pipelines, said Professor Gao Jianlong, a senior official of the Chinese government.

While speaking at media seminar held here on Thursday, he said there has been rapid growth in Sino-Pak economic partnership in the recent years and hoped China's participation will be much more in socio-economic development of Pakistan in the coming years. The weeklong seminar, organised by the China's State Council Information office was being participated by media persons from nine neighbouring countries.

Professor Gao said that government and people of China wish to see a strong and prosperous Pakistan. China, he said is prepared for construction of second line from Aksu to Kashgar and the Railway from Ruoqiang to Hotan.

He further said China is pushing forward its all-round partnership with its neighbouring countries including Pakistan. About Xinjiang Autonomous Region's trade and economic ties with Pakistan, he said it is going well and meeting the common needs of their people.

He hoped that the construction of new Silk Road will give a big boost to China's relations with South Asia, Middle East and Central Asian Countries.

All Day

Parliamentary team visits Kashgar special economic zone -- APP

KASHGAR: Pakistan's Parliamentary delegation led by Parliamentary Secretary Finance and Economic Affairs Rana Muhammad Afzal on Saturday visited Kashgar special economic zone.

It took keen interest in its infrastructure development and connectivity plan with neighbouring countries, especially with Pakistan. Chinese officials regarding various aspects of the economic zone, which is likely to be completed by 2020 briefed the delegation. The delegation observed the integrated project comprised a holistic approach to link up modern means of communication including rail, road links with trade and economic opportunities for both the states.

We have an opportunity to observe the development initiatives being undertaken by the government and the private sector of China by converting

Kashgar to regional trading hub in view of its proximity to Pakistan, Afghanistan, India and Central Asian Republics.

He said two huge industrial parks and mini cities were being developed in the outskirts of Kashgar with direct investment from the provincial governments and the business community of Guangzhu and other states.

This is a unique development mode where infrastructure is being developed by the public sector and the private sector is provided with land and financial assistance on very convenient and preferential terms. Alongside a huge tax free special economic zone is being developed where custom clearance on speedy business is being provided two-way transactions of goods and services to and from China. He said with these huge developments, Kashgar was likely to transform economically and socially with presently 90 percent ethnic Muslims of this area who might not be economically strong would have job and economic opportunities. Kashgar can serve as a role model for any developing country, including Pakistan. After visiting Kashgar, its proximity to Pakistan approximately 500 kilometers and a flying time of around one hour impressed the delegates and now we realised more than ever before the significance of Kashgar-Gwadar Economic Corridor as a game-changer for Pakistan and China.

Mujtaba Hussain Director General Planning Commission said Pakistan and China economic corridor was strategically important for both keeping in view the growing regional trade and investment collaboration. The ground breaking for early harvest projects would be observed soon following the upcoming visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

These projects would be completed within a span of two to three years include rail, road networks besides several long and short term energy projects.

There is an integrated communication network which would not only benefit Pakistan but it would benefit China more to help open a new vista of trade with the rest of the world in a record short period of time as well as resources. He said incentives were being given to Pakistani entrepreneurs by offering tax-free zones and introducing rent-free homes and even paying the Pakistani businesspersons stipend for their household.

All Day

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to fund Pak-China economic project Newly-established bank to support developing countries for construction of their basic infrastructure -- Daily Times

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to fund Pak-China economic project
Newly-established bank to support developing countries for construction of their basic infrastructure

BEIJING – Pakistan-China economic corridor project is likely to get funding from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which is to be functional by the end of next year.

The bank is being set up on the proposal of Chinese President Xi Jinping to support the developing countries for construction of their basic infrastructure. In this connection, twenty-one countries including Pakistan that are willing to join the AIIB have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) last week in Beijing.

Prof Gao Jianlong, president of the Xinjiang Academy of Social Sciences, told reporters at journalists seminar held in Urumqi, (Xinjiang Autonomous Region) that AIIB was supposed to finance the mega projects like Pak-China economic corridor, which is a development programme to connect Gawadar Port to China's northwestern region of Xinjiang via highways, railways and pipelines to transport oil and gas.

Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang was among the first advocates of the project. The New China Silk Road economic project is also likely to get financial support from the AIIB. Prof Gao said that the bank was a major initiative for providing financial support to the developing countries to build up their basic infrastructure, bringing prosperity to their people.

This is as per the dream of the Chinese government to have equal development of the all regional countries on the basis of win-win situation. After completion, the Pak-China economic corridor will serve as a primary gateway to trade among China, Middle East and Africa through Pakistan. Particularly, the oil from the Middle East could be offloaded at Gawadar, which is located just outside the mouth of the Persian Gulf.

The oil would be transported to China through the Baluchistan in Pakistan. Such a link would vastly cut the 12,000-kilometres route that Mideast oil supplies must now take to reach Chinese ports. According to a deal signed in July, the project includes construction of 200 kilometres long tunnel, which will link both the countries and facilitate trade and commuters.

As per the plan, special economic zones would be established along the economic corridor, and Chinese companies have shown willingness to set up industries in the zones. The 21 countries signed the MoU for the establishment of the Bank includes Bangladesh, India, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Uzbekistan, besides Pakistan and China.

The MOU specifies that the authorised capital of AIIB is 100 billion US dollars and the initial subscribed capital is expected to be around 50 billion dollars. The paid-in ratio will be 20 per cent. AIIB will be an inter-governmental regional development institution in Asia. As agreed, Beijing will be the host city for AIIB's headquarters.

It is expected that the Prospective Founding Members will complete the signing and ratification of the Articles of Agreement (AOA) in 2015 and AIIB will be formally established by the end of 2015. The proposed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank will bring benefits to all parties involved, said Chinese Finance Minister Lou Jiwei.

"The global economy remains short of investment. Investment in infrastructure in Asia will expand demand and support global recovery," Lou said in an interview with Xinhua last week. The size of the bank's capital and investment ratios are yet to be discussed and confirmed.

China could contribute 50 per cent of the bank's capital. "This shows China's determination to establish the bank," he said, but the final investment is open to adjustment, depending on how many countries participate. "By economic weight, China is still expected to hold the biggest share," he said.

All Day

PM calls his visit to China monumental -- Daily Times

Nawaz says contracts with Chinese companies to revolutionise infrastructure, energy availability

ISLAMABAD – Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that his forthcoming visit to China would be monumental as he would be entering into contracts with Chinese companies for projects worth 45 billion dollars including Pak-China Economic Corridor which would revolutionise the infrastructure and energy availability.

Out of 45 billion dollars, 34 billion dollars would be spent on energy and power sectors and 11 billion dollars would be allocated to infrastructure. This was stated by the prime minister while presiding over the cabinet meeting here during second phase of the ministers' performance review presentations.

The completion of these projects would bring a big break-through in energy sector and would be a game changer in Pakistan's economy, he said. The prime minister further said that these projects would be completed in three and half years. "We would not let corrupt elements allow to create any hurdles in the fast pace of completion," he said. He also directed Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal to prioritise these reforms in the next cabinet meeting which would develop Pakistan on modern lines.

Nawaz also said that exports would have to be increased manifold and the government would have to boost it up by 150 billion dollars by 2025, targets given by the Planning Commission. He pointed out that the Neelum-Jhelum power project was delayed due to negligence of officials which has not only wasted time but also has increased its cost from 70 to 300 billion rupees. He said that such corrupt practices would not be allowed in future.

He also directed Ministry of Commerce to take immediate steps with the help of Foreign Office to export rice to Iran and to provide immediate relief to the farmers and to stabilize rice prices in the market. He appreciated performance of Railways Ministry who brought Pakistan Railways back in action from a stand still organisation. He expressed his hope that if these efforts continued Pakistan Railways would become an effective transportation facility in the region.

Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal briefed the cabinet on the performance of his ministry. Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique in his presentation on performance of his ministry stated that major initiatives had been undertaken by the ministry like complete de-politicization, structural reforms at the organisational level, establishment of legal and IT directorates, decentralisation of powers etc.

He stated that the Pakistan Railways was retrieving Railway Land and a Land Record Management Information System was being developed. He said that Railways Ministry was fully aware of the commercial utilization of railway land and a Transaction Advisory Service for Pakistan Railways' Karachi Division was being hired in this regard. Pakistan Railways was undertaking Customer Facilitation Measures for improved quality of services, the minister added.

All Day

\$45b projects to be signed in China: PM -- The Nations

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Thursday said his forthcoming visit to China would be monumental as he would be entering into contracts with Chinese companies for \$ 45 billion projects, including Pak-China Economic Corridor, which would revolutionise the infrastructure and energy availability.

While presiding over the cabinet meeting convened to review the second phase of the ministers' performance, the PM said of these \$ 45 billion, \$ 34 billion would be spent on the power sector while \$ 11 billion would be earmarked for infrastructure. The federal cabinet condemned the recent gruesome incident of lynching a Christian couple in Kasur and resolved to bring the perpetrators to book. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif expressed the resolve that the government would fully monitor the issue and ensure that the culprits involved in this incident were punished.

The PM asked the Ministry of Planning and Development to prioritise reforms in a bid to address major issues at first in public-sector departments. He lauded the performance of the Ministry of Planning and Development and asked it to come up with a series of new reforms aimed at enhancing efficiency of public-service departments and remove the bottlenecks.

The prime minister also reviewed the communication and development projects mentioned by Ahsan Iqbal and said the government was committed to completing all these on time remaining within the allocated budgets.

The minister said there would be no cost escalation of the projects related to power, communications, roads, motorways, Gwadar Port and others. He said the US \$ 150 billion target of exports under the Vision 2025 could be easily met if all development projects were completed on time.

On the overbilling, the PM directed Water and Power Minister Khawaja Asif to take all steps to resolve the issue and provide relief to consumers.

Khawaja Asif told the PM that the ministry was adopting a concise mechanism to resolve the overbilling issue, adding it would also point out the basic reason for the overbilling. The PM directed him to bring the elements involved in overbilling to justice and make all-out efforts to address consumers' complaints.

During the meeting, Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique stated that major initiatives, including de-politicization, structural reforms at the organisational level, establishment of legal and IT directorates and decentralisation of powers, had been undertaken by his ministry.

The minister told the cabinet that in the freight sector, a freight company for new business avenues like coal power plants had been established. Moreover, Pakistan Railways had restored container trains for dry ports and inland container terminals, he added.

Spokesman for the prime minister, Dr Musadik Malik, briefing media persons on the meeting, said the government had initiated the process of self-accountability to provide maximum relief to the people, particularly the poor segment of the society. He said that in future the yardstick to judge performance of any ministry would be the steps it had taken to facilitate the general public. He stated the prime minister had directed the Planning Ministry to shift the tilt from debt servicing to development projects and exports to increase the country's foreign exchange reserves.

The PM lauded the Railways Ministry's decision to reduce train fares even before decrease in petroleum prices to provide relief to the people.

To a question about the overbilling of electricity, Dr Musadik Malik said three independent audit firms were investigating the issue systematically and after the report of the audit committee responsibility would be fixed. To a question about increase in electricity prices, he said 68 percent consumers were consuming less than 200MW electricity per month and they had not been overburdened.

He said that Pakistan and China would sign various development projects worth \$ 45 billion during the prime minister's visit to China. Under these projects special focus would be on Balochistan where Gwadar Port, Gwadar city and a road from Khuzdar to Gwadar would be constructed with the Chinese assistance, he asserted.

All Day

‘Govt aims to materialise Pak-China trade corridor dream’ -- The Nations

ISLAMABAD - Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said his ministry has focused on materialising the dream of Pakistan-China trade corridor.

He said this during his briefing to Federal Cabinet about the progress of his ministry here on Thursday. The minister said his ministry since inception of the government focused on preparing Vision 2025. He said Vision 2025 was finalised after consultation with all relevant quarters and analysing the development plans of developed nations.

Ahsan Iqbal said government has set the target to achieve six per cent growth rate till 2018. Ahsan Iqbal said implementation of the Vision 2025 is key priority of the Ministry of Planning and development. He said a Monitoring and Delivery Unit has been formed for this purpose.

He said that Planning Commission has been revived and staffed with top class human resource to realise the Government's development goals. He said we have helped save Rs500 billion during the last fifteen months because of better scrutiny of projects. He emphasised the need for enhancing development fund to gear up the growth rate as well as transfer the fruits of development to the common man. Ahsan said they are also working on civil service reforms. It is a five step process and will be completed in three months. He said Key Performance Indicators have been formed on institutional level

All Day

NA Parliamentary delegation arrives from China after official visit -- BR

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Parliamentary delegation led by Parliamentary Secretary for Finance, Economic Affairs and Privatization, Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan arrived here on Saturday after a 10-day official visit to China.

The delegation comprising members of the National Assembly, think tank and media was invited for the visit by the Chinese government to further enhance friendly relations and economic cooperation between Pakistan and China.

During the visit, the delegation visited Kashgar Special Economic Zone and hold meeting with Chinese Communist Party (CPC) leaders and senior government officials in Kashgar, Urumqi, Beijing and Shanghai.

In Beijing, the delegation held separate meetings with Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs Ministry of China, Liu Jianchao, leader of Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs and attended the seminar on Afghanistan Situation and Sino-Pak cooperation for counter-terrorism.

In Shanghai, the delegation visit the Pudong Economic Zone, Free Trade Zone and Shanghai Stock Exchange.

Talking to APP after the visit, leader of the delegation, Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan said, during its stay, the delegation had an opportunity to observe the development initiatives being undertaken by the government and the private sector of China by converting Kashgar into a regional trading hub in view of its proximity to Pakistan, Afghanistan, India and Central Asian countries.

With the development of a huge tax free special economic zone, custom clearance on speedy business is being provided two-way transactions of goods and services to and from China, he added.

Rana Afzal said, with these huge developments, Kashgar is likely to transform economically and socially with presently 90 percent ethnic Muslims of this area who may not be economically strong will have job and economic opportunities.

He opined that Pakistan business community should also take advantage of the incentives offered by the Chinese Government for foreign investment in Kashgar. The incentives being offered to Pakistani entrepreneurs include tax-free zones and rent-free homes and even paying the Pakistani business persons stipend for their household, he added.

About his meetings with Chinese leaders and government officials, he said that they expressed their resolve to further boost Pak-China deep rooted ties and economic cooperation.

He observed that it is heartening to note that all political forces in Pakistan stand united and unanimous over Pak-China friendship.

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All Day

Pak-China accords to provide one million jobs -- The News

Pak-China accords to provide one million jobs

BEIJING/ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was accorded a warm welcome when he arrived in Beijing on Friday on a three-day visit to China.

He was greeted by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). Sources said that the visit would help in ushering in an era of development, prosperity and generating employment opportunities to over one million youth of the country.

During his visit to China, the prime minister will attend the annual meeting of the held there besides holding meetings with the Chinese president and prime minister. During his meetings with Chinese president and prime minister, the premier will discuss regional situation and bilateral relations.

Earlier, before his departure to China, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a statement said that his China visit was also aimed at ending loadshedding in the country. "I am going to China only to save my people from one extra loadshedding-ridden atrocious summer. "Despite the damage done in the past two months due to political turmoil, we will make up for the loss come what may," he said.

Pakistan-China economic corridor projects have far reaching consequences for

Pakistan's economy. These projects will be source of employment for over a million youth of Pakistan. Pak-China cooperation will also create business opportunities for local and international efforts", he said.

The momentous agreements/MOUs will be signed between Pakistan and China today (Saturday) covering 21 mega projects which attract investment of over \$46 billion in Pakistan. The historic ceremony will take place in Great Hall, Beijing.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will sign the agreements on behalf of Pakistan. It will be Pakistan's biggest foreign economic investment agreement in country's history. The prime minister has termed the agreements as game changer since his visit is viewed as prosperity and power specific. The diplomatic sources told The News here Friday that the signing of several MoUs reflected depth of bilateral relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Nawaz would hold bilateral meetings with top Chinese leadership and take part in a dialogue themed "Strengthening Connectivity Partnership" taking place ahead of the APEC Economic Leader's Summit currently underway in Beijing, in which leaders of Myanmar, Laos, Mongolia, Cambodia, Tajikistan and Bangladesh are also participating.

Chinese President Xi Jinping had to cancel his maiden visit to Pakistan due to the protests and sit-in in Islamabad in September and consequently the country had to endure loss of billions of rupees. In the last three months, Pakistan has endured multiple economic losses due to the sit-ins. Over 21 projects for generating 16,520MW power at an estimated cost of around \$33 billion would bring substantial improvement in all the sectors of economy after completion.

The important projects to be completed with the Chinese help include 1320MW Sino-Hydro Resource Project, two 660MW Sahiwal Coal Fired Projects, 2,330MW Engro Thar Coal Fired Project, 1320MW each, Muzaffargarh Coal Power, Rahim Yar Khan, SSRL Thar Coal Projects and Thar Mine Mouth Oracle projects, 1000MW SSRL Thar Coal Block 6, 2640MW Gaddani Power Park Project, 300MW Gwadar Coal, 100MW Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, 50MW Dawood Wind Farm, 100MW UEP Wind Farm, 50MW Sachal Wind Farm, 50MW Sunnec Wind Farm, 870MW Suki Kinari Hydropower Station, 720MW Karot Hydropower Station and others. Energy is vitally important for the economy and this has remained on the top of the prime minister's agenda, ever since he assumed power in June last year.

Both the countries are set to sign agreements to construct various roads, railway and other infrastructure development projects at an estimated cost of around \$4 billion. The prime minister would sign an agreement to construct 440 km KKH II Raikot-Islamabad section, Karachi-Lahore Motorway, Havelian Dry Port, Orange Line Project of Lahore, Cross Border Optical Fiber Cable and Hari-Ruba Economic Zone, Sino hydro Resource Limited and Al Mirqab Capital. With Chinese investment, the country's economy is set to take off and flourish generating numerous employment opportunities for the people of Pakistan, especially the youth.

Prime Minister's small entourage comprised Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, federal ministers Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, Khwaja Muhammad Asif and Special Assistant to PM Syed Tariq Fatemi. Prime Minister Nawaz has travelled by his 12-seat small plane and likely to return tomorrow (Sunday) evening. The visit has unprecedented significance but Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has made it free of any fanfare. The sources vowed that it would be glorious day in Pakistan-China ties history and remembered for the exceptional agreements.

- See more at: <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-33970-Pak-China-accords-to-provide-one-million-jobs#sthash.NPh71poL.dpuf>

All Day

**Pak-China cooperation: New agreements will end energy crisis: Shahbaz
-- The Express Tribune**

Pak-China cooperation: New agreements will end energy crisis: Shahbaz

The agreements of investment of billions of dollars reflect the full confidence of the government and leaders of China in the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif,"

LAHORE: The agreements signed between Pakistan and China will help end the energy crisis in the country, Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif said on Sunday. He was talking to heads of several Chinese companies who met him in Beijing. "A number of agreements have been signed for generation of power during the visit of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to China. They will eliminate the energy crisis on a permanent basis and people will be rid of load-shedding," Shahbaz said.

"The solution of the shortage of electricity will accelerate industrial and trade activities. New job opportunities will also be created, resulting in overcoming poverty alleviation. Low-cost electricity will be available once coal power plants are commissioned with the cooperation of China," he said.

The chief minister said that the agreements between Pakistan and China for power generation and economic development were an important step towards progress of the country.

"These agreements will prove to be a milestone in bilateral cooperation, strengthening the Pak-China friendship. These projects will be completed speedily and in a transparent manner and will change the destiny of the people of Pakistan. A new era of progress and prosperity will usher in," Shahbaz said.

He said that solution of energy crisis at the earliest was essential for the country's progress.

He said that the interest shown by China in the energy sector was highly encouraging.

"The energy crisis in Pakistan will not have been so serious today if past governments had shown interest in the generation of power from coal," the chief minister said.

Shahbaz said that the Punjab government was planning to generate electricity from cheaper sources which would yield positive results.

"Special incentives are being offered to foreign investors in the energy sector," he said.

The chief minister said that the politics of sit-ins and protests had caused a temporary delay in the power projects with the help of China.

"Now these agreements have been signed and it will disappoint the enemies of progress and prosperity of the country.

The agreements of investment of billions of dollars reflect the full confidence of the government and leaders of China in the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif," Shahbaz said.

He said that completing projects with transparency and speed was a hallmark of the government. "No sit-in or protest can stop the process of progress and prosperity of the country," he said.

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All Day

16,600 MW projects under Pak-China Economic Corridor to help overcome energy crisis: Ahsan -- APP

16,600 MW projects under Pak-China Economic Corridor to help overcome energy crisis: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Ahsan Iqbal Tuesday said that Energy projects of 16600 Mega Watt (MW) signed under Pak-China Economic Corridor during recent visit of the Prime Minister to China would help overcome energy crisis in the country.

Addressing a press conference here, the minister said that the energy projects would be completed in two phases.

"During the first phase the energy projects of 10,400 MW electricity worth of \$15.5 will be completed while in the second phase different projects of 6600 MW electricity will be concluded ", he said adding development of energy infrastructure and up-gradation of system of transmission lines was also included in the agreements.

Ahsan Iqbal said that energy projects of 9000 MW would be completed by 2018 which would mean that the government would be able to eliminate power load-shedding in the country during its tenure.

The minister said that coal-based power plants would generate 7500 MW and the cost per unit of electricity would be about 10 cents which would be far cheaper than that of oil.

He said that under the Corridor, 1000 MW of the largest solar park would also be established in Cholistan while hydal based energy projects would be of 1600 MW. Giving details about Thar Coal Projects, the minister said that in the first phase two projects of 2000 MW would be developed from Thar Coal while under the agreements with China overall 6600 MW Thar Coal projects would be completed He said that a package of \$650 million was also included in the agreements for development of Gwadar sea port and airport.

Iqbal further said that 1736 kilometers of railway track would be upgraded which would not only help to ease out transportation system of goods and coal but it would also help improving transportation facility for the passengers.

The Minister strongly condemned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan's statement against Chinese development assistance to Pakistan under "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor" and said that Pakistan and China are closest friends and enjoy time tested all weather friendship.

"At a time when international investors were shying away from Pakistan due to security environment in the region, decision of Chinese and Pakistani leadership during PM Nawaz Sharif's visit to Beijing to take Pak-China relations to new heights in economic field through China Pakistan Economic Corridor Project is a milestone", he added.

The most critical energy and infrastructure sectors related projects will infuse new life into Pakistan's economy, he added.

He said the projects are in IPP mode as investment projects and rejected Imran Khan's assertion that these projects were being financed through borrowing.

Iqbal said that these projects were coming under the energy policy which was open for all investors from any part of the world.

Hence, the assertion that expensive contracts have been signed with China is "baseless", he added.

"It is not expected from a leader of the stature of Mr Khan, whose party is ruling Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province that he would show such immaturity and irresponsibility," he said, adding that Khan had alleged that these loans are being taken at 7 percent interest, which is "incorrect" as these projects were not loans but coming as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country.

"Energy projects with Chinese assistance are a source of oxygen for our economy, which will not only push growth rate of economy upwards by solving energy crisis but also help create millions of new jobs," he said.

"His untimely and undemocratic tactics in the capital caused postponement of Chinese president's visit to Pakistan and now he is making China-Pakistan projects controversial.

To a question, Iqbal said that Population Census in the country would be held by next year as previous census was also conducted by the Pakistan Muslim League-N government during its previous tenure.

All Day

CHINA TO INVEST \$45.6B IN PAK ENERGY SECTOR: AHSAN -- Observer

China would invest \$ 45.6 billion in energy and infrastructure development in Pakistan up to 2025. The projects to be undertaken would form part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which would benefit not only entire Pakistan and China but also the neighbouring regions. This was stated by Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal while briefing newsmen here Tuesday about agreements signed with China during recent visit of the Prime Minister to Beijing. Giving details, the Minister said the accords signed include energy projects to produce 16400 MW of electricity. In the first phase, projects with an aggregate capacity of 10400 MW would be completed at a cost of 15.2 billion dollars. In the second phase, projects of the capacity of 6645 MW would be taken up. Projects in the second phase would also include energy related projects of a Jetti in Gaddani, upgradation of existing transmission lines and installation of new transmission lines. Second phase projects would cost 18 billion dollars. The Minister said work on energy projects of the capacity of 10400 MW would be initiated immediately. Projects with aggregate capacity of 9000 MW would be completed by 2018 while hydel projects would be completed between 2020 and 2023.

Ahsan Iqbal said projects with a total capacity of 7560 MW would be coal-based with a generation cost of 10 cents per unit, enabling the Government to reduce electricity prices. Projects with capacity of 1600 MW would be hydel based and these too would help produce electricity at reduced cost. He said the energy projects also include 1000 MW Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, which would be the largest solar park in the world.

The Minister for Planning said the third segment of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is upgradation of Karakoram Highway and construction of Karachi-Lahore Motorway. The construction of 832 kilometer roads would cost 5.9 billion dollars. He said as part of the Economic Corridor, 1736 kilometer of railway track would also be upgraded and modernized. Ahsan Iqbal said the upgradation would increase speed of the train from the existing 80 to 140 kilometer per hour reducing time journey from Karachi to Peshawar by about seventy percent. He said the package also include 650 million dollar investment in Gwadar port, airport and other infrastructure.

A mass transit project for Lahore called Orange Line would also be initiated at a cost of 1.6 billion dollar. China would also invest 44 million dollar for cross border optic fiber cable system improving and securing international connectivity. The Minister rejected the impression being created by some vested interests that the projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor would benefit only Punjab and said the biggest beneficiary would be people of Thar where ten energy projects of 6600 MW would be established. Similarly, Suki Kenari energy project of 900 MW would be established in KPK and 725 MW project at Karote in AJK. There would also be 250 MW wind power projects in Sindh.

All Day

Pak-China cooperation: LoI signed for Mahl Hydropower Project -- The Express Tribune

Pak-China cooperation: LoI signed for Mahl Hydropower Project

Sheng Zhendong signed on behalf of the sponsoring consortium, while Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB) Managing Director Shah Jahan Mirza signed on behalf of the Pakistan government. PHOTO: PID
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan government and a Chinese large-scale enterprise signed a Letter of Interest (LoI) for a 590 megawatt (MW) Mahl Hydropower Project. The LoI was issued to a consortium of China International Water and Electric Corporation (CWE), a subsidiary of China Three Gorges, and Trans Tech Pakistan. Sheng Zhendong signed on behalf of the sponsoring consortium, while Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB) Managing Director Shah Jahan Mirza signed on behalf of the Pakistan government.

The Mahl project is a hydropower project set up at the dual boundary of Punjab and Azad Jammu and Kashmir and will cost an estimated \$ 1.2 billion. Presiding over

the 98th meeting of PPIB Board, Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Asif said the primary focus of the government is on local resources for power generation, with emphasis on coal in the southern region, and on hydro projects in the northern. The board decided to expedite two projects at Thar coal, namely, 1200 MW by China Power International Holding, and 660 MW by Engro Powergen Limited. The Letters of Interest would soon be issued to both projects.

The board also wants to advertise for the 350MW Athmuqam Hydropower Project to be located on river Neelum in Azad Jammu and Kashmir to renew investor interest in the area.

Asif dispelled the impression that hydro projects in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa were not under consideration by the federal government.

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All Day

Russia expresses interest in energy projects in Pakistan -- The Express Tribune

Russia expresses interest in energy projects in Pakistan

Ambassador of the Russian Federation Alexey Dedov on Wednesday said Russia is interested in various energy projects in Pakistan, Radio Pakistan reported.

"Russia is interested in various energy related projects including CASA-1000, development of Gwadar Liquefying Facility and construction of pipeline between Gwadar and Nawabshah," Dedov added.

"Pakistan-Russia intergovernmental commission's meeting is scheduled to take place in Moscow on November 26, which will give new impetus to our bilateral economic cooperation," he said.

"Bilateral trade volume of the two countries does not coincide with the actual potential and plenty of room exists which needs to be tapped."

He said a Russian parliamentary delegation is also ready to participate in Asian Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Lahore.

Dedov extended support for the Chinese plan of developing the Silk Route, including the Pakistan-China economic corridor."

He also expressed hope to succeed in bringing sustainable peace in Pakistan and the region through concerted and collaborative efforts of Afghanistan and other countries.

"Russia and Pakistan are already engaged on the matter and fruitful meetings have taken place recently in this regard, besides terrorism, drug trafficking which stems from Afghanistan is also an area of concern," Dedov said in an interview to the state-run corporation.

Further he said, Russia will sell Mi-35 helicopters with Pakistan to strengthen its counter-terrorism efforts.

"The deal has been approved in principle; however, further negotiations on details of political-commercial contract are in progress."

The ambassador also said that Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoygu will visit Islamabad soon and his agenda of talks with Pakistani counterparts also includes the sale of defence equipments to Pakistan.

Regarding Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Dedov said Russia is actively involved in the process of accession of Pakistan to the organisation as a full member.

"I hope that at next Summit meeting, scheduled to take place in July next year in Russia, full member status will be awarded to Pakistan," he said, adding, "The documentary work in this regard has already been completed."

All Day

\$1b investment: Chinese firm to set up refinery in Balochistan -- The Express Tribune

Oil refineries import nine million tons of crude oil every year to meet their processing needs. Oil imports cost between \$14 and \$15 billion. STOCK IMAGE ISLAMABAD:

A Chinese company is planning to pour an investment of \$1 billion into setting up Pakistan's first deep-conversion oil refinery in violence-plagued Balochistan, a step that could turn the country into an oil exporter especially to Beijing.

"The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources is in talks with Volant Industry Limited of China about developing a deep-conversion oil refinery in Balochistan," said an official while talking to The Express Tribune.

In the first phase, the refinery would have annual production capacity of five million tons and it would be enhanced to 10 million tons in the next stage, the official said. This will not only help meet domestic demand but will also lead to export of petroleum products to neighbouring countries like China.

At present, the designed refining capacity of the country is 13.9 million tons per annum, which will increase to about 18.5 million tons after a new Byco refinery with production capacity of 120,000 barrels per day starts operating at the optimum pace.

Total consumption of petroleum products is estimated at 22 million tons per annum, of which about 13 million tons are imported. Apart from this, oil refineries import nine million tons of crude oil every year to meet their processing needs. Oil imports cost between \$14 and \$15 billion.

Pak Arab Refinery Limited (Parco), a major oil refinery, has the capacity to produce 100,000 barrels per day and 4.5 million tons per annum.

At present, oil refineries produce 40% of furnace oil consumption after processing crude and making value addition, but they are compelled to sell the product at a lower price, said the official, adding the deep-conversion facility would be able to refine furnace oil twice and sell it at a better price.

Under the economic corridor programme, Pakistan and China plan to lay oil and gas pipelines from the Gwadar Port to China to meet the latter's energy needs.

"There is a possibility that the proposed refinery will sell petroleum products to Beijing," the official said.

Earlier, Iran had announced that it was interested in investing \$4 billion in setting up a refinery at Gwadar with a 400,000-barrels-per-day capacity.

The plan was part of building an oil pipeline from Iran, which would be extended to China, which also gave its backing to the project. However, because of unresolved issues pertaining to Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, Tehran shelved the plan.

Former president Pervez Musharraf had also coined the idea of establishing a trade corridor to meet Beijing's energy needs and offered help in constructing a strategic oil pipeline from Gwadar to China's border.

Beijing is heavily reliant on oil supply from Gulf states, which comes through a very long route, via the Strait of Malacca. The oil supply first reaches Shanghai, or the Chinese east coast, and then travels thousands of miles to reach the country's western areas.

However, "the Gwadar refinery can provide a much safer, cheaper and shorter route for oil transportation to the west of China through the Karakoram Highway," a senior official remarked.

A big chunk of Chinese investment in Pakistan has gone to development projects in Balochistan including Saindak copper and gold project in Chagai and lead-zinc mining project in Lasbela.

"The oil refinery planned to be set up by the Chinese firm may also create scores of employment opportunities for the local people," the official said.

All Day

China Studies Centre set up at GCU -- The News

China Studies Centre set up at GCU

Punjab government's Higher Education Department (HED) has established a centre of excellence for China studies at Government College University (GCU) under the directives from Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, who allocated a seed money of Rs 30 million for the centre.

Chinese Embassy Cultural Counsellor Zhang Yingbao, Punjab Education Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, GCU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Khaleeq-ur-Rahman and Secretary HED Abdullah Sumbal Thursday jointly inaugurated the China studies centre on behalf of the chief minister. The university has established the centre at the historical Old Gymnasium Building, built in 1858. John Lockwood Kipling, father of Rudyard Kipling, referred this building as Dark Bungalow in his book.

Speaking on the occasion, VC Prof Rahman said the building had been restored and state-of-the-art facilities were provided for the centre.

He said the centre, besides research at the postgraduate level, would initiate diploma and certificates in China Studies.

He also directed all department of the university coordinate with centre for research in the relevant areas. He said the centre manned with scholars would work to provide intensive research on Chinese language, culture, and economic and political systems besides promoting bilateral relations and most importantly provide strategic guidance in pursuit of common objectives both regionally as well as internationally.

In his message for the inauguration, Ambassador of China to Pakistan Sun Weidong believed the GCU China Study Centre would open a new window for Pakistani friends to have a comprehensive and profound understanding of China and further promote the deep-rooted friendship of both peoples. He appreciated the efforts of Secretary, HED, Abdullah Sumbal for the centre.

Zhang Yingbao pledged to provide books, journals and other research material on history, culture, philosophy and literature of China for the centre besides financial, administrative and academic assistance. He gave away a gift of painting to the centre on the behalf of Chinese ambassador.

GCU Political Science Department Chairperson Dr Khalid Manzoor Butt to look after the centre.

Rana Mashhood said Pak-China friendship was time-tested but people in Pakistan did not know much about China, adding research and teaching of China Studies in Pakistan would help bring both the countries close to each other.

Abdullah Sumbal said the Punjab government would provide full assistance to make CSC a centre of excellence.

All Day

**Nineteen agreements: China wants timely and transparent execution --
Published in The Express Tribune**

China wants to ensure early and transparent execution of all 19 agreements it made with Pakistan during Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's recent visit to the People's Republic, a senior Chinese official in Pakistan said on Friday.

"I ask the media persons to follow all these projects inked as per standard of international code of business to check our claim regarding their early and transparent execution," he said, addressing a press briefing.

He said of these 19 projects, 13 are related to energy sector. "Some of the energy sector related projects will be completed by 2018," he said.

The official termed Pak-China Economic Corridor, Gwadar Port and the recently launched Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank as the most significant engagements between the two countries.

"I could not tell the exact value of these projects but for us execution of the same is a challenge as we have signed these documents with firm commitment," he said.

To a question, the official said they are focusing on execution of these vital projects that will further enhance the friendship between the two countries.

He said China had given Pakistan the status of "Iron Brother" in view of their lasting friendship, mutual cooperation and consensus on almost all issues.

"We will not let our friend to suffer in testing times," the official said, adding that China's projects are for all Pakistanis and for all four provinces including Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

He said Pakistan has become the second largest trade partner of China. "With an annual growth of 10%, the balance of trade between the two countries has reached \$14 billion," he added.

He said most of the Chinese companies have already been working in the Pakistani markets since long and they are credible. "However, we will make sure no fake company takes benefit of the situation," he said.

The official made it clear that China signed all the projects without any political precondition. Citing a series of visits of leadership of both the countries, the official said that it was the greater engagement that also showed strategic thinking behind mutual relations of both countries.

The official, however, confirmed that during the PM's recent visit, the issue of East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) was also discussed at length. "The ETIM is an international terrorist group and the ideology of the group to use force even against innocent people has become a serious security challenge for China," he said.

He said China appreciated Pakistani leadership's response to Beijing's concerns.

"We appreciate military operation in Fata against militants and we acknowledge sacrifices rendered by Pakistan against menace of terrorism," he added.

He said Pakistan and China also discussed regional issues and that China supported Pakistan's peace efforts in Afghanistan. "We are strong friends, iron brothers, and we will keep discussing issues of mutual benefit and mutual cooperation," the official said.

All Day

Pak-China JF-17 jet nears first foreign deal -- The Nations

ZHUHAI - An unidentified Middle Eastern country is in 'advanced' talks to make the first foreign purchase of a fighter jet jointly developed by Pakistan and China.

The joint sales team from the Pakistan Air Force and China National Aero-Technology Import and Export Corporation also known as CATIC, are in advanced talks with 10 other countries to sell the JF-17 Thunder, said PAF Air Commodore Khalid Mahmood, who heads sales and marketing for the fighter jet.

"We are in advanced negotiations with a Middle Eastern country, but the political situation over there has delayed the deal," said Mahmood in an interview at the Zhuhai Air Show, declining to give more details. "But we still expect them to be our first foreign client."

The JF-17 Thunder fighter jet is among several aircraft China is seeking to export, after designating its domestic aerospace sector as a key national strategic industry. The twin-engine jet was jointly designed and manufactured by the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex and Chengdu Aircraft Corporation, a subsidiary of state-owned Aviation Industry Corp of China, also known as AVIC.

The partners are in 'advanced talks' with clients in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and South America for jet sales, Mahmood said. He declined to identify any of them. Prospective orders will be for the third block of 50 planes, with the Pakistan Air

Force having ordered the first two blocks of 50.

Mahmood said there are plans in place for a dual-seater version of the JF-17 Thunder after feedback from potential clients.

The third-generation fighter jet, also known as FC-1 Dragon by the Chinese, can be used for aerial reconnaissance and has air-to-air and air-to-surface combat capabilities.

Flightglobal, an aviation-related website, previously reported that the partnership was close to making its first foreign sale.

A mock up of the single-seat, single-engine JF-17 is on display at the Zhuhai Air Show that started Nov. 11 in the province of Guangdong, along with several others produced by AVIC -- including the J-31, one of China's fifth-generation stealth fighters.

All Day

APEC sees China make progress in Silk Road initiatives -- China Times
China and Pakistan signed several agreements on the sidelines of the recent Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Beijing, including the further development of Pakistan's Gwadar Port, which is expected to become an important part of China's plans to build new Silk Roads, Guangzhou's 21st Century Business Herald reports.

China began investing in Gwadar Port on the southeast coast of Pakistan in March 2002 and it is set to become a key hub for goods to be delivered to China both by sea and land routes in the future, the paper said.

This is because China and Pakistan are building an economic corridor between the two countries which includes the construction of highways, rail links, oil and gas pipelines and communication fiber optic cables.

The report said the corridor will help China link the planned Silk Road economic belt through Central Asia, and build a maritime Silk Road across the Indian Ocean and the Strait of Malacca, both of which were proposed by President Xi Jinping of China in late 2013.

Gwadar is just one of the foreign ports in which China has invested under the Silk Road initiatives, which cover regions with a population of 3.81 billion people. China was involved in three and five other port developments in 2013 and 2014, respectively.

These projects have been announced in the wake of China posting a year-on-year 15.4% decline in investments in Europe, and only a 0.4% increase in the United States in 2013, while seeing a surge of 16.7% to 132.7% in investments in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the newspaper said.

"China's trade with the United States and Russia has peaked and the growth is now being seen in developing countries," said Peng Bo, a research fellow at the Chinese Ministry of Commerce's research institute.

After becoming an economy with excessive capacity, China began looking to expand its overseas market, and the focus on the countries along its planned Silk Roads resulted from Chinese industries' inability to compete with its Western counterparts, the newspaper said.

China also reached a consensus with six Southeast Asian countries during the APEC Summit on building a China-Singapore economic corridor — another part of the Silk Road projects — the report noted.

Most of the countries along the two Silk Roads, according to the newspaper, are still in an early stage of industrialization, with several of them relying on the energy and mining sectors.

The vast population and labor costs in these emerging and frontier markets also provide China with reasons to turn its focus to these regions, since pressures of growing labor costs and a shrinking labor force have weighed on the Chinese economy since 2012, the newspaper said.

After having become the second-largest investor in several Central Asian countries, an expert told the newspaper that China is likely to sign more bilateral agreements and free trade deals in the region, and may plan to take part in infrastructure projects, with its total investments pegged at up to 400 billion yuan (US\$65.3 billion).

All Day

No power can undermine Pak-China friendship: CM -- The Nations
No power can undermine Pak-China friendship: CM

LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has said that agreements for ten big power generation projects and more than 40 billion dollars of mutual

cooperation under Pak-China Economic Corridor have been signed during the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's recent visit to China.

He was speaking as chief guest at a special reception arranged in the honour of Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong in Islamabad on Sunday.

The chief minister said: "China is a reliable and sincere friend of Pakistan and has generously supported the country in every hour of trial including floods, earthquakes and wars. China is always ready for cooperation with Pakistan in the development of economic, social, defense and technical sectors and Pakistan should fully benefit from the sincere and friendly cooperation of China."

Provincial Minister for Home Shuja Khanzada, Member Provincial Assembly Dr Ayesha Ghaus Pasha, former foreign secretary Abdul Sattar, diplomats, administrative authorities of Chinese business houses in Pakistan and prominent personalities of Pakistani business community were present in large numbers on this occasion.

The chief minister said that the peoples of Pakistan and China were proud of the friendship between the two countries. He said that China had fully supported Pakistan in every hour of difficulty and always played a positive role like a true friend. He said that China considers Pakistan as a friend and a partner at equal level.

"No power can undermine Pak-China friendship and China with a foreign exchange of four trillion dollars has the second biggest economy of the world. Instead of military confrontation with other international powers, China has carved out a place for itself in the world on the basis of trade, economic cooperation, technology and hard work and Pak-China friendship is unprecedented in the current history," he added.

Shahbaz Sharif said that China had set up power projects of 20 thousand megawatts in India and the volume of trade between China and India is more than 80 billion dollars. Whereas, he said, the trade between China and Pakistan is about seven billion dollars and Pakistani leaderships are to blame for this as no attempt was made during the last 68 years for expanding cooperation between China and Pakistan and time and resources were wasted. He said that now is the time to move forward and take measures for increasing Pak-China cooperation.

The chief minister said that Pakistan is a peaceful country. He said that it is through peace that India and Pakistan can remove poverty and backwardness of their peoples and bring about progress and prosperity as both the countries are nuclear powers and war is no solution to any problem. He said that Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong has played a commendable role for promoting cooperation between China and Pakistan under Pak-China Economic Corridor.

He said that new avenues of progress and prosperity have opened up in Pakistan due to projects of power generation, construction of infrastructure and cooperation in social and defense sectors under Pak-China Economic Corridor and expansion of this cooperation will be better for the development of Pakistan and this region.

The Chief Minister said that think tanks, notables of every sector, journalists, intellectuals, politicians, diplomats and policy-makers should play their due role in this regard.

Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong while speaking on the occasion said that new avenues of cooperation had opened up between Pakistan and China due to economic corridor. He said that due to special interest and the efforts made by Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Pak-China friendship has strengthened and the mutual cooperation between the two countries will increase with the passage of time.

He said that China has always promoted relationship with Pakistan on priority basis and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's recent visit to China has yielded positive and meaningful results. He said that genuine progress is being made towards promotion of cooperation between the two countries in power, communication, technology, trade, economic and defense sectors and agreements of economic cooperation worth more than 40 billion dollars including implementation of more than 10 energy projects have been signed during the visit. He said that the ongoing cooperation between the two countries will help bring them closer and efforts will continue for promoting bilateral cooperation between China and Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong met Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Sunday. Matters of mutual interest, bilateral relations and the agreements of investment of billions of dollars signed between Pakistan and China were discussed on the occasion.

The chief minister said that the agreements of investment of billions of dollars signed with China would be implemented speedily. He said that these agreements do not involve loan of even a single penny and total investment is being made by China. He thanked Chinese government for expressing full confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his government. He said that implementation of these agreements will remove darkness from the country and a new era of progress and prosperity will usher in.

All Day

Chinese President to arrive by end of next month: MoUs to be signed on various infrastructure projects -- BR

Chinese President Xi Jinping is scheduled to arrive in Pakistan by the end of next month (December) and the two countries will sign Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) on infrastructure development projects under the China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC), it is learnt.

The Chinese President postponed his visit to Pakistan due to the ongoing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT) sit-ins in Islamabad. The three-day visit of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to China (November 7-10) led to the signing of 19 agreements and MoUs.

According to sources, during the visit of the Chinese President, the agreements would include (i) Karachi-Lahore Motorway, Multan-Sukkur section (375 km) estimated cost Rs 245.983 billion, (ii) Karakorum Highway (Phase II) upgradation and reconstruction from Raikot to Islamabad via Mansehra (486 km) estimated cost Rs 353.96 billion, (iii) New Gwadar International Airport, Rs 7.6 billion and (iv) construction of East-Bay Expressway, Gwadar Port (18.9 Km) worth of Rs 14.8 billion etc.

The funding for these projects would be provided by the China Development Bank, Export-Import Bank of China and other Chinese financial institutions. The projects completion date is end of 2017.

Sources clarified that the two countries were unable to sign MoUs for these projects during the Prime Minister's visit to China as they required more work. Sources said that China wanted to give first priority to Karakorum Highway (phase II) upgradation and reconstruction, from Raikot to Islamabad (486 Km) instead of Karachi-Lahore Motorway. China wants to develop trade corridor through Pakistan to the Gwadar port and therefore wants to accord top priority to upgradation of Karakorum Highway but the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government insists on prioritising Karachi-Lahore Motorway. The two sides reached consensus on implementation of CPEC and on construction projects of roads, railways and ports. To start with Kashgar in Xingjian, Khunjerab, Islamabad, Lahore, Multan, Sukkur, Karachi and Gwadar are selected as the pivot cities.

All Day

ADB pledges financial help for Balochistan -- Dawn

ADB Country Chief Werner Liepach held out the assurance to Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch during a meeting on Wednesday. The Chief Minister's Adviser on Financial Affairs Kaiser Bengali and Home Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, besides some senior officials, attended the meeting.

The ADB delegation was informed about special attention the province needed for improving the standard of life and implementing its development programme.

Also read: ADB approves \$197m for Balochistan road project

"We are facing fund shortage to rid poverty and build infrastructure linking the new port city of Gwadar with the rest of the country," Dr Baloch said.

The government had earmarked maximum budget for improving education and health sectors, the ADB was told.

Depletion of underground water to an alarming level could turn the land barren and there was a need to build medium and small sized dams to help replenish it, the ADB team was informed. Investment in mining and other sectors would help in resolving the employment issue.

The team was informed that the deep sea port in Gwadar could not become functional due to non-connectivity through rail and road network.

"We need infrastructure and road connectivity for making the Gwadar facility fully functional," Dr Baloch said. He said the province needed financial support from international institutions.

Mr Liepach said Balochistan had great potential in various sectors, including minerals and agriculture, and foreign investors could benefit from this opportunity. "The ADB will extend maximum financial assistance and cooperation," he said.

All Day

China to honour all its commitments for helping Pakistan in energy crisis, says Sun Weidong -- Pakistan Today

Chinese envoy to Pakistan Sun Weidong has re-assured that his country will fulfil all its commitments to bring Pakistan out of energy crisis and further develop its socio-economic sector.

Talking to journalist in the federal capital during his visit to COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, he termed the recent visit of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif as highly productive and fruitful. He hoped that the documents signed during the visit will further foster their all-round partnership.

He assured that the agreed documents will be implemented soon, with joint efforts of the governments. The documents are mainly related to energy, besides other sectors that would ultimately benefit to the people of Pakistan.

Ambassador Weidong said that the Chinese government and the leadership attached great importance to their relations with Pakistan. "Our relationship is growing fast with a passage of time, meeting the common aspirations of their people."

He said they are looking forward for peaceful and prosperous Pakistan and wish to support Pakistan's its efforts to achieve their targets, particularly in the economic sector.

To question, the ambassador said, it was highly encouraging to see that there is a complete consensus among all sections of the people in the country in regard to further deepening their all-weather and time-tested relationship.

About the recent visit of PM Sharif to China, he further said it helped a lot to undertake and implement some long-term projects such as Pak-China Economic

Corridor. The prime minister was received by top state leaders that provided an opportunity to hold wide-ranging talks on the matters of bilateral interest.

Earlier, while speaking at the COMSATS' briefing, Weidong also assured his country's support to contribute in promotion of science of technology. They will help the university to undertake its academic targets. "We are ready to support it both financially and with professional input."

He reiterated China's maximum role in the development of South-South cooperation. He appreciated the COMSATS's efforts to strengthen Pak-China long-standing relationship, especially in the education sector. He noted that the university has also done well, in generating business activities, under Pak-China Business Forum. He said the forum will hold its meeting next year.

The ambassador during his visit inaugurated Pak-China Study Centre that has already started functioning at the university, and also addressed the students, highlighting depth of their decades' old partnership.

All Day

\$45.6b China-Pak economic corridor: \$33.7b to add 16520MW energy, \$9.6b for roads, railways -- Reuters

BEIJING: Chinese companies with the help of their government and banks would invest \$45.6 billion in Pakistan's energy and infrastructure projects over the next 6 years.

According to new details of the agreement reported by Reuters on Friday, the Chinese companies will be able to operate the projects as profit-making entities, under the deal signed by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during a visit to China earlier this month.

At the time, officials provided few details of the projects or the financing for the deal, dubbed the China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Reuters reported that China has promised to invest around \$33.8 billion in various energy projects and \$11.8 billion in infrastructure projects.

Two members of Pakistan's planning commission, the focal ministry for the CPEC, and a senior official at the ministry of water and power shared the details of the projects.

The deal says the Chinese government and banks, including China Development Bank, and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (ICBC), one of China's 'Big Four' state-owned commercial banks, will loan funds to Chinese companies, who will invest in the projects as commercial ventures.

"Pakistan will not be taking on any more debt through these projects," said Pakistan's minister for water and power Khawaja Asif.

Major Chinese companies investing in Pakistan's energy sector will include China's Three Gorges Corp, which built the world's biggest hydro power scheme, and China Power International Development Ltd.

Sharif signed more than 20 agreements during his trip to China earlier this month, including \$622 million for projects related to the deepwater, strategically important Gwadar port, which China is developing.

The port is close to the Strait of Hormuz, a key oil shipping lane. It could open up an energy and trade corridor from the Gulf across Pakistan to western China that could be used by the Chinese Navy – potentially upsetting rival India.

Pakistan sees the latest round of Chinese investments as key to its efforts to solve power shortages that have crippled its economy.

Blackouts lasting more than half a day in some areas have sparked violent protests and undermined an economy already beset by high unemployment, widespread poverty, crime and sectarian and insurgent violence.

Under the CPEC agreement, \$15.5 billion worth of coal, wind, solar and hydro energy projects will come online by 2017 and add 10,400 megawatts of energy to the national grid, officials said.

An additional 6,120 megawatts will be added to the national grid at a cost of \$18.2 billion by 2021.

"In total we will add 16,000 MW of electricity through coal, wind, solar and hydel plants in the next seven years and reduce power shortage by 4,000 to 7,000 megawatts," said Asif. "This will take care of a growing demand for power by a growing economy."

The CPEC deal also includes \$5.9 billion for road projects and \$3.7 billion for railway projects, all to be developed by 2017. A \$44 million optical fiber cable between China and Pakistan is due to be built.

All Day

After China's more-than-willing helping hand to Pakistan, Ambassador of Japan -- The Express Tribune

After China's more-than-willing helping hand to Pakistan, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Hiroshi Inomata has said that Tokyo is adopting a "more cautious" approach when it comes to investing in the country.

China has signed multi-billion dollar deals in various sectors of the Pakistani economy. The agreements will see them predominantly investing in the energy sector, an area where Pakistan needs to make a lot of headway if it hopes to address the power crisis.

In a recently held Pak-Japan Business Forum, the Japanese ambassador was also asked if the country would like to follow suit.

"We are just more cautious," said Inomata. "We're not saying China is short-sighted or long-sighted but we have a more cautious approach."

An interactive session with the Japanese ambassador also saw participants discussing at length bilateral trade between the two countries.

The session named 'Economic relations between Pakistan and Japan' was attended by stakeholders from different sectors including textiles, leather, pharmaceuticals and automobiles.

The ambassador also highlighted how bilateral trade between the two countries began, recent ongoing projects across different sectors and factors that hamper further investment and assistance.

Recalling his first visit to Karachi to meet the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association, he appreciated Pakistan's contribution to the recovery of textile sector in postwar Japan.

Bilateral trade that officially started in 1954 has since then been flourishing.

Total exports to Japan amounted to \$202 million, while imports valued \$1,398 million in 2013-14. Net inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) from Japan in 2013-14 is at \$44.1m, of which FDI accounts for 41%.

All Day

Investment in Gwadar: China to help build \$3b LNG pipeline and terminal -- The Express Tribune

The \$45-billion worth of agreements signed by Pakistan and China earlier this month included a multibillion-dollar LNG pipeline and terminal deal, which will work as an alternative to the troubled gas import project with Iran as the pipeline will be extended to the Gulf state after international sanctions are lifted.

"The agreement was signed during Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to China. It is a state-to-state deal and no bidding will be held for the award of contract," an official told The Express Tribune.

According to initial estimates, the project is expected to cost \$3 billion – \$1 billion will be needed to lay the pipeline from Gwadar and over \$2 billion will be required to construct the terminal with liquefied natural gas (LNG) handling and re-gasification facilities and to develop large storages.

China will meet 85% of the financing needs for constructing the LNG pipeline from Gwadar Port to Nawabshah.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources is seeking the support of economic decision-makers for relaxing the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules.

"The ministry will approach the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) to win its approval for easing PPRA rules," the official said. "This will clear the way for direct award of a lucrative contract to a Chinese state-owned company."

This will be the second LNG terminal in the country as a fast-track terminal is already being built by Elengy Terminal Pakistan Limited (ETPL) at the Port Qasim, which is likely to be completed in February next year.

The LNG pipeline will be extended from Gwadar to Iran for gas import when sanctions on Tehran are lifted. Its capacity will be one billion cubic feet per day. The pipeline will have the same specifications that were proposed for the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline including a diameter of 42 inches.

According to officials, since Pakistan has not been able to lay a 781km pipeline from the Iranian border to Nawabshah because of its failure to tap foreign finances, it has decided to build the pipeline from Gwadar to Nawabshah in partnership with China.

This will transport at least 500 million cubic feet of gas per day (mmcf) after re-gasification of imported LNG.

Hopes were high as the US and Iran were engaged in crucial negotiations to settle the dispute over Tehran's nuclear programme with a strong possibility that they would reach a compromise, officials say.

The economic decision-makers have already made their mind that before the curbs are removed they will not push ahead with the gas pipeline project with Iran to avoid its repercussions for Pakistani companies.

The terminal planned at the Gwadar Port will have the capacity to handle 690 mmcf of LNG. Apart from this, large storages will be constructed at the port from where the LNG, after re-gasification, will be transported to Nawabshah, where it will be injected into the national gas network.

All Day

\$45.6b Pak-China Economic Corridor to connect Gwadar with Xinjiang via highways, railways, pipelines -- Customs Today

ISLAMABAD: The establishment of \$45.6 billion Pak-China Economic Corridor would change the fate of poor bordering regions economically by connecting Gwadar Port in southern Pakistan to China's northwestern region of Xinjiang via highways, railways and pipelines to transport oil and gas, stated Yuan Jianmin, a renowned and politically influential personality of Xinjiang province of China. Yuan, who is an honorary visiting Professor at NUML, holds portfolios of Deputy Secretary General, China Council for International Investment Promotion, Executive Director and MD Sinotrans and CSC Xinjinag Co Ltd., Standing Vice Chairman of Xinjiang Institute of Foreign Affairs and Vice Chairman of Xinjiang International Chamber of Commerce, China. He expressed these views while addressing the gathering of Deans, Directors, Heads, faculty and students of different departments at National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad on the topic of "Pak-China Relations: Pak-China Economic Corridors".

Yuan said that the idea of connecting different countries of this region economically with one common route was quite old. Different programs had been appearing by different regional players at different times. American Foreign Secretary Hillary Clinton during her visit to India in 2011 floated the idea of an economic zone to connect the North with the South, President of Russia proposed the idea of Euro-Asia silk route, Japan extended the concept of Asian Silk route for the region and they all were meant to surround and contain China, he added.

He went on saying that finally Chinese President Xi Jinping presented One Belt, One Road initiative which was the establishment of New Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road to deepen global peace and development through establishment of intensive physical and other forms of connectivity as well as cooperative ties between China and the countries across Eurasia, Africa and beyond.

Pakistani and Chinese leadership had held number of meetings and reached an understanding for the investment of more than billions of dollars to facilitate road and railway links between China and Pakistan, energy and power provision, development of telecom, trade, live stock, coal and hydro power sectors, export of sea food to China and many other products between the two brotherly countries, he enumerated.

He appreciating the role of NUML said that this economic benefit for the region could not be translated into reality without the active participation of NUML as the relation between Pakistan and China was not limited to few people rather we had to transfer our warmth, feelings and knowledge of each other down to our generations. In this context NUML was at front to carry forward the cause of Pakistan-China Economic Corridor by disseminating the knowledge of Chinese Language and Culture here in Pakistan and Urdu and English in the Chinese institutions and universities of China and especially in Urumqi through the establishment of NUML International Center of Education (NICE).

Speaking at the occasion Director General (DG) Brig Azam Jamal eulogized extensive engagement of Yuan for promoting an understanding and importance of Pak-China Economic Corridor which was going to play a significant role in the development of Pakistan and his key role in endeavours of establishing NICE in Urumqi. Rector NUML Maj Gen (R) Masood Hasan conferred a Letter of Authorization to appoint Yuan as Representative of NUML Affairs in People's Republic of China and ensured all possible assistance of NUML to Chinese universities and institutions to communicate with the world, reported INP.

All Day

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor — A new vista of development in South Asia -- Pakistan Today

Despite its economy being hit hard by flawed economic policies, political chaos, and a wave of terrorism, Pakistan has made a significant breakthrough on the economic front as well as against terrorist outfits.

With the military going all out in North Waziristan Agency and adjoining areas to dismantle the operational infrastructure and hideouts of terrorists, the PML-N government has achieved a landmark goal by signing numerous agreements with the Chinese government.

Though the amount for all agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) a part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is around US\$34 billion, around 22 agreements have already been signed between the friendly neighbours. These include bilateral agreements for Economic and Technical Cooperation; Government's Concessional Loan Agreement for Construction of Cross-Border Optical Fibre Cable System between China and Pakistan; Signing of Minutes of the 3rd JCC Meeting of CPEC; Signing of MOU on the Outline of Long Term Plan of CPEC; Signing of MOU on Capacity Building for Development of CPEC; Framework Agreement for Construction of Cross-border Optical Fibre Cable System between China and Pakistan; MOU on Cooperation of Textile Garment Industrial Park Projects in Pakistan; and some other projects.

In energy sector, MOU on Surface Mine in Block-II of Thar Coal Mine and the Engro Thar 2X330 MW Coal Fired Power Plant between Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company and China Development Bank Corporation have been signed.

In Gwadar, agreements have been made to construct Gwadar New International Airport; Gwadar Eastbay Expressway; Hospital at Gwadar; Technical & Vocational Training Institute

Others included MoUs for development of Thermal Power Assets for Pakistan, HUBCO Power Company Limited (2 x 660MW including Jetty); Memorandum of Facilitation between Port Qasim Electric Power Company Private Limited and Government of Pakistan (2X660); Memorandum of Facilitation Agreement between Govt of Punjab and M/s Huaneng Shandong Rui Group, China for Development of 1320 (2x660) MW Coal Fired Power Project at Qadirabad, Sahiwal; Signing of Framework Facility Agreement on Sukhi-Kinari Hydro Power Project; Memorandum of Facilitation Agreement between Govt of Punjab and M/s China Machinery Engineering Corporation China (CMEC) for 1x660 MW Coal fired power plant at Muzaffargarh.

In Gwadar, agreements have been made to construct Gwadar New International Airport; Gwadar Eastbay Expressway; Hospital at Gwadar; Technical & Vocational Training Institute; Water Supply and Distribution; Infrastructure for Free Zone & EPZs port related Industries and Marine works.

The infrastructure projects planned included Karakorum Highway (KKH) Phase II (Raikot-Islamabad); Karachi-Lahore Motorway (KLM) – (Multan-Sukkur Section); Expansion & Reconstruction of existing Mail Railway Line (ML-1); Peshawar to Karachi

Construction of Havelian Dry Port; Orange Line Project at Lahore; and Cross Border Optical Fiber Cable system project.

Significant Energy Projects are being installed of around 10,400 megawatts. Those projects included the Port Qasim Electric Power Company (2X660) 1320 megawatts; Engro Thar Coal-fired Power Plant 660 megawatts; Sindh Sino Resources Power Plant of Thar Coal (Block-1) 1320 megawatts; Gwadar Coal Power Project 300 megawatts; Rahimyar Khan Coal Power 1320 megawatts; Muzaffargarh Coal Power 1320 megawatts; Sahiwal Power Plant 1320 megawatts; Suki Kinari Power Project 870 megawatts; Karot Hydro Power Station 720 megawatts; UEP Wind Power Project 100 megawatts; Sunec Wind Power Project

50 megawatts; Sachal Wind Power Project 50 megawatts; Dawood Wind Power Project 50 megawatts; Quaid-e-Azam Solar 900 megawatts; and Quaid-e-Azam Solar 100 megawatts.

In order to operationalise China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the Chinese government has set up a special economic zone in the historical city of Kashgar, which is the border city between China and Pakistan.

For the purpose of making the economic zone operational, the Chinese government has been involved in constructing a multi-billion-dollar New Kashgar City, where Kashgar Special Economic Zone is being constructed.

The Chinese government plans to complete this economic zone by year 2020, and industrialists have been offered tax-free zone and government's other concessions.

This economic zone would prove to be the linchpin for trade between China, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan and eight other central Asian states which border both China and Pakistan.

Not only a road network is being constructed to ensure swift trade via this link but also a rail network is also being laid to ensure fast delivery of goods to the rest of the world through Gwadar and Karachi ports.

The integrated project has been designed under a holistic approach to link modern means of communication including rail, road links with trade and economic opportunities not only for both China and Pakistan but for entire South Asia region.

These projects would serve as a unique development model where infrastructure is being developed by the public sector and the private sector is provided with land and financial assistance on very convenient and preferential terms.

For the purpose of making the economic zone operational, the Chinese government has been involved in constructing a multi-billion-dollar New Kashgar City With its proximity to Pakistan (approximately 500 kilometres) and a flying time of around one hour, Kashgar-Gawadar Economic Corridor may prove to be a game-changer for development in Pakistan, India and beyond.

The early harvest projects of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor would be completed within a span of two to three years. These include laying of rail, road networks besides several long and short term energy projects.

This trade initiative has strategic importance for China as well as Pakistan as it would provide an opportunity to reach out to the Central Asian states through Pakistan and Afghanistan.

There is an integrated communication network which would not only benefit Pakistan but also China to help open a new vista of trade with the rest of the world in a short period of time. Chinese trade with this route would grow manifold.

The New Kashgar Economic Zone is spread on 6600 acres of land and various provincial governments of China and some private firms are developing their own projects within the tax free zone.

All necessary civic facilities are available in Kashgar New City Project where the preservation of farms is also being ensured. In the eastern part of the Kashgar New City, residential areas, hospitals, parks and other civic facilities are being made available. Since Kashgar borders eight countries, a business city has been named after each country of the region.

The business community of the entire region may benefit from the ambitious project designed to share and expand the trade opportunities for progress and development of South Asia. This would not only help regional governments to fight poverty, illiteracy and religious fanaticism, but also bring development and prosperity of the people of around ten developing states.

December 6, 2014 Continued

Sat

All Day

Saad Rafique says Karachi-Gwadar railway project to be executed -- APP

QUETTA: Federal Minister for Railways, Khawaja Saad Rafique has said that Karachi-Gwadar railway track project would be executed in collaboration with China, adding that Sibi-Harnai railway traffic would also be restored.

He was addressing a press conference here on Monday, "No sea port is completed without railway track, therefore, we want execution of Karachi-Gwadar railway track project under Pak-China cooperation," he said.

Saad Rafique said that the federal government would also restore Harnai-Sibi railway track and railway traffic on this track with cost of Rs 02 billion. He added that railway traffic from Sibi railway station would also be restored.

Minister said that he had held meetings with senior officials of Frontier Corps and other law enforcement agencies in Quetta to further tight security of railway trains passing through Balochistan.

He invited anger Baloch leaders to come forward to hold peace dialogues with the government for the cause of peace and development of people of Balochistan. "We are ready to remove reservations of anger Baloch leaders," he said.

In reply to a question, he said that during his stay in Quetta, he had held meetings with the leaders of political parties including Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N, Pashtoonkhawa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Nation Party (NP) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F). "We will furnish report on Balochistan political situation to Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif," he said.

He said that recruitment in Pakistan Railways Police would be made on pure merit bas

All Day

Cementing Pak-China ties -- APP

Chinese State Councillor and Minister of Public Security Guo Shengkun visited Pakistan on the invitation of Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan.

During the three-day visit, Shengkun called on President Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. He conveyed cordial greetings and good wishes from Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang to the president and the PM. Describing Pakistan-China friendship as deeply rooted and un-breakable, he said China has always attached the highest importance to its relationship with Pakistan.

China is ready to work with Pakistan to implement the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, steadily promote the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and continuously enhance the Pakistan-China Strategic Cooperative Partnership, said a statement of the Foreign Office on Monday.

The president and the PM asked Shengkun to convey their sincere greetings and good wishes to the Chinese leadership.

They emphasised that relations with China remained the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. The CPEC is a landmark project in the development of the two countries' bilateral relations, which are vital for regional security and stability, they said.

Pakistan and China would work together to strengthen cooperation in counter-terrorism, combating drug trafficking, border management and law enforcement. Both sides also agreed to accelerate progress on the CPEC and other ongoing economic projects.

During his visit, Shengkun held detailed talks with the interior minister. He also met Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz, Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Chief of the Army Staff General Raheel Sharif.

All Day

Chinese delegation visits Gwadar -- AAJ News

QUETTA: A Chinese delegation Tuesday visited port town of Gwadar and inspected different projects being executed in collaboration with China.

The Delegation was headed by Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation of National Development and Reforms Commission China and other members of the delegation include, Lai Xin, DDG Xinjiang Autonomous Region; senior officials of the ministries of transport, foreign affairs, China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau, Chinese Embassy in Pakistan besides the representatives from the China Communications and Construction Company; the China Development Bank; the Export-Import Bank of China; Industrial Commercial Bank of China, the China Overseas Ports Holding Company and China Harbour Engineering Company.

The delegation visited proposed sites of various development projects along with Secretary for Planning and Development and Reforms Hasan Nawaz Tarar, Secretary Ports and Shipping Khizar Hayat Gondal, Chairman Gwadar Port Authority Dostain Jamaldani and Dr. Sajjad Baloch Director General Gwadar Development t Authority and other officials.

Soon after its arrival the Chinese delegation visited the project sites under the Early Harvest / Prioritized CPEC Gwadar Package consisting of nine infrastructure and one recently agreed memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the integrated social sector planning and development of Gwadar region, which stipulates, inter alia, focusing on such initiatives that can provide for human resource development and empowerment through education, health, job creation, poverty alleviation, community development, promotion of tourism and culture vis-vis public ownership of development initiatives, aimed at social well-being of the people in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, the head of Chinese delegation Madam Lin Dajian said that China not only wanted to develop Gwadar port but also working on the vision of the development the people of Gwadar and under the project various socio-economic projects would be launched soon. He said that with the developing and making the Gwadar port functional jobs opportunities would be created for the people the new port city of Pakistan.

The projects include construction of Gwadar Port Eastbay Expressway with an estimated cost of Rs.14.804 billion; construction of Pak-China vocational training institute with an estimated cost of Rs.984million; facilities of fresh water treatment, supply and distribution of water for Gwadar City costing Rs.13.22billion; 300-bed China-Pakistan friendship hospital with an estimated cost of Rs.9.96billion; construction of New Gwadar International Airport of Rs.26.70billion; construction of breakwaters for Gwadar Port with a cost of Rs.13.00billion; capital dredging for additional channels, turning basin alongside new terminal, costing Rs.2.80billion; 300MW coal-based power plant with an estimated cost of Rs.30.00billion in addition to infrastructure development for free zone, export processing zone and Gwadar industrial area.

The delegation also visited the under construction new airport; proposed site for LNG terminal; newly completed desalination plant; sites designed and earmarked for Gwadar Port Eastbay Expressway and the Gwadar Free Zone; the GDA hospital; GPA's modern Civic Centre and the Gwadar International Port Terminal.

On the occasion the visiting guests were briefed about the progress of these multidimensional uplift schemes that are hallmark of the decades of people to people and government to government Sino-Pak friendship. Madam Lin Dajian expressed her hope that with the completion of these uplift projects of vital nature a new era of development and prosperity will usher in the region and particularly for the benefit of the people of Gwadar.

Later, in the evening the delegation left for Islamabad to attend the plenary session of Pakistan-China Joint Working Groups on Gwadar.

All Day

Govt prepares master plan to tap potential of Gwadar port -- APP

ISLAMABAD – Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said that the government had prepared a master plan to tap the potential of Gwadar port.

“We have a master plan as how Gwadar can be developed as a model city like Singapore and Dubai with the availability of commercial services and attraction for tourism,” he said while meeting with a delegation from China Communication Construction Company (CCCC) who called on him here on Wednesday. During the meeting there was a detailed discussion on Pak-China Economic Corridor as to how the road and rail infrastructure will blossom in to economic hub in Gwadar.

“Unlike narrowness of Persian Gulf where it is very difficult for big ships to turn for Middle East, Gwadar is wide and big enough that all the big cargo ships can be offloaded here and from Gwadar the small ships can also carry cargo to Oman, Dubai, Doha and everywhere in Persian Gulf,” the minister said. He said whichever company prompts in getting approval from NDRC in China, it would have more chances of investment in Pak-China Economic Corridor.

He said that there are virgin beaches along the whole Makran Coast because no one has ever traversed such natural beaches it gives a perspective of tourist resort for Pakistan, China and surrounding countries. The federal minister directed the delegation to meet the authorities of National Highway Authority and Ministry of Railways which are important stakeholders of Pak-China Economic Corridor.

All Day

Pakistan proposes Gwadar-Chahbahar Joint Economic Zone -- Daily Times

ISLAMABAD: In order to facilitate the trade among local communities residing in the bordering provinces of the two countries, Iran has proposed the establishment of border markets, while Pakistan proposed Gwadar-Chahbahar Joint Economic Zone. The two sides floated their proposals to boost and expand volume of bilateral trade during a meeting, which was held between Federal Minister for Commerce Engr Khurram Dastgir Khan and Iranian Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance Dr Ali Taieb Nia on Tuesday. During the talks, Federal Minister for Commerce Engr Khurram Dastgir Khan said that Pakistan wanted to make the current preferential trade agreement with Iran effectively operational and expand it by including more items of trade in the reduced tariff list. He stressed the need to engage in a constructive and positive dialogue to develop trade relations between Pakistan and Iran on mutually beneficial terms and make them more sustainable. He said that Pakistan wanted to enhance the limited trade base between the two countries which currently stands at \$217 million and comprises mainly oil and gas from Iran and rice from Pakistan to a broader base, which may include meat, fruits, textile, surgical items, sports goods, gems and jewelry, in addition to rice as the regular items of trade. He was of the view that to start with, the two countries may use barter as preferential mode of trading for a short-term until some suitable and recognised mechanism of payment was chalked out. The Iranian side proposed the establishment of border markets to facilitate the trade among local communities residing in the border provinces of the two countries. They proposed that initially four such markets could be set up which may be increased depending upon their efficacy in the first phase. The Iranian finance minister proposed to develop joint economic zones which would have the necessary facilities to attract investment. Iran has one such successful zone with Qatar. Dastgir, proposed a Gwadar-Chahbahar Joint Economic Zone which has the potential to grow immensely. The Ministry of Commerce asked the Iranian side to initiate dialogue among the relevant authorities to develop mutually recognised standards and specifications which are accepted all across the two countries. The two sides agreed to develop better data exchange systems between the two countries so that data with the authorities on both sides would be identical and differences may not arise due to lack of coordination.

All Day

High-level meeting to discuss master plan for Gwadar -- Express Tribune

A high-level meeting would be held on December 23 to discuss a master plan for the Gwadar Port, it is learnt. According to sources, the meeting would be held at P-Block Secretariat of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms. Federal Minister for Port and Shipping Kamran Michael, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of State for Communication Abdul Hakeem Baloch, Board of Investment Chairman Dr Miftah Ismail and other high official would participate in the meeting.

The sources said that in a strategic move, Pakistan and China were set to make headway towards developing a master plan for the Gwadar Port as part of an economic corridor that envisages investment of \$12 billion by China. As part of the economic corridor that will turn Pakistan into a hub of regional co-operation, the Gwadar Port will be connected through road, rail and fiber optic links to China help enhance trade between the two countries.

The sources said that the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor was moving ahead smoothly and the third round of Pakistan-China Joint Co-operation Committee (JCC) was currently going on successfully. The next meeting of the JCC would be held in January 2015. Pakistan and China want to develop Gwadar Port, whose control had already been given to China, in a bid to attract investment in different sectors to make it a hub of economic activities. The sources said that under the master plan, an oil city will be set up at the port to meet fuel needs.

The sources said that Commercial Bank of China (CBC) and Habib Bank Limited (HBL) were also working on a concept of development of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in

Gwadar. The sources said that China wanted to keep investment and development in low profile and avoid highlighting in media.

All Day

Bids invited for Pak-China Economic Corridor project -- The Dawn

ISLAMABAD: Bids have been invited from Chinese construction companies and other international and local firms for the multi-billion dollar project of Pak-China Economic Corridor (PCEC), the country's biggest road project recently launched by the government.

According to a document, the bids have been invited through national and international publications.

Work on one of the sections of the PCEC has been initiated this month under which a motorway from Havelian to Thakot as phase-I of the Islamabad-Raikot section of the corridor would be constructed.

The Havelian to Thakot section of the corridor is being financed by China while other phases will be carried out on the basis of Built Operate and Transfer (BOT).

The second section of the PCEC will be initiated next month for the construction of a motorway from Karachi to Hyderabad. The project has been awarded to the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO).

The third section will be initiated in a couple of months for the construction of Multan-Sukkur Motorway.

Some other sections, including Hyderabad to Sukkur, Lahore to Multan and Sukkur to Multan motorways will be started one by one.

Talking to Dawn, a senior official of National Highway Authority (NHA) said that it was a wrong impression that only Chinese firms would execute work on all sections of the PCEC. Bids had been invited from all international and local firms and any firm could win the contract, he added.

He said in a major strategic shift the NHA's financial regime had been changed and all mega road projects were being executed on the basis of BOT.

In past such projects were conducted through government assistance.

The official said the firms which would invest their money in the PCEC project would be paid through collection of road tax (toll). "We will not give any prior financial guarantee to the firms but they will be given toll plazas, service areas and the right-of-way of the sections they will execute," he added.

The official said besides the PCEC project some other related projects would also be initiated soon. They included reconstruction of existing Islamabad-Lahore Motorway and Karakorum Highway (KKH) that originates from the Pak-China border.

Talking about the Islamabad-Lahore Motorway (M-2), the official said according to its original plan it was to be reconstructed after 10 years of its construction but it was not done even after the lapse of 17 years. This project was also being executed on the BOT basis.

Answering a question about a controversy that the NHA has awarded a contract to a firm of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's close aide Saifur Rehman, the head of defunct Ehtesab Bureau or the previous version of National Accountability Bureau (NAB), the official said no contract of any section of the PCEC had been awarded to Mr Rehman.

However, he added, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) had been signed between the NHA and Mr Rehman's firm for a consultancy study of the PCEC project which was being carried out free of cost.

Published in Dawn December 24th , 2014

All Day

Gwadar port: plans ready for development -- BR

Short-, medium- and long-term plans for development of Gwadar port have been prepared by Arthur D Little for business logistics, coal power plants and construction of commercial centres serving Pakistan, western China, Iran, Afghanistan and Middle Asia, gradually making transforming it into a transshipment hub.

According to final draft of Operation Planning for Gwadar Port prepared by China Overseas Ports Holding Company Limited November, 2014, in short-term plan, seawater desalination and a power plant would be improved by the government and warehouses of 10000~20000 m² in Free Zone (FZ) would be constructed. Service for business logistics and coal power plants ensuring the port's adaptability and service for different cargoes were also included in short-term plan.

Due to lack of utilities, the main task is to create cargo volume by commercial logistics and explore fishery cargo through instruction of aquaculture, based on the advantage of local resource. In future plan, it is also expected to realise the cargo volume generated by harbour industry under the implementation of Gwadar city and port planning. Gwadar would get more opportunity and benefit from China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and energy co-operation between Pakistan and Iran. A logistics corridor of "Gwadar-Quetta-Kandahar" would also be constructed by the government along with developing transit trade with inland states.

In mid-term plan, Gwadar would be developed as one of the transfer and distribution areas of commercial logistics of Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) serving for Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan by taking full advantage of the position and policies. It is also planned to start the processing of manufacturing industry in FZ and integration of FZ and implementation of expanding the quay facility at proper time depending on the need of local economic development.

In future under master plan of the Port, industrial parks would be developed behind the port area. Textile, leather, food and trade processing would develop as priority industries in FZ, considering the industry characteristics and labour advantages in Pakistan.

Fertiliser is the only cargo unloaded at Gwadar Port currently. The federal government would improve the existing fertiliser volume till the time Gwadar Port could realise a commercial operation. After the fishery industry in Gwadar region develops to a certain scale, it can directly bring the port freight sources. The freight potential of fishery industry for Gwadar Port is estimated to be 350 - 500 kilo tons per year.

In the long-term plan, commercial centers would serve Pakistan, western China, Iran, Afghanistan and Middle Asia gradually, exploring the possibility of becoming an important transshipment hub and distribution centers between Northeast Asia to Africa and the Gulf.

Meanwhile, the implementation of "Developing Gwadar as Green & Smart Port City should be followed with the effort of Pakistan government. Gwadar Port, which is a core facility support for the city, would develop as an integrated ecological port and essential part of costal industrial 'corridor in Pakistan'.

All Day

Pak-China Economic Corridor to bring economic revolution in Balochistan -- Daily Times

QUETTA – President Mamnoon Hussain has said that Pak-China Economic Corridor Project would bring economic revolution in Pakistan and the people of Balochistan would be the real beneficiaries.

Economic uplift of Balochistan was ignored in the past, he said while talking to Balochistan Governor Mohammad Khan Achakzai who called on him at Governor's House on Wednesday. Terming the Pak-China Economic Corridor project milestone for Pakistan, he said that the local people of Balochistan would be the real beneficiaries of the project. Gwadar-Kashghar Economic Corridor Project besides

other issues was also discussed during the meeting.

The president said that the government was striving hard to bring about positive changes in the life style of the ordinary man in Balochistan and other parts of the country. However, he said that it was essential that the people and the provincial government should extend helping hand for the success of the uplift schemes.

The president commended the endeavors of the democratic government and said that effort would continue to maintain pace of the development in the country. The Balochistan governor apprised the president about law and order situation and development being executed by the federal and provincial governments in Balochistan.

December 25, 2014

Thu

All Day

AIIB supporting China's Silk -- The Nations

AIIB supporting China's Silk

LAHORE (Staff Reporter): The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), with an expected initial capital of US \$50 billion, is also supporting China's Silk Road initiatives, stated Shah Faisal Afridi, President Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) while leading a discussion on significance of Silk Route with members of PCJCCI. He said adding that the concept of Silk Route had emerged to become an important policy instrument on regional connectivity and regional integration. He was confident that Pakistan could turn into the most important westward artery by modernizing and reviving the silk route.

He said adding that the Silk Road Fund will be "open" and welcoming investors from Asia and beyond to "actively" take part in the project. The government of Pakistan should take immediate measures to up-grade the Silk Route to exploit the geographical potential of this location in regional trade. "Pakistan's geographical location supplements the potential of the Silk Route and augments scope of its revival",

Faisal Afridi said that the Silk Route has been a famous trade route in the ancient times, which proves that we have a long history of trade through this location.

All Day

Dar briefed on K2, K3 nuclear energy projects -- APP

SLAMABAD: Director General Strategic Plans Division (SPD) Lieutenant General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, called on the Federal Minister for Finance, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday and briefed him about the financing mechanism of K2-K3 nuclear energy projects.

Secretary Economic Affairs Division (EAD), Nargis Sethi and DG SPD gave a joint briefing to the Minister about the status of the project and what is the future plan to take this project ahead.

The aforementioned energy projects will be a part of Pak-China Energy Corridor and will be jointly financed by China (EXIM Bank) and Pakistan in a ratio 82 and 18 percent respectively.

Gen. Hayat told the Minister that the project when completed would be the cheapest source of energy.

This project will help a long way in overcoming the energy crunch which is experienced now by the country.

It was also briefed to the Minister that the project would use very secure and highly efficient third generation equipment to make cheapest electricity.

The Minister appreciating the efforts of EAD and Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) in making a plan for this project said that the PML-N lead government would take the country where the rest of the developed world stands now.

"When we planned to build the Motorway it was considered ahead of time but now it has increased its value many-fold and if these energy projects are pursued as per planned we shall be able to meet the future energy requirements of Pakistan", he added.

The Minister directed that another meeting should be held on the same projects next week in which all the relevant stakeholders from EAD, Finance, SPD and PAEC should be invited to make presentations of the project details and what steps are to be taken by the government to help make this project a reality.

All Day

Strategic location: Foreign investors flocking to Gwadar port -- The Express Tribune

ISLAMABAD: The Gwadar deep seaport has been a place of interest for national and foreign investors, particularly from China and Central Asian states, in the outgoing year.

In 2014, four high-level delegations of private investors and three government delegations from China have visited the strategically located port, according to documents available with The Express Tribune.

Gwadar port is situated at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, just outside the Strait of Hormuz, near the key shipping routes for two-thirds of the world oil supply.

According to details, China's vice premier led a team of senior Chinese officials, including the director general of the National Development and Reforms Commission and infrastructure experts, for chalking out plans for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and infrastructure projects for Gwadar.

A team from the Guangdong Logistics Industry Association (GLIA), led by its secretary general, visited the Gwadar port and apprised the Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) that they were interested in opening a display of more than 50,000 Chinese products at the port.

The proposed display centre will be established on 25 acres of land. The proposal is currently being negotiated between the GPA and GLIA, who have agreed in principle to consider this unique trade and commerce initiative at the port. The team leader also apprised the GPA of establishing a marine silk route between Guangdong and Gwadar via sea.

Another delegation of senior Chinese officials visited Gwadar with an offer of setting up a steel mill.

The director of the National Development and Reform Commission, Hebei province, and the mayor of Wuhan city led a team of the Investment and Commerce Bank of China (ICBC) and iron and steel investors with an interest to construct a steel mill in Gwadar.

The ICBC has sent two missions to Gwadar with the last one in October. The Chinese investors have now agreed on the proposed site for the steel mill in the Gwadar industrial zone operated by the Balochistan government. The Chinese investors are also exploring different businesses in the Gwadar port duty-free zone. During the year, the Kazakhstan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, through Pakistan's foreign ministry, expressed their interest to set up wheat grain silos at the Gwadar port. The GPA and Chinese Overseas Port Holding Companies (COPHC), in principle, have consented to this proposal.

All Day

Work begins on nuclear plant project -- APP

ISLAMABAD: A meeting was informed on Saturday that construction of the second and third phases of the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (Kanupp) had begun after the Sindh High Court had vacated a stay order against the project.

The K-2 and K-3 plants are scheduled to be completed by 2019, the meeting held with Finance Minister Ishaq Dar in the chair was told.

The director general of the Strategic Plans Division, Lt Gen Zubair Mahmood Hayat, discussed with the minister the financing mechanism for the project. The meeting was told that the project would produce 2,200MW of electricity.

The nuclear energy projects are part of the 'Pak-China Energy Corridor' and will be jointly financed by China's Exim Bank and Pakistan at a ratio of 82 to 18.

China is also providing technical support in setting up the turbines, and the reactors will be designed and built by the China National Nuclear Corporation.

The project is being executed by the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission.

"We expect that this project will go a long way in overcoming the energy crunch being experienced by the country," Mr Dar said.

The minister also discussed the pace of work on the project and was informed that the groundbreaking was held in November last year.

All Day

Pak-China 25 MoUs to promote ties in IT sector -- The Nations

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China have signed 25 commercial MoUs to promote bilateral cooperation in the IT sector, following IT Forum held in Chinese city of Shenzhen, says a press release received here on Sunday.

Out of 25 MoUs, 15 were by the Pakistani private enterprises and 10 by the COMSATS IT delegation. This was the first-ever Forum of its kind held between the two countries, which was attended by 63 participants from Pakistan and about 200 from the Chinese side.

The Forum was organized by the Consulate General of Pakistan, Guangzhou, China, in collaboration with Shenzhen Science, Technology and Innovation Commission, Shenzhen Software Park, Shenzhen Hi-Tech Park, Shenzhen Science and Technology Business Platform and Shenzhen Software Industry Association.

Participants from Pakistan included Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) represented by its Managing Director, Mr. Asim Shahryar Husain, whereas the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) was led by its Pro-Rector Dr. Haroon Rashid. Enterprises from Private Sector Software Industry and members of CIIT's various Software Houses, Telecommunication Study Center, Information Technology Services also attended the Forum.

In his welcoming remarks, the Consul General Babar Amin thanked all the Chinese Government organizations and private sector Associations which rendered their indispensable support to host the Forum. The purpose of the Forum was to bring Pakistan and Chinese counterparts in Software and IT industry together to create a synergy between them.

He emphasized that Software and IT industry in both the countries can benefit from each other's complementary strength in this field, to achieve a win-win outcome.

Director General of Shenzhen Science, Technology and Innovation Commission, Mr. Lu Jian in his opening remarks informed that Shenzhen's IT products output in 2013 was worth RMB 1.2 trillion (US\$ 200 billion) and its Software products valued RMB 600 billion (US\$ 1 billion). Shenzhen's Software revenue accounted for 1/10th of the total national output.

Welcoming the Consulate General of Pakistan's initiative to host the Pakistan-China Software and IT Forum, Mr. Liu Jian expressed confidence that it would lay solid foundation for future cooperation. He said that not only was Pakistan a strategic partner, it also offered cost effective advantage and favourable policy environment.

A key note address was delivered by Chinese Software Industry Veteran leader, former President of China Software Association and its current Advisor, Mr. Chen Chong. He said that Pakistan's potential in Software field is not very well known in China and this Forum was the first major breakthrough in bringing Software enterprises of the two countries together. Mr. Chen assured full support of Chinese Software Industry, to enhancement business ties with Pakistan in the Software and IT fields. Managing Director PSEB, Mr. Hussain presented salient features of Pakistan's IT Industry and areas of its Software expertise.

He briefed the participants as to why Pakistan should be a preferred destination for Chinese Software outsourcing and joint collaboration. Pro-Rector CIIT Dr. Rashid highlighted the Institutes Software capabilities and how cooperation can be done with the Chinese enterprises on 'Academia- Industry Collaboration' model.

Representatives of Pakistan Software Houses Associations (P@SHA), Sultan Hamdani presented the state of Pakistan's Software Industry and the opportune business advantages offered by it.

The Pakistani participants also visited Shenzhen based major Software and IT companies such as E-Soft, Kingdom Technology Company, ZTE, Huawei, Tencent and Kingdee, on 15-16 December, 2014.

China being the second biggest global Software and IT market, offers huge potential for Pakistan. Simultaneously China can enormously benefit from Pakistan's Software expertise, especially for English Language interfacing and cost effective solutions. It is expected that enhanced interaction between the relevant enterprises from the two sides will generate significant business in this non-traditional area of the two countries' trade.

All Day

Work on Lahore-Karachi motorway to begin soon: PM -- The Express Tribune

Work on Lahore-Karachi motorway to begin soon: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday said construction work for Karachi-Lahore motorway will begin soon , Express News reported.

Addressing the annual awards ceremony of National Highways and Motorways Police in Islamabad, Nawaz said more Motorways projects will be initiated in the country.

"The region will become the centre of economic activities due to Pak-China Economic Corridor project," said Nawaz, adding that it is a matter of great pride that the performance of Motorways and Highways police is being appreciated on the international level.

He said many programmes are being implemented from the school level to make the highways safe and to make the public aware in this regard. The PM also said he wants motorway police be more people friendly.

The premier directed for enhancing the efficiency of the organisation and recruitment of staff on need basis in a transparent manner. The prime minister also announced a 20 percent increase in salaries of Motorway police.

Nawaz Sharif also lauded the performance of Inspector General Motorways Police Zulfiqar Cheema.

Inspector General Motorway police Zulfiqar Cheema while highlighting the performance of Motorway Police said the organisation is a role model for other public sector institutions as it has the highest traditions of public service.

The title "Gwadar's largest commercial scheme" Al-Noor cargo city holds this distinct. Al-Noor cargo city is also known as Gwadar's first strategic commercial scheme. Al-Noor cargo city is situated in the mid of Gwadar airport and Gwadar sea port. It has one-kilometer wide front on the 205ft wide main Baluchistan Broadway and 150ft wide Existing coastal highway.

Al-Noor Cargo City gives an eye-catching stance to both local and international investors due to its strategic location. In addition, just 1500 yards distance to Deep Sea East Bay gives another edge to Al-Noor Cargo City.



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All Day

NHA to connect Gwadar with Khunjerab under CPEC project -- BR
National Highway Authority (NHA) would connect Khunjerab with Gwadar Port, under the umbrella of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the project would be completed as short-term and long-term solution, in various phases.

An official of NHA informed on Thursday that in short-term the connection between Khunjerab and Gwadar shall be established using Khunjerab-Raikot-Thakot-Mansehra-Abbotabad-Havelian-Haripur-Islamabad (Islamabad-Peshawar Motorway)- Islamabad-Lahore Motorway (M-2)-Pindi Bhattian-Faisalabad Motorway (M-3)-Faisalabad -Multan Motorway,(Sukkur)-Shikarpur (N-65) and Ratoderao-Gwadar Motorway. The total length of this link is estimated as 2,740 Km.

To a question, he said 335km Khunjerab-Raikot section had already improved under Chinese loan while Atabad Slide section was under construction and would be completed early next year. About 235km Raikot-Thakot section, he said feasibility study had been completed by Chinese side. However, the alignment falls under the four dams planned by Wapda, namely; Bhasha, Dasu, Pattan and Thakot. The Road construction is planned to commensurate with dam construction activities. In the meanwhile the existing KKH is being improved in its present condition.

He said feasibility study of 82km Thakot-Mansehra section had been completed and the project and its implementation would start soon. About Mansehra-Abbotabad section and Abbotabad-Havelian section, he said feasibility study had been completed and the projects were included in Early Harvest Project List, to be implemented under Phase-I. He said construction tender of 34km Havelian-Haripur-Sirya was under award stage, and it would be financed by Asian Development Bank.

Feasibility study of Sirya-Islamabad Motorway (M-1) has been completed and the project is included in Early Harvest Project List. He said 306km Motorway link from Islamabad up to Faisalabad was completed and 241km Faisalabad-Multan Motorway (M4) was under construction under Islamic Development Bank financing and ADB Financing. As far as 392 Multan-Sukkur (Motorway M-5); this section of Motorway would form part of Karachi -Lahore Motorway and also provides a link to Khunjerab-Gwadar Route.

He said the design of first 100km was completed having six-lane with Design Speed of 120KPH. Feasibility study of remaining section has been completed. It is included in list of Early Harvest Projects under Chinese loan arrangements, he added. He said Sukkur-Shikarpur section (N-65) had been completed under ADB loan arrangements, while 243km Ratodero-Khuzdar (M-8) was under construction under Government of Pakistan financing arrangements.

He said Hoshab-Gwadar (M-8) Section of M-8 had been substantially completed and its balance works were taken up recently. He said under the long-term project to provide short link to Gwadar with China border alignment route would be from Islamabad-Fatehjang-Darya Khan-D G Khan - Dera Allah Yar -Khuzdar-Nag - Hoshab - Turbat - Gwadar and its total length is 1950km. It is planned to be executed in 10-15 years period.

All Day

Nine projects of Rs4.72bn cleared by CDWP -- Dawn

ISLAMABAD: The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) approved on Tuesday nine projects in the education, culture, agricultural engineering, livestock, women development and communication sectors at a cost of Rs4.72 billion.

In addition, the CDWP recommended to Ecne for approval two projects in the energy and education sectors worth Rs14.64bn.

The CDWP meeting chaired by Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal approved a project for enhancement of research facilities at the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences at Pattoki, costing Rs980.22 million.

In the communication sector, it approved two projects worth Rs1.27bn for Shangla Hill Interchange on M-3 and the dualisation of the remaining portion of Sukkur bypass. A project for 'Grow Green Gwadar and Smart' worth Rs410m was approved.

Under the Pak-China Economic Corridor, a support project of the Ministry of Railways was also approved by the CDWP at a cost of Rs252m.

Other projects approved are: the second phase of archaeology community tourism field school project worth Rs52.53m; establishment of 'Seerat Chairs' in public sector universities involving Rs192m; strengthening of academic facilities at Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai University in Khairpur costing Rs712.60m; and strengthening of agricultural engineering and women development programme worth Rs843.18m.

The projects recommended to Ecne are 500KV substation at Faisalabad west worth Rs1.1b, and the Balochistan education project costing Rs3.57b.

Addressing the meeting, Mr Iqbal said Pakistan could not afford to be left behind in the development race as other countries in the region were riding on the wave of Asian growth. "Our development strategy under 'Vision 2025' has brought a paradigm shift in priorities for allocation of resources," he said.

Listing the seven priorities of the development strategy, Mr Iqbal said the first priority was to focus on human resource development and put people first in development process.

"Our neglect of human resource development has put us behind other nations. The Rs10b 'National Human Resource Endowment Fund' approved by the government is a proof of our commitment, he added.

The second priority, he said, was to focus on indigenous sources of growth for sustainable and inclusive growth. There is focus on research and development, innovation and export promotion. The target of increasing exports to over \$150bn by 2025 is a step in this direction.

The third priority is to reform public sector and civil service to make it performance-driven and citizen-friendly, while the fourth priority is energy, water and food security. The neglect of this sector has brought unprecedented damage to economy with acute power and energy shortages and a looming water crisis. New dams and energy projects have been initiated to not only solve the crisis but also to cater for future demand, he said.

According to the planning minister, the fifth priority is to revamp productive sectors with strong academia and research input for value addition and Knowledge Economy. "We want to move from commodity to high-value platform. ICT sector is being developed as engine of growth," he said.

The sixth priority is development of private sector and small and medium enterprises for job creation and investment, and the seventh priority is development of modern infrastructure for greater regional connectivity. He said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was a giant step in this direction. All development

projects would be judged for their contribution and relevance to these priorities, he added.

All Day

**Tajikistan, Pakistan cooperation growing in all fields, says envoy --
Express Tribune**

Tajikistan, Pakistan cooperation growing in all fields, says envoy

Ambassador of Tajikistan Sherali Jononov has said relations between his country and Pakistan are growing in all fields adding these relations would surely get new dimensions in the coming days.

He expressed these views while talking to DNA on Tuesday.

The ambassador further said, "Let me begin with the recent visit of our State Minister for Reserves who visited Pakistan along with a delegation on December 22-23. During this visit both sides discussed various avenues of cooperation, especially cooperation in the energy sector".

He added, a 5-member Tajikistan delegation led by Nurmahmad Akhmedov, Minister, Chairman Agency on State Material Reserves of Tajikistan, held a meeting with Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, discussing matters on enhancement of bilateral trade relations, particularly immediate import of sugar and wheat from Pakistan.

Nurmahmad Akhmedov also informed the Finance Minister that they had plans to import crude oil from Kuwait and avail refinery facilities of Pakistan before onward supply to Tajikistan.

Pakistan's private sector companies he said were very active in Tajikistan and there were bright prospects of growth in trade and business linkages between the two countries.

Tajikistan is a landlocked country which needs better connectivity in the region. Bulk of Tajikistan's trade takes place through railways and partly by road through Afghanistan. Tajikistan looked to Pakistan for facilitation in transportation.

Tajikistan also had plans to avail the facilities at Karachi and Gwadar Ports for trade. Tajikistan has been purchasing wheat, fertiliser and sugar from Pakistan and wished to continue that in future. With the realisation of the Pak-Afghan-Tajikistan transit trade agreement, trade between these countries and in the region would flourish.

Federal Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Muhammad Asif told our delegation that the gas, road, railways and transmission line link between Tajikistan and Pakistan is necessary for the economic interests of the two countries. Our delegation was comprised of Minister of State for Reserves of Tajikistan, Nurmahmad Akhmedov and other officials.

Let me tell you that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan established diplomatic relationship with the Republic of Tajikistan in 1992 but cooperation between our two countries started from 1991. Geographically Tajikistan is the nearest Central Asian State to Pakistan -- there is only fourteen kilometres between two countries.

Following the acquisition of Tajikistan's independence, our bilateral relations have entered a new phase. Pakistan is one of the first countries who recognised the independence of Tajikistan and established diplomatic ties with it, and opened its embassy in Dushanbe in 1993. The Republic of Tajikistan opened its diplomatic mission in Pakistan four years later, in 1997. Thus, bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries started developing in different fields.

Tajikistan and Pakistan together took part in settlement of regional issues, contribute to building up integration processes within the Organisation of Economic Cooperation, the Conference for the mutual confidence of the Asian countries and the Shanghai Corporation Organisation.

Pakistan really can be a gateway of the Central Asia for trade and commerce and that would be a tremendous source of revenue from the states of this region. From the Pakistan point-of-view, and equally, it would provide opportunities for Central Asian states such as Tajikistan, to boost cheaper exports, the ambassador added.

While giving a brief account of bilateral cooperation to cope with the menace of terrorism, the ambassador said indeed terrorism, drug trafficking, religious extremism and other transnational crimes pose serious challenges before any country, particularly in our region, and to combat them requires cross-border collaborations.

Both sides work on countering regional terrorism, drug trafficking, religious extremism and ensuring stability and security in Asia. Our law-enforcement authorities have a good cooperation links for dealing with all these, so-called "modern threats".

Tajikistan, he said, is in a dire need of access to the world through Pakistani port like Gwadar. For the advancement of the communication projects, the government has adopted strategy to construct new highways and bridges to link Tajikistan with neighbouring countries.

Opening the highways of Kulob-Khorugh-Kulma-Karakorum, Istiqlol Tunnel, 4 bridges between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, reconstruction of Dushanbe-Qurghonteppa highway and also the construction of Dushanbe-Nurobod-Jirgatal-Saritosh are considered as positive steps for the communication advancement.

All Day

ICCI lauds Pak-China deal on bank branches -- The Nations

Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has welcomed the understanding reached between Pakistan and China during the third meeting of second phase negotiations on Pak-China FTA (Free Trade Agreement) to soften the requirements for establishing bank branches in each other's country. ICCI has termed understanding reached between Pakistan and China highly positive development that would help in boosting bilateral trade and yield fruitful results for both countries. Muzammil Hussain Sabri, President ICCI, said that Pakistan and China possessed immense potential to improve bilateral trade, however, lack of banking facilities was a big stumbling block for Pakistani businessmen to promote trade with China as presently the LCs were routed through foreign banks.

He said the opening of Pakistani banks in China would greatly facilitate trade promotion with China as the financial transactions would be routed through Pakistani banks. This arrangement would not only benefit our banking reserves, it would also help in expansion of our economy and GDP growth. He stressed that both countries should remove all impediments on urgent basis to establish bank branches on reciprocal basis.

Muhammad Shakeel Munir, Senior Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry also appreciated the Pak-China move to re-negotiate tariff reduction on tradable goods under the Free Trade Agreement (FTA). He said both countries had signed the FTA in 2006, but its concessions could not be better utilized as yet.

He said India-China bilateral trade has reached \$ 70 billion during 2013, but Pakistan's trade with China was still far below the available potential. He urged that Government of Pakistan should provide helping hand to its businessmen in taking full advantage of FTA for improving trade with China. He said though Pak-China bilateral trade has improved from \$4.10 billion in 2006-07 to over \$ 10 billion in 2014, however, the volume of trade was highly tilted in favor of China, which needed to be made balanced for both countries.

Muhammad Ashfaq Chatha, Vice President ICCI stressed that both countries should take measures to address issues related to technical barriers to trade (TBT). He said that Chinese government should also look into the strict conditions of its inspections and quarantine processes to remove the concerns of Pakistani exporters in order to facilitate them in promoting exports to China.

All Day

Secretariat being set up to facilitate long-term China projects -- Dawn
Secretariat being set up to facilitate long-term China projects

At its meeting on Tuesday, the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) approved an allocation of Rs252 million for establishment of the secretariat at the railways ministry, official sources said.

According to them, the secretariat will also provide support to steering committee of the China-Pak Economic Corridor in the procurement of the specialists and experts required to fill the existing capacity gap in handling the regional economic integration projects worth \$4 billion in the ministry of railways and the Pakistan Railways.

To expedite, facilitate and oversee development of the long-term plan as well as the designing and implementation of the projects contained in it both sides have already constituted a joint cooperation committee at the ministerial level besides joint working groups on transport, energy and planning.

All the plans and projects pertaining to the corridor are discussed in the joint working groups and then recommendations are made to the joint cooperation committee to finalise the high-priority plans and projects.

A number of strategic projects are being envisaged under the economic corridor scheme, especially in the transport, infrastructure and energy sectors, which will further enhance regional cooperation.

During Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to China in July 2013, an agreement was signed which envisaged greater connectivity and trade linkages between the two countries through a network of roads, railway tracks, fibre-optic cables and fuel pipelines.

To expedite implementation of these projects a secretariat has already been set up at the Planning Commission. However, to expedite implementation of the prioritised projects and to gain momentum and continuous achievements, a need was felt to create capacities at the ministry of railways.

The secretariat will facilitate, coordinate, monitor and evaluate the projects. It will provide a much-needed platform for multi-sector coordination and a consultative, 'informed' approach vis-a-vis trade and transport reforms and policy formulation

All Day

Development schemes: New Gwadar Airport gets ECNEC's approval -- Express Tribune

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (EcneC) on Monday approved nine mega development schemes requiring a total expenditure of Rs105 billion including construction of the New Gwadar International Airport at a cost of Rs26.6 billion.

Called the apex project-sanctioning authority, EcneC directed the Aviation Division to change the design of the Gwadar project in order to facilitate the landing and take-off of Boeing 777 aircraft.

The Planning Commission proposed to revise down the project cost to Rs21.5 billion, but because of further modifications in the design, it would cost no less than Rs26.6 billion, said an official of the Ministry of Finance.

As part of its \$46.6 billion investment programme for Pakistan, China is expected to provide \$662 million in assistance for developing land, airport and seaport facilities in Gwadar.

Oman has promised a grant of \$17.5 million for the new airport while the Civil Aviation Authority will bear one-tenth of the total cost from its resources.

Initially, EcneC had approved the Gwadar airport in January 2010 at a cost of Rs7.7 billion. Since then, the project has been facing delays because of its cost estimate and design structure. Until June last year, Rs803 million had been spent on its development.

The project featured on the PML-N government's priority list following a strategic partnership accord between Pakistan and China for establishing an economic corridor.

Under the partnership, China is planning to use the Gwadar Port for developing its western parts, which have been roiled by insurgency and separatist movement because of its largely underdeveloped status.

EcneC gave its seal of approval to the construction of an expressway on the east bay of Gwadar Port at a cost of Rs14.1 billion. China will provide Rs13.5 billion for the project, part of the early harvest programme of the economic corridor.

The committee considered and cleared the development of Gorkin-Matiltan hydropower project of 84 megawatts at a rationalised cost of Rs20.7 billion.

The project will bring an annual income of Rs3.5 billion after completion in about seven years. A fifth of the cost will come from the Annual Development Plan of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and the remaining 80% will be injected in terms of loan from the Hydel Development Fund of the province.

A project for the construction of 73.7km Torkham-Jalalabad road, costing Rs7.4 billion, also won EcneC's nod. The need of funds is proposed to be met out of the \$500 million pledged by Pakistan for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan.

The committee cleared the Balochistan educational project with an expenditure of Rs3.6 billion. Finances are being arranged in the shape of a grant from the Global Partnership for Education under the supervision of the World Bank with guidelines for the province to provide access to primary education.

The project will cover the entire 32 districts of Balochistan. A total of 2,000 mixed-gender primary schools will be established and 60 girls' schools will be upgraded. This will bring 100,000 out-of-school children to educational institutions and will provide employment to 4,000 teachers.

A project for the rehabilitation, upgrading and conservation of 400 coaches of the Pakistan Railways also got Ecneec's green signal. With an investment of Rs5.2 billion, 400 coaches will be rehabilitated. Ecneec approved, in principle, the construction of Amri-Kazi bridge over Indus River at a cost of Rs7.2 billion. The federal government will bear half of the cost and the rest will be paid by the Sindh government.

With spending of Rs7.7 billion, the water sector capacity building and advisory services project was also cleared. The project will lead to improvement in water resources management and investment planning in the Indus River basin in order to strengthen the water sector's sustainability.

The committee cleared the 500-kilovolt sub-station Faisalabad west project at a rationalised cost of Rs9.4 billion.

All Day

Pakistan to get max benefit from Pak-China FTA Phase-II: Dastgir -- Daily Times, 41-N, Guru Mangat Rd, Block N, Gulberg, Lahore 54030, Pakistan

ISLAMABAD – Minister for Commerce Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan on Tuesday said that the second phase of Pak-China Free Trade Agreement would help in reducing the balance of trade with China.

Addressing a press conference here, he said that the meeting between the both sides for the agreement the second phase of Pak-China Free Trade Agreement were in process and next meeting in this regard would be held in March this year. He said that the second phase would be independent from the first one as it was not in favour of Pakistan. He said that in the first phase of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) which was signed in 2006 between the two countries, the tariff reduction provided by China to Pakistan was insufficient as Pakistan could not get maximum benefit.

"Now in the second phase the both sides have proposed to increase tariff concessions from existing 35 per cent to 90 per cent," said Additional Secretary Ministry of Commerce Robina Ather who is currently leading the Pakistani side for bilateral dialogues with China. She however said that the tariff reduction would be in favor of Pakistan as China was proposing 70 per cent immediate tariff reduction while the remaining would be increased gradually by 10 per cent every five years whereas Pakistan was proposing 50 per cent immediate tariff reduction while the remaining would be increased by 10 per cent every 10 years.

She said "our period would be longer while tariff reduction would be lesser as compared to that of China". Dastgir said that the two sides were agreed on three principles first of which was that the second phase would be independent from the first one and it would have nothing to do with the previous one. Moreover, he said that the two sides have also agreed that tariff reduction would not be on reciprocal basis and it would be in favour of Pakistan. He said that the two sides also agreed that if there is surge in imports of any product from either side, both countries would have right to put safeguard measures and quotas on that particular product.

He said that the both sides also agreed on softening up requirements for establishing branches of Banks in each other's countries. He said that as per agreement, for establishing bank branches, asset requirement would be reduced to \$ 15 billion from \$ 20 billion, for all Pakistani Banks, at the end of the year prior to the submission of the application. He said that Working Groups on Customs also shared some information on modalities of establishing customs Electronic Data Exchange related to the implementation of Pak-China Free Trade Agreement.

Both sides agreed that this Working Group would have first face-to-face meeting in January, 2015 in Beijing, he said. To a question he said that it was noticed that the trade figures quoted by both sides differed greatly. He said that the Pakistani data shows that currently Pakistan exports to China were \$2.5 billion while the import from China were \$7.5 billion while according to Chinese documents the exports to

Pakistan were around \$14 billion while the imports from Pakistan to China were around \$10 billion.

He said that both sides agreed that a study may be conducted respectively to find out the reasons for this discrepancy and outcome of the study would be shared by end of January, 2015. In evaluating the first phase of Pak-China Free Trade Agreement, both sides raised concerns regarding insufficient utilisation of concessions, influence to local industry as a result of concessions and misuse of certificate of origin which could be addressed in the second phase. The minister said that it was also agreed to establish a working group on Trade in Services and Investment, which will have its meeting with next Pak-China Free Trade Agreement meeting, scheduled to be held at the end of March, 2015.

All Day

Infrastructure projects at Gwadar Port: Pakistan, China to expedite efforts to achieve 15 targets -- BR

Pakistan and China have agreed to expedite efforts to achieve as many as 15 targets for development of infrastructure projects at Gwadar Port, it is learnt. The commitment on 15 targets was made by the two countries during the Joint Working Group on Gwadar held on December 10, 2014 in Islamabad.

The meeting highlighted the investment commitments in the Public Sector Development Program made by the government of Pakistan including allocation for infrastructure projects at Gwadar and the expenditure of around \$66 million for purchase of land for the Free Zone area. Different infrastructure projects including connectivity to the North of Pakistan via N85 and M8 were also discussed.

The officials of the two countries discussed the importance assigned to the LNG gas pipeline project by the government for Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG terminal and pipeline project. They also highlighted the need to operationalise the Port to its optimum capacity consistent with past agreements, finalise the business plans of all port companies, bring closure to signing the lease agreement for the Gwadar Free Zone Land, and expedite the implementation of infrastructure for connectivity and social well-being.

The sources said that the government assured the delegates that security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan is a top priority and several initiatives in this regard have already been taken.

The sources said that the President of China Overseas Ports Holding Company Ltd (COPHCL) introduced the Operation Planning for Gwadar Port in the meeting and shared hard copies of the final draft report. Both sides agreed that the Chairman Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) and President COPHCL would be the focal persons to co-ordinate and finalise the Port Operational Plan after obtaining comments of relevant stakeholders as necessary within 15-day.

The two sides agreed that Chairman GPA and President COPHCL will develop consensus on Lease Deed Agreement within 15-days and further deliberations to reach consensus would be co-ordinated and overseen by Secretary, Port and Shipping, Government of Pakistan. In the meeting, it was also decided that Secretary, Ports & Shipping and Chairman, GPA would share the initial inputs from Pakistan on the Conceptual Plan in 20-days with President COPHCL and National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

Chinese side needs to submit specific proposals with regard to preferential policy requirements for Gwadar and the Preferential Policy requirement of Chinese side will be taken up with respective authorities once the lease agreement is signed, it was further agreed.

The meeting also decided that a framework for the Free Trade Zone (FTZ) will be prepared in three months by the two sides. From Pakistan side Board of Investment (BOI) and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) were to provide the required inputs. However, it was agreed that the way forward for signing of the Lease Deed agreement would not be impacted by an agreement on the framework for the Free Trade Zone (FTZ).

Both sides will further discuss LNG Terminal Projects and it will be included in Early Harvest Program (EHPs) with approval of the JCC and in this backdrop a comprehensive proposal will be prepared.

For Eastbay Expressway, Right of Way (ROW) for Rail connectivity will remain part of the project and will be towards landside. Work on this will be carried out in second phase. The meeting also decided that the process for approval of ECNEC PC-I of New Gwadar International Airport Project will be expedited.

The sources said that the meeting also decided that feasibility study for Power Plant at Gwadar will be carried out by the CCCC for which the CCCC committed to

complete the study in two months. The CCCC also confirmed their offer to undertake the project on IPP basis. Ministry of Water and Power and Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) would be focal agencies from their side.

The meeting also decided that PC-I for fresh water supply at Gwadar would be approved by March 2015 after fulfilling the requirement for the feasibility study. The meeting also agreed that MoU on Social Sector Planning and Development of Gwadar Region will be signed on an appropriate occasion after examining its important aspects like who will do the planning, how to fund it, what will be the implementation arrangement, and what will be the time frame.

Chinese side will identify a port city to declare a sister-city relationship of Gwadar with a Chinese Port city. Social Sector Study for Gwadar will be carried out. From Chinese side Hu Hao, DDG, CCCWS will be the lead expert. From Pakistan side provincial government of Balochistan will nominate a social sector expert. Chairman, GPA and DG, GDA would assist the joint expert team in the study. The time frame for this social sector plan would be a 5-year plan and timeline agreed for completion of this study would be 31st March 2015.

For developing a security framework for the port city CSO/RPO Gwadar would act as Focal Person and tender through Ministry of Interior from Pakistan side. The Chinese side would intimate a Focal Person/agency after internal consultation. In forthcoming meetings of the JWG on Gwadar, tourism development in the Gwadar region will also be deliberated upon. Initially, MPD&R would be the lead agency from Pakistan side. Chinese side endorsed the suggestion and agreed to intimate the focal agency after internal consultation.

In the end, the two sides recognised that much clarity was attained during the extensive visit of Gwadar on different initiatives of EHPs of Gwadar Package under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and during one-day long in-depth comprehensive discussion concrete agreements were reached. It was hoped that this would set a fast-track implementation of Gwadar plans and projects during first quarter of 2015.

All Day

Dar seeks Pak-China corridor-like package in Japan -- The Nations

ISLAMABAD/TOKYO - Minister for Finance Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar has said that Pak-China economic corridor is not going to benefit China and Pakistan alone, but it will bring benefits to the entire region - to the Central Asian states, to India, to Afghanistan, and to other neighboring countries.

"Even Japan won't have to go to the Gulf to get things done if this economic corridor from Kashgar [in northwestern China] to Gwadar [in southwestern Pakistan] is activated," he told Nikkei Asian Review in an interview which is Japan's leading economic journal.

"It's a win-win for everybody. We are quite grateful for China's support, which they announced. Now we are looking to Japan for an equal package, hopefully", he added. Finance minister urged Japanese investors to take optimum benefits of the investment friendly policies and opportunities in various sectors of economy.

"China has indicated that they are willing to finance coal-based generation and if Japanese companies would like to come, they are most welcome", he remarked. Replying to a question about economic growth projections of Pakistan, the minister said that the economic position of Pakistan was fairly unstable [prior to the 2013 general election] and that's why many international institutions stopped working with Pakistan.

But now the political party headed by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif - the Pakistan Muslim League - had a very clear road map of how to make an economic recovery, he added. "Our fiscal year starts July 1. Soon after we took the oath [of office] in June 2013, we [pursued] very strong structural reforms to fix the economy. They're always painful, but I'm glad to share with you that all of our macroeconomic indicators have shown very good performance", he told the Japan's Economic daily. "We had almost an average [gross domestic product growth rate] of 3pc in the [previous] five years. But we pushed for over 4pc in our very first year. [We resolved] to make a full attempt to have GDP growth of 4pc, and the next year 5pc, the third year 6pc and the fourth year 7pc.

So our projected GDP growth is 7pc in the 2017 to 2018 fiscal year".

Meanwhile, Dar called on Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso here on Thursday where both the leaders discussed matters of mutual interest, including cooperation in the field of economy, trade and investment and agreed to increase economic cooperation between the two countries.

Dar highlighted the economic reforms undertaken by the government since June 2013 and expressed his satisfaction over the performance of the economy saying that "it had taken the right direction".

He apprised Aso, who is also Japan's Finance Minister, of the successful completion of five reviews by the IMF under the Extended Fund Facility Program and expressed optimism of completion of sixth review by February.

He dilated upon some of the challenges still facing the economy including shortfall in electricity generation, requirements of rehabilitation of TDPs and countering the militants.

He informed Aso that there was considerable interest in electricity generation using coal and LNG.

He further stated that Mitsubishi had expressed interest in energy projects in Pakistan provided financing from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) was made available.

He opined that all friendly countries should participate in energy projects in Pakistan. Briefing Aso about some of the areas where Pakistan would welcome Japanese assistance, finance minister suggested that JICA may consider financing infrastructure projects, particularly in the transport sector.

JICA, he opined, should also participate in phase II of energy sector reform programme with possibly increased funding, while the Japanese government could also assist in the rehabilitation of TDPs.

He also suggested that JBIC should study in-depth Pakistan's improved economy, particularly in view of Mitsubishi's interest in investing in Pakistan's energy sector. He also invited Aso to visit Pakistan, while also expressing the desire for a possible visit to Pakistan by the Japanese Prime Minister.

The Japanese Deputy Prime Minister assured that Japan would continue its cooperation with Pakistan. He expressed his happiness over increased stability in Pakistan and stated that with patience and steadfastness all problems could be overcome.

Ishaq Dar also met Ijima, Vice President of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) at its Headquarters Thursday and discussed with him possibility of financing Japanese companies that are interested in investing in Pakistan. He informed that his visit would have been incomplete without a meeting at JBIC and dilated upon the economic performance of the government in past 19 months, including five successful IMF reviews under the Extended Fund Facility Programme. He informed Ijima of the positive response of the Japanese businessmen to the Pakistan Investment Seminar organized by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), as well as the JETRO plans to establish a 800 square metres Japan pavilion at the Expo Pakistan being organized in Karachi in end February. This, he said, was proof that many new companies and businesses were looking to do business with Pakistan, some of whom may require financing. The JBIC Vice President welcomed the finance minister and stated that it was JBIC's responsibility to support Japanese companies that invested abroad. He said that Pakistan, being a developing economy, needed concessional loans and assured that as Pakistan's economy took-off, more and more Japanese companies would be interested in Pakistan. Ijima informed the finance minister that JBIC financed Japanese companies on need basis and had no cap on financing in a particular country. He assured that JBIC would study in-depth the economy of Pakistan so as to be ready for financing any Japanese company that may approach it.

All Day

Chinese president to visit Pakistan next month -- The Nation

ISLAMABAD - Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi would visit Pakistan later this month to Chinese president to visit Pakistan next month

Last year, China promised Pakistan investment worth \$42 billion in various fields as Islamabad and Beijing had signed 19 agreements and memorandum mostly related to energy sector.

The new agreements paved the way for Chinese State-owned companies to help build at least four new power stations in Pakistan, while the deals also cover the supply and mining of coal in a bid to help Pakistan overcome its chronic electricity crisis.

The deals signed between China and Pakistan are worth \$42 billion and the whole investment is being made by China, Pakistan has for decades been China's closest ally in South Asia, and Beijing is a major trading partner and key supplier of military technology to Islamabad.

Pakistan borders the far-western Chinese region of Xinjiang, which has seen a series of clashes and attacks on civilians that have left more than 200 dead in the past year.

Beijing blames some of the region's violence on an organised terrorist group it calls the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) seeking independence for the region, home to the mostly-Muslim Uighur minority.

On the other hand, people of Pakistan anxious for the Chinese President's visit to give shape and directions to a number of landmark projects, which are necessary for Pakistan's economy.

These agreements envisaged an initial investment of \$34 billion the China-Pak Economic Corridor Support Project (CPECSP) approved by CDWP.

A number of new agreements/MoUs between Pakistan and China in the fields of energy, infrastructure, manufacturing, Railways, communication, information, media, culture etc were ready to be signed.

The Economic Corridor project become very significant after Pakistan gave control of its deep Gwadar port to China's State-owned China Overseas Ports Holding in February 2013.

Built by Chinese workers and opened in 2007, Gwadar is undergoing a major expansion to turn it into a full-fledged transshipment hub to cater for the needs of landlocked Central Asian Republics.

Pakistan and China have also signed agreements for constructing an international airport at Gwadar, upgrading a section of the 1,300-kilometre Karakorum Highway connecting China to Islamabad and laying a fibre-optic cable from the Chinese border to Rawalpindi.

In the energy sector 14 power projects including hydel, wind and coal projects with total investment of 15.5 billion dollars and a total production capacity of 10400 mega watts were likely to be signed during the visit.

Besides, projects having total production capacity of 6,120 mega watts are also contemplated to be installed with a total investment of 18.3 billion dollars.

China is also pouring its investment into alternative energy production. Bahawalpur solar park in the South Asia and 100 mw wind energy project-II are under construction in this sector.

The projects for the construction of Lahore-Karachi Motorway and the Raikot-Islamabad section, necessary for the construction of Bhasha Dam are also to be signed during the visit of President Xi Jinping.

Another Railway project for the expansion and reconstruction of existing line ML-1 having a length of 1736 km and Havelian Dry port are also to be constructed with Chinese investment at a cost of \$3.7 billion.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has recently inaugurated construction of Pak- China motorway.

The Chinese had also agreed to invest in the establishment of economic zone, an optical fiber cable project and in the field of communications at a total cost of US\$ 1.64 billion dollars.

All Day

China considers Pak concerns as its own -- The Nations

RAWALPINDI - At an important point in time, China has once again reaffirmed friendship with Pakistan and said that both the countries share concerns on a range of issues both in the region and beyond.

Meng Jianzhu, member of Politburo — Communist Party's second highest council — on Monday had a meeting with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif and termed China's relationship with Pakistan "beyond individuals".

"Pakistan's concern is China's concern," he said.

The COAS' visit to China has attained significance against the backdrop of US President Barack Obama's visit to India, as it is believed as a step to tilt balance in favour of India with regards to China, Pakistan and regional politics.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif's visit to China has opened new doors of cooperation between the two countries.

The army chief held important meetings with the Chinese leadership, Director General Inter-Services Public Relations Major General Asim Bajwa tweeted.

In a meeting with the COAS, State Leader and Peoples Conference Chairman Yu Zhengsheng also termed Pakistan as the "most reliable friend" and said just as Pakistan has always stood by China, the Chinese government and its people will stand with Pakistan and help it in all respects.

General Raheel thanked the Chinese leadership for its support to Pakistan and said, "The world must understand the evolving environment .

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greater international focus, coordination [is required] to logically conclude the fight [against] terrorism.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Pakistan is China's "irreplaceable, all-weather friend" and that both the countries are part of a community of shared destiny.

Meanwhile, China called on India to take more steps to satisfy the standards of a global organisation that controls atomic exports after US President Barack Obama said the United States was in favour of India joining the group.

Obama reaffirmed on the weekend during a visit to India the US position that India is ready for membership into the 48-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), according to a US-India joint statement.

China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said India's admission to the group "requires very careful consideration from all the member countries".

"We support the group carrying out discussions on admitting new members and at the same time we encourage India to take the next steps to satisfy the relevant standards of the group," Hua told a daily news briefing. She did not elaborate.

The United States, Britain and other members have argued in favour of India joining the organisation, established in 1975 to ensure that civilian nuclear trade is not diverted for military aims.

But India would be the only member of the suppliers' group that has not signed up to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), a 189-nation treaty set up four decades ago to prevent states from acquiring nuclear weapons.

This has caused some NSG states to raise doubts about India joining the group, which plays a pivotal role in countering nuclear threats and proliferation. Some also argue that it could erode the credibility of the NPT, a cornerstone of

global nuclear disarmament efforts.

India has yet to formally apply to join the NSG and would need the support of all member states in order to be successful.

Diplomats have said China was among the doubtful countries. Its reservations may be influenced by its close ties to Pakistan, India's rival, which has also tested atomic bombs and is also outside the NPT, analysts say.

Separately, Hua criticised both Obama and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for statements calling for "freedom of navigation and overflight throughout the region, especially in the South China Sea".

"We hope that external countries can play a constructive role on the South China Sea issue," she said.

China claims most of the South China Sea and rejects claims to parts of it by neighbours including the Philippines and Vietnam. It also rejects outside calls for negotiations between the rival claimants.

All Day

Hubco to set up 1,320MW coal-based power plants -- Dawn

ISLAMABAD: The Hub Power Company on Monday announced that it will set up 1,320MW coal-based power plants next to its thermal power station at Hub in Balochistan and gradually enhance coal based generation to 3,600MW.

Speaking to journalists, Hubco's Chief Executive Officer Khalid Mansoor said the company's board of directors had formally approved development of two coal-based power plants of 660MW each.

The two plants would be initially run on imported coal for which a coal jetty would also be developed, he said.

He added that the solution to re-emergence of circular debt and power sector problems lied in improvement in energy mix that was too expensive at the moment and induction of coal based power generation was one of the cheaper energy sources.

Mansoor said the coal-based power would continue to be cheaper with an increase in its generation in contrast to expensive oil based power generation.

He said Hubco had enough land available near its 1,292MW thermal power plant to house six coal plants of 660MW each and the company has added 1,320MW capacity in the first phase.

"We can construct 3,600MW coal-based power plants at Hub and LNG based plants should be set up in Punjab following dip in prices," Mansoor said.

He said the government of Pakistan and Chinese banks had agreed to set up a revolving fund to maintain money equal to one month's invoice to avoid payment issues due to circular debt in power sector for extending loans for Thar coal project.

He informed that Chinese banks had accepted the government guarantees of Pakistan with the setting up of a revolving fund during the visit of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar to China.

He said the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) had capped upfront fee for Sinosure (insurance cost) at seven per cent, but because of the presence of circular debt, the company asked for a fee of 9pc for credit risk insurance.

"Now, China has agreed to cap fee at 7pc and therefore this issue has been resolved," he added.

He said that tariff for coal based power plants had been estimated to reduce by 10 cents per unit from existing 22 cents per unit.

“The price of LNG have come down to \$8 to \$9 per unit from over \$16 per unit and the time is ripe to set up a 3,000MW LNG based power plants near load centers in Punjab where transportation of coal would not be feasible,” he said.

He said Hubco was also interested to take part in privatisation of generation companies on competitive basis.

He said that the root causes of circular debt included inappropriate energy mix, lack of governance and slow response from the regulatory framework.

“Despite payment of around \$5 billion circular debt in 2013, it had again reached similar levels within a year,” he said.

Therefore, he said coal based IPPs should be pursued immediately for reduction in the cost of energy mix.

He said no project could reach financial close unless the menace of circular debt was controlled.

“There is no other solution to resolve circular debt other than, enhancing the power subsidy or increasing consumer tariff and improvement on power sector governance issues,” he said, adding Pakistan’s \$15bn spending on oil imports was not sustainable.

Responding to a question, the Hubco chief said Thar Projects were included in Pak-China economic corridor priority projects list and both mining and power projects had been categorised as “Early Harvest Projects (EHP).” He said the government will provide \$700 million sovereign guarantee for Thar mining project.

He said it should be national goal to curb dependence on foreign oil and look towards investments in indigenous resources like coal and hydro to help build local energy economy.

All Day

Ahsan calls on Gwadar working group -- APP

Ahsan calls on Gwadar working group

ISLAMABAD – A nine member Gwadar sub working group led by Wang Jing Chun here on Wednesday called on Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal to review Gawadar related development projects.

According to a statement issued here said that a delegation of Gwadar sub working group is visiting Pakistan to expedite implementation process of Gawadar projects under China-Pak Economic Corridor. In light of decision taken during Gwadar working group meeting, approval process of Gwadar projects has been expedited and ECNEC has approved Eastbay Expressway and new Gwadar international airport projects.

Projects for social well being which play an instrumental role in inclusive and sustainable growth were also discussed and status of already agreed social sector projects was reviewed. The meeting provided opportunity to further fine tune some of the items that were discussed during the Gwadar joint group and will help completion of Gwadar projects on time.

A delegation from Promotion and Protection Center for Chinese Overseas Interests led by its Chairman Yan Li Jin also called on Minister for Planning, Development and Reform. The federal minister assured government's cooperation and assistance in addressing the issue of Chinese security concern and acknowledged that peace and security in Pakistan which attracts more Chinese investment companies on energy for investment.

To provide greater connectivity to Gwadar port, he said, "Various initiatives have been taken as Gwadar can act as a hub for trade between Pakistan, China, Central Asia, Gulf Region and Afghanistan", he added. He said that Gwadar port has the potential to become the most convenient, economical and popular access route for Central Asian commerce and as an energy corridor.

"The Gawadar port will serve as gateway of China-Pak Economic Corridor. It will create new development opportunities in Balochistan and government is using all resources to accelerate the pace of the projects," he said.

All Day

Thar coal, power project: Company expected to start production in 2018 -- The Nations

Thar coal, power project: Company expected to start production in 2018

ISLAMABAD: Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC), which is working in Thar on coal-based power production, has announced it will be able to supply 660 megawatts of electricity to the national grid by the first quarter of 2018 if the project's financial closure is achieved this year.

Speaking to the media during a two-day visit to the Thar coal field, SECMC Chief Executive Officer Shamsuddin Ahmad Shaikh said the company being a joint venture partner of the Sindh government was working on setting up two power plants of 330MW each for generating electricity from coal in the first phase of the project.

He said land area in block-II of Thar field, spread over 5,925 acres, had been allotted to SECMC. It requires an injection of \$2 billion, of which \$0.9 billion will be spent on mining and \$1.1 billion will go for developing coal-fired power plants.

This coal mining and power production project is part of the Pak-China Economic Corridor for which a bank will arrange Rs60 billion, while the remaining money will be provided by China. "We are targeting financial closure by the middle of 2015," Shaikh said.

Keeping in view the fact that Tharparkar ranks the lowest in Sindh's social development index, the company has decided to spend 10% of the project cost on relocation and purchasing while 2% (before tax) will be spent under the head of corporate social responsibility.

"We would provide maximum jobs to the people of Thar, besides ensuring proper water supply, health and educational facilities," he said.

Stakeholders and shareholders had so far injected Rs3.8 billion of equity into the project, he said, adding the scheme of such a scale needed government's support in providing infrastructure. At the outset, Shaikh said he was grateful to both the federal and Sindh governments for their support and keen interest in the project. He said work had begun on three out of six segments for the rehabilitation of road from Thatta to Islamkot while PC-1 for a 500-kilovolt-ampere 250km transmission line had been approved.

The National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) has assured timely availability of transmission lines and the Sindh government has agreed to provide funds for the purpose.

All Day

Rs 20 commemorative coin to mark “Pak-China Year of Friendly Exchange” -- APP

ISLAMABAD - The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will issue Rs 20 commemorative coin on January 31 to mark “Pakistan-China Year of Friendly Exchange 2015”, in pursuance of the federal government notification dated January 8, 2015.

The coin weighs 10 grams with 75 per cent copper and 25 per cent nickel. Its shape is round with serration on the edge and a diameter of 27.5mm, said an SBP statement here Wednesday. The waxing crescent moon and a five pointed star facing north-west in rising position are in the centre of the obverse face of the coin. Along with periphery on the top of the crescent star the wording “ISLAMI JAMHURIA PAKISTAN” in Urdu script is inscribed. Below the crescent and at the top of two springs of wheat with arms curved upward, there is the year of issuance 2015.

The face value of the coin in numeral “20” in bold letters and (RUPIA) in Urdu script are written on the right and left sides of crescent star respectively. There are national flags of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and People Republic of China in the centre of reverse side of the coin. Pakistani flag is shown at right side of the coin, whereas Chinese flag at the left side. The wording “YEAR OF FRIENDLY EXCHANGE 2015” is inscribed above these two flags and along with the periphery of the coin.

All Day

Iran-Pakistan pipeline: Work to start as soon as sanctions go -- Express Tribune

Iran-Pakistan pipeline: Work to start as soon as sanctions go

Pakistan and Iran have reached an understanding that they will start implementing the gas pipeline project soon after sanctions imposed by the United States are lifted.

"We have agreed with them (Iran) that we will execute the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project once the curbs are removed," Petroleum Secretary Arshad Mirza told the Senate standing committee on petroleum and natural resources in a meeting chaired by Muhammad Yousaf on Thursday.

"The agreement is between two nations under the umbrella of the United Nations, which bars us from implementation because of the embargo," he said.

State Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Jam Kamal told the panel that Pakistan could not afford sanctions while pushing ahead with the pipeline.

"The current petrol crisis has paralysed the country and you can imagine how we can face sanctions," he said. "Gas imports from Iran are subject to the lifting of sanctions, it's in the national interest."

The country has other choices as well to meet its growing energy needs. It is working on the Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (Tapi) gas pipeline, Gwadar liquefied natural gas (LNG) pipeline and is also undertaking measures to tap domestic oil and gas reserves.

Kamal said the Gwadar LNG pipeline would be connected to Iran after the restrictions on Tehran were removed. "We have not given up the project and talks are under way with Iran."

The government was also increasingly focusing on exploiting the untapped domestic oil and gas deposits and gave targets to exploration companies to double the output in the next five years, he said.

A steering committee will also meet next month in Islamabad to pick a consortium leader for undertaking the Tapi project.

Committee member and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Jehangir Badar called the IP pipeline the future of Pakistan, pointing out that the previous government had not abandoned the project despite the sanctions. He suggested the government hold dialogue on the project.

LNG from Qatar

Committee Chairman Muhammad Yousaf pointed out that Saifur Rehman, former head of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), was reportedly a middleman between Pakistan and Qatar in striking an LNG supply deal.

Senator Abdul Nabi Bangash, member of the committee, agreed that Rehman was a middleman and the LNG agreement could not have gone ahead without his involvement.

Petroleum Secretary Mirza refused to comment on the matter, only saying talks with Qatar were going on in Doha and the petroleum minister had also left to join the negotiations. "It will take some time to finalise the LNG price."

Responding to a question, Mirza said the country was still facing shortage of petrol, but the situation had stabilised. He stressed that there was enough stock of furnace oil for meeting the needs of power plants.

Senators from Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa expressed reservations about the lack of gas supply to the locals.

State Minister Kamal responded that they were working on a plan to provide gas to the people of Balochistan.

All Day

Gwadar Free Zone under CPEC on the anvil -- The News

Gwadar Free Zone under CPEC on the anvil

ISLAMABAD: The government has purchased 586 acres from Pakistan Navy, Coastal Guards and private individuals for establishing Gwadar Free Zone under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), The News has learnt.

Official documents available with The News disclosed on Friday that in order to finalise projects related to strategically located Gwadar area, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of the People's Republic of China's delegation led by Lin Dajian paid a visit to Pakistan on December 8, 2014, and reached a consensus in respect of industrial cooperation, infrastructure, social welfare and security projects for Gwadar zone.

To accelerate the process of construction of Gwadar port, China's Communication Construction Co Ltd General Manager of Overseas Department's delegation, led by Wang Jingchun, paid the visit to Pakistan from January 19 to 22, 2015, and reviewed progress on Gwadar projects.

Pakistani side informed the Chinese delegation that the government made progress on land lease agreement for Gwadar Free Zone.

Official sources confirmed to The News here on Friday that the government provided alternate land to the Pakistan Navy to the tune of 1,100 acres for establishing Free Zone at Gwadar, which will be hovering in the range of 30 kilometre radius.

The 586 acres, the sources said, will be meant for Free Zone only, and land for Gwadar airport will be obtained separately.

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecne), under chairmanship of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, directed the authorities concerned to raise the cost of Gwadar airport by Rs4 billion, increasing from Rs22 billion to Rs26 billion, in order to build this modernize airport which would enable Air Boeing 777 and 380 Airbus to operate from this airport. For this purpose, the runway for Gwadar airport will be increased by 1000 metre and some modernized buildings will be constructed. Now the authorities concerned after revising feasibility plan would again submit the cost of Rs26 billion before the next Ecne meeting.

For infrastructure, the government has approved projects such as construction of East Bay Expressway and power plant to generate 300MW electricity in the Gwadar area. The government will also construct water plant at Gwadar with estimated cost of Rs12 billion.

The tender for Gwadar Upgrade Planning was published in print media on January 23, 2015. To implement the idea of free zone, the government has decided that although the Gwadar's Airport would be located outside the Free Zone but the consignments coming through air would enjoy exemption from payment of duties and taxes.

All Day

Gwadar to be declared SEZ to facilitate economic development -- APP

Gwadar will soon be declared a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for a period of 20 to 30 years in order to facilitate rapid commercial and economic development.

The SEZ is likely to cover city of Gwadar and industrial areas currently planned and foreseen.

As per data provided by the ports and shipping division on Sunday, the specific incentive-regime is likely to include general tax-holidays, no VAT and generous incentives pertaining to business ownership. The government has already started working on this proposal.

The main purpose of this concept is to accelerate economic development and

investments, both foreign and local, in general. This in turn will spur industrial development and port traffic throughput demand.

The data further revealed that the concept of SEZ had yielded positive results around the world (particularly in China and other South East Asian and Gulf countries) with respect to accelerating local broad-based economic development.

Since designation as China's first SEZ in 1979, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contribution from industry sector grew from 14pc to 44pc, over a period 26 years.

Gwadar Port draws 9pc of the gross income from marine and port operations each and on development of Free Zone further 15pc of the gross income will accrue to the Port.

Moreover, under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Programme, Gwadar Port City is agreed by the two countries as a Gateway and fundamental mode of the Corridor. The optimal use of Gwadar Port under this programme will bring a big economic, commercial, and social change in Gwadar region and all along with the Corridor in Pakistan.

The data said Gwadar Port was completed in 2006 at a total cost of US \$ 288 million and in 2007 the port operations were handed over to PSA International, a subsidiary of Port of Singapore Authority.

Later, in 2008 Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) decided to import wheat, urea and coal from Gwadar Port and till date 6.04 million tonnes of urea and wheat have been imported through Gwadar Port.

The Port is partially functional and is receiving ships carrying government cargo while the new port operator, China Overseas Ports Holding Company Limited (COPHCL) has started work on operational plan. Optimal port operationalization will be achieved when works on port connectivity are completed.

All Day

Vision 2025 gives a roadmap for country's development: Ahsan -- Daily Times

ISLAMABAD - Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal says despite challenges, Pakistan is moving forward on the path of progress and prosperity.

He was addressing a launching ceremony of book "Taking Care of Your Personality" written by Nadeem Butt in Islamabad on Tuesday. The minister said that the nation must come forward to defeat terrorism, extremism, eradicate polio and other evils from the society. He said that we have to avoid pessimism and play their due role for the betterment of Pakistan. He said that Vision 2025 gives a roadmap for the development of Pakistan and we will see a more progressive Pakistan in 2018.

He said many power projects including hydel, solar and wind are underway to overcome the electricity shortage. He said that Pak-China Economic Corridor will enhance economic activities in the region. He said that the government is working on new curriculum which will include technical skills as well.

All Day

All hopes pinned on Gwadar Port -- Dawn

All hopes pinned on Gwadar Port

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's prosperity is tied with the development of the Gwadar Port, which has the potential to bring peace to the troubled province of Balochistan and economic prosperity for Pakistan.

This was the conclusion drawn at the seminar titled 'Gwadar Port Potential and Prospects' organised by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) on Thursday.

The minister for states and frontier regions, Abdul Qadir Baloch, said that Gwadar is an important project for Pakistan. He said that Baloch people have been deprived of their basic rights in the past. If the wrongs are redressed there will be no insurgency.

"I don't agree with the way of the insurgents but I do agree with their demands," said the minister.

He said that Gwadar could be made into a free and special economic zone which would bring prosperity to the province. "Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has taken keen interest in this project and the government is committed to completing it as soon as possible," he said.

Speaking at the event, Naveed Jan Baloch, vice president of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, urged all stakeholders including provincial and federal governments and Chinese firms investing in Gwadar to provide maximum opportunities to the Baloch people.

"Baloch are not against development. We liberal and business minded people," he said.

Earlier, Ahsan Iqbal, planning development and reforms minister, highlighted the geographical importance of the port. He said that the port is at the juncture of three regions-South Asia, West Asia and Central Asia-and home to close to three billion people. "This port will bring enormous business opportunities," he said.

The minister said that the government is building a road that will connect Gwadar to the rest of Pakistan through Rattodero.

Ahsan Iqbal also talked about the unique natural landscape of Gwadar and said that the area has potential for the development of tourism, fisheries and construction industries.

Also addressing the participants of the seminar, Dr Sajjad Hussain Baloch, Gwadar Development Authority director general, said substantial investment is required to develop infrastructure in Balochistan. He said that improving road network will allow access to the area's abundant natural resources.

Retired Vice Admiral Muhammad Haroon said that Gwadar port is the least vulnerable to attack by Indian air force and navy and in time of war it would be very difficult to block the port.

Mian Anjum Nisar, ATS group of Industries chairman, speaking at the occasion underlined the importance of Gwadar development project for the future of Pakistan. "This port is our hope and it will open new vistas of opportunities and business for the region," he said.

He said that the Chinese are financing this project as the development of Gwadar port will decrease the distance to their trading destinations and will provide them with the opportunity to export goods to the Middle East.

All Day

Govt approves upfront tariffs for Thar coal-fired power projects -- Daily Times

KARACHI: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) has approved upfront tariffs for brand new coal-fired power plants in Thar, thus, removed a key hurdle to the investors' plans to finance projects in the rigid desert projects under Pak-China Economic Corridor.

The return on equity (RoE) of 30.65 percent/annum has been allowed for the projects having construction period of 40 months and 34.49 percent/annum for the projects having a construction period of 48 months.

Nepra has notified upfront tariff of 8.5015 cents/unit for Thar coal-based power projects of 330 megawatts on foreign financing, while tariff for similar capacity projects on local financing has been fixed at 9.5643cents/unit.

The upfront tariff will be 8.3341 cents/unit for coal-fired power projects of 660 megawatts on foreign financing, while tariff for similar capacity projects on local financing has been fixed at 9.5668 cents/unit.

The upfront tariff will be 7.9889 cents/unit for power projects of 1,099 megawatts on foreign financing, while tariff for similar capacity projects on local financing has been fixed at 9.1368 cents/unit.

The tariff period is 30 years and will be applicable only for the mine-mouth projects in Thar area.

The sponsors of the plant will be allowed to select plant of any technology based on the quality of coal as far as the minimum efficiency thresholds are ensured.

The regulator has calculated capital cost for coal-based power project of 330 megawatts at \$408.245 million; \$767.868 million for 660 megawatts plant and \$1.192 billion for 1,099 megawatts plant.

The capital cost for the coal-based power project includes cost of main plant equipment system, boiler, including auxiliaries, balance of plant equipment system, other mechanical equipment system, electrical equipment system and coal handling infrastructure, engineering and project management, erection and commissioning, land, site development and civil works, transportation and evacuation cost up to inter-connection point.

Under the foreign financing originating from Chinese banks, upfront Sino sure fee of 7.0 percent on the total debt servicing (including principal and mark-up for the entire loan tenor) has been included in the project cost.

The project cost will be adjusted at the time of commercial operation date (COD) on the basis of actual Sino sure fee subject to maximum of 7.0 percent. In case the sponsor managed better alternative Sino sure fee arrangement, the same will be considered at the time of COD

An official said no withholding tax on local foreign contractors, sub-contractors, supervisory services and technical services provided by foreign (non-residents) entities has been assumed, adding, the actual expenditure on this account will be included in the project cost at the time of commercial operations on the basis of verifiable documentary evidence.

Construction period for the generation facility having a capacity of up to 330 megawatts will be 40 months and 48 months for the generation facility having a capacity of 660 megawatts and above.

The sponsors of the project can arrange foreign financing in the US dollar, British pound sterling, euro, Japanese yen and Chinese yuan or in any currency as the government may allow.

The upfront tariff has been determined on the basis of debt equity ratio of 75:25, while the minimum equity will be 20 percent and the maximum equity will be 30 percent; if the equity actually deployed is more than 30 percent of the capital cost, equity in excess of 30 percent will be treated as loan.

The Chinese government and banks have committed to finance \$45.6 billion worth of energy and infrastructure projects in Pakistan over the next six years, according to the deal signed by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during a visit to China recently.

Both Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company and Sino Sindh Resources expect to achieve the financial close by June 2015 for their coal-mining and mine-mouth power projects.

All Day

Pak-China joint ventures in higher education Process starts -- APP

Lahore: Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) has initiated a process to develop joint ventures between Pakistan and China in the field of higher education.

Prospects of developing joint degree programmes in Business, Information Technology and Chinese language were discussed in a meeting of the Jiangsu Chamber of Commerce and Industry held under aegis of the PCJCCI with University of Management and Technology (UMT) at UMT main campus here Friday.

Mr. Wang Guogui, Supervising President Jiangsu Chamber led the Chinese delegation while Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad, Rector UMT along with his team attended the meeting from UMT side.

Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General, PCJCCI was also present.

Mr. Guogui offered Chinese expertise and information technology support to the education institutes in Pakistan.

He was confident that bilateral collaboration in the fields of higher education could produce graduates of international standards in Pakistan, which could not only serve Pakistan, but also play significant role in the international business activities.

Earlier Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad, Rector UMT delivered address of welcome in honour of the Chinese delegation and apprised them about the University's ambitions of operation.

He invited Chinese entrepreneurs dealing in education centre to evolve joint venture for higher education programmes in business administration, Chinese language and the software development, and offered to allocate an exclusive area of land in UMT vicinity for this purpose.

The Jiangsu Chamber's delegation is also going to hold meeting with senior officials of the Higher Education Commission, Punjab to discuss possibilities of collaboration at government level in the field of higher education.

Meanwhile, President PCJCCI Shah Faisal Afridi termed the current visit of Chinese trade delegation highly useful for bilateral trade and investment relations.

He hoped the visit would lead to some concrete joint projects in the fields of construction, steel industry and the higher education.

He assured of making regular follow up to bring the proposals on ground.

All Day

Gwadar Port: Chinese firm agrees to give preferential policy draft -- BR
China Communication Construction Company Ltd (CCCC) has agreed to provide a draft of a preferential policy for Gwadar as per international best practices at the earliest possible for consideration by the government of Pakistan, it is learnt. According to the sources, this was agreed in a meeting of Gwadar Sub-Working Group held on January 21, 2015 in Islamabad with Chinese delegation led by Wang Jingchun, General Manager Overseas Department China Communications.

It was decided that the entire process of determining preferential policies to be completed by end of March. The sources said that a high level visit of Chinese leader is expected in April/May 2015 to Pakistan for further negotiations and agreements with the government of Pakistan.

Sources said the Chairman of Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) was of the view that the measures required before finalising the lease deed are ready for signature. He stated that GPA Board has already agreed to the proposal regarding lease period of 43 years subject to approval by the federal government. He said since the lease deed is between GPA & China Overseas Ports Holding Company Ltd (COPHCL), it would not be legally tenable to include assurances of third party in the agreement. He added that for obvious disagreement between GPA and COPHCL, the Chinese side is requested to consider these matters favourably before signing the Lease Deed Agreement by the middle of February 2015.

Sources said the Chinese side presented the salient features of the planned exhibition & display center as the first project of the free zone. It was informed that the project will be constructed on the land which is part of the concession area of COPHCL and the project would be developed by the Free Zone Company (FZC). The first phase of the project would consist of (i) comprehensive service center, (ii) warehouse, (iii) exhibition halls and all municipal engineering works to be completed by end October 2016.

On clarification sought by the Chinese side, Chairman GPA informed that for approval of this phase would be required from Gwadar Port Authority (GPA). It was suggested that Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) town planning regulations/building code for construction should be studied by Free Zone Company for guidance. The initial phase of the project would cost around \$100 million.

It was also informed in the meeting that the advertisement will be floated this week in the national dailies and in the first week of February, in international papers. He further stated that the response time for submitting of proposal is 45 days and the last date for submission is 16th March, 2015. The Chinese side showed interest in participating in the bidding process.

Sources said that the lease deed should be ready for signing by the end of February and both parties will try to finalise all remaining processes before the timeline. It was also agreed that without further negotiations progress on new Gwadar International Airport, Gwadar power plant and water supply plant, the lease agreement would be in accordance with the concession agreement except for extension in period of three years in lease period for the free zone. It was also recommended that the CCCC would expedite conduct of pre-feasibility and other allied requirements such that the plant becomes operational by end 2017.

About the Preferential Policy, the sources said that it was noted that majority of the items for preferential policies indicated by the Chinese side were already covered under the existing tax policies for Gwadar. In the meeting the Board of Investment (BoI) presented a brochure containing these policies for the information of the Chinese side. The BoI also committed to provide one window operation to investors through their office in Gwadar. On a query from the Pakistani side, Chinese side intimated that the overall preferential treatment for Gwadar city has not been finalised by National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

It was also informed that the pre-feasibility study report has to be submitted by CCCC by 10th February, 2015. On a query, the Chinese side was informed that the

information requested by the company will be submitted to them shortly. They were also intimated that the application for various approvals for obtaining requisite permissions for constructing and operating the Gwadar power plant has to be submitted to PPIB directly. This was also informed that the security plan for entire Gwadar region is currently being formulated for approval of the government.

All Day

**Pak-China relations: Banking links should improve, says SBP governor --
Express Tribune**

Governor SBP and Chinese Consulate Vice Consul General Mu Yong Peng unveiling unveiling of the Rs20 commemorative coin at the SBP Museum on Thursday to mark the 'Pak-China Year of Friendly Exchange 2015'. PHOTO: NNI Governor SBP and Chinese Consulate Vice Consul General Mu Yong Peng unveiling unveiling of the Rs20 commemorative coin at the SBP Museum on Thursday to mark the 'Pak-China Year of Friendly Exchange 2015'. PHOTO: NN
The governor said, "In the financial sector, we find footprints of our friendly relations over a long period of time."

CREATIVE COMMONS

KARACHI: State Bank of Pakistan Governor Ashraf Mahmood Wathra has underscored the need for improving banking sector links with China, saying that Pakistani banks are already present in China as representative offices.

The governor said this during the unveiling of the Rs20 commemorative coin at the SBP Museum on Thursday to mark the 'Pak-China Year of Friendly Exchange 2015'. The ceremony was attended by Chinese Consulate Vice Consul General Mu Yong Peng, the Chinese media and dignitaries.

The governor said, "In the financial sector, we find footprints of our friendly relations over a long period of time. The most recent among these is the establishment of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China."

He also mentioned the establishment of Pak-China Investment Company, which is operating as a development finance institution for the promotion of trade, investment and economic growth in Pakistan.

According to a press release, Wathra added that the two countries have strong trade ties but to bring them to the next level where Pakistani exports also become a significant portion of the Chinese imports, the presence of a strong banking network is essential.

SBP Chief Spokesman Abid Qamar said that the government of Pakistan has laid down a detailed map of year-round activities, aimed at further deepening and enrichment of existing relations between the two countries.

All Day

Free trade zone in Gwadar -- Dawn

A lease agreement is being processed to hand over 2,281 acres of land to the China Overseas Port Holding Company for the establishment of a 'free trade zone' in Gwadar.

According to a senior official of the ministry of ports and shipping, the lease agreement is currently being reviewed by the law division. After the government's formal approval, the land will be leased out to the Chinese company for 40 years. The ministry has paid over Rs6.69bn to acquire the land through the deputy commissioner of Gwadar.

The free trade zone is seen indispensable for the success of the Gwadar port, as they are an integral part of all modern ports. The zone is expected to ensure optimal use of the deep sea port. In Gwadar port's master plan, prepared by foreign consultants, the mouza Dor Gatti area had been earmarked for the free trade zone.

A free trade zone is a designated area that eliminates traditional trade barriers such as tariffs, and minimises bureaucratic regulations. Its goal is to enhance global market presence by attracting new businesses and foreign investment.

The Chinese company has been incorporated as the 'Gwadar Free Zone Company'. It will finance infrastructure development of the zone area, with the exception of access roads, which will be financed by the Gwadar Port Authority. The company will bring local and foreign investment to establish the manufacturing assembly and processing plants.

The zone will be located immediately west and adjacent to the planned container terminal. Out of 2,281 acres, 654 acres are naval and coast-guard land, for which the owners will compensate with 1,000 acres under a deal approved by the Senate Standing Committee on Ports and Shipping.

In the customs-free zone, all imports would be subject to the applicable duties and charges if and when they are taken out of the free zone, except for the purpose of export. The area will be used exclusively for port-related business and industry.

A 20-year tax holiday will apply to businesses in the free trade zone. Under the agreement, 15pc of gross revenue from the free zone will be paid to the Gwadar Port Authority by the Chinese company. It is expected that the development of the zone will help create job opportunities, and lead to transfer of technology and business activities.

Plans are also afoot to link the Gwadar deep sea port with the hinterland through rail to fully realise the port's potential.

The chief engineer of Pakistan Railways who is dealing with the project, Basharat Waheed, said out of the total cost of around Rs1.3bn for the 285 acres of land, Pakistan Railways has paid Rs450m for the acquisition of the land required by it through the Board of Revenue of Balochistan's secretary. The remaining amount of Rs700m is expected to be approved by the Central Development Working Party of the planning commission at its next meeting.

Initially, Pakistan Railways had planned to acquire 373 acres of land, but due to the escalation in the market price in the wake of the port's construction, the area was reduced to 285 acres.

The land will be used for the construction of a railway container yard, station and other operational facilities and a 30-metre-wide corridor to the deep sea port on one end, and a point outside Gwadar's limits, at a distance of 25km on the Gwadar-Turbat-Hushab-Besima-Mastung rail link on the other side.

The proposed container yard will have the capacity to handle about 500 railway

freight wagons, including marshalling of freight trains. The laying of a double-track from the container yard to the deep sea port has also been proposed.

All Day

Pak-China to celebrate 2015 as Year of Friendly Exchanges: ambassador -- Daily Times

ISLAMABAD - China and Pakistan will arrange series of activities this year to promote cultural exchanges and understanding between the two countries, said Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong.

The two countries are celebrating the 2015 Pakistan-China Year of Friendly Exchanges. According to the China Radio International (CRI), the year will witness a series of activities, laying special focus on strengthening people-to people contacts. In an interview to CRI, the ambassador said that China and Pakistan have long been dedicated to promoting all-round bilateral relations in political exchange, trade and investment, security, among other fields. The two countries are exploring ways and means to elevate the all-weather strategic partnership, bringing it to a new height. In this connection, they are all out efforts to realise the Chinese Dream and the Pakistani "Asian Tiger Dream" by forging a "community of destiny".

A grand reception was held in Beijing last week, marking its official commencement at first one of a series of activities which the two friendly countries plan to celebrate jointly throughout the year. The event was graced by China Vice President Li Yaunchao from Chinese side, whereas National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq led the delegation of the parliamentarians from Pakistan, who especially attended inauguration of celebrations of the Friendly Exchanges Year.

All Day

PAK-CHINA TO CELEBRATE 2015 AS YEAR OF FRIENDLY EXCHANGES: AMBASSADOR -- Pak Observer

Islamabad—China and Pakistan will arrange series of activities this year to promote cultural exchanges and understanding between the two countries, said Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong.

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The event was graced by Vice President of China Li Yaunchao from Chinese side whereas Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan Sardar Ayaz Sadiq led the delegation of Parliamentarians from Pakistan, who especially attended inauguration of celebrations of the Friendly Exchanges Year.—INP

All Day

Chinese team discusses prospects of joint ventures in HE sector -- BR

A Chinese delegation from the Jiangsu Chamber of Commerce and Industry met with the Secretary Higher Education Punjab here on Tuesday and discussed the prospects of joint ventures between the two countries in education sector. Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) facilitated the meeting between the Chinese delegation headed by Wang Guogui and Jiang and Secretary Higher Education Aslam Kamboh who gave some practical suggestions that could link the education domains of Pakistan and China.

The delegation also held a separate meeting with Chairman Higher Education Commission Punjab Nizamudin here at the Arfa Karim Tower. Nizamudin informed the delegation that year 2015 is being celebrated by Government of Pakistan as the "Pak-China Friendship Year," in which more avenues for economic co-operation between the two countries were being identified.

He said that mega economic projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Silk Route Revival, construction of dams and Chinese investment in Pakistani textile, energy, banking, commerce and industry sectors would be expedited this year to strengthen the bilateral friendship on economic front. He said that at present both the countries are exchanging a lot of human resource in different fields including education and skills sector. He hoped the joint ventures in education sector would help transfer modern education technology, management skill and innovative trends.

He said that later on Chinese language would be incorporated in the curriculum. Moreover Nizamudin shared the idea of Chief Minister Punjab of formulating a Knowledge Park in Pakistan that would greatly enhance the skills and Productivity of Pakistani youth.

He said that rather than diploma programmes TEVTA is planning to offer four-year complete degree programmes that would add value to the skill based trainings and expertise.

He said that Sandwich Degree Programme and Student Exchange Programme could be initiated with collaboration of both China and Pakistan. He stressed upon the need to link the educational sector of the countries by setting up Pak-China collaborative research institutes, language and culture centres, technical and innovative training institutes and Chinese work ethics imparting institutes. He also appreciated the efforts made by PCJCCI in bridging gaps between both countries.

Wang Guogui suggested that at the first phase, communication gap should be overcome by learning each other's language so that businessmen, entrepreneurs, investors and students could actively communicate with each other without the need of any interpreter. Jian Li, Secretary General Jiangsu Chamber of Commerce, said that after going back to China, she will discuss with the relevant authorities to propose some concrete proposals for sending language teachers, technical experts, trade and commerce professionals, researchers and innovators to join the proposed Pak-China collaborative institute to be set up in Pakistan. She appreciated the proposals given by Nizamudin and said that next visit is expected in coming May or June that would be a bigger one and present some concrete agenda and proposals. Meanwhile, President PCJCCI Shah Faisal Afridi organised a farewell for the Chinese delegation.

All Day

No change in design of Pak-China economic corridor: minister -- APP

Minister for Planning Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal Friday ruled out any plan to change the design of Pakistan-China Economic Corridor – a project symbolising new vision of Pak-China economic partnership.

“The Pak-China economic corridor is not a game changer but a fate changer for Pakistan and for the prosperity of three billion people of the region,” Ahsan Iqbal said addressing a press conference on Friday.

“Pakistan-China economic corridor is imperative for regional trade integration and to enhance economic activities in the country,” he remarked. Ahsan resolved that the mega project was aimed at uniting all federating units including the remote areas of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh, Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit Baltistan Region.

He added that a transit trade between Pakistan and China would be started from Gwadar, adding that backward areas of Balochistan would especially benefit from the economic corridor project.

The minister said that energy and infrastructure was more important for economic development of any country, and: “our government was working on strategic road map and formulated the vision 2025 to enhance infrastructure and energy projects with the cooperation of friendly China.”

The economic corridor and connected energy projects with a total investment of \$45 billion during the next five years was a glaring example of the close friendship between the Pakistan and China.

He added that Pak-China energy corridor also included the project of generating 16,000 MW electricity to benefit the industrial zones and domestic consumers in the country.

The economic corridor would give Pakistan a pivot in the region boosting trade and commerce links with the regional economies, said Ahsan Iqbal. The 2,100-kilometer corridor would include special economic zones, a railways system and a model city, airport as well as a free port at Gwadar, he said.

The government, he said, was planning to establish a state-of-the-art industrial zone in Gwadar which would be a core feature of Pakistan-China trade corridor. The economic corridor considered the multiple route for the connectivity of urban and remote rural population of the country to provide equal development opportunities to the people.

The corridor, he said, was a landmark project which would connect Pakistan’s deep sea Gwadar port with China’s Xinjiang region bordering Gilgit Baltistan, an area full of natural resources.

Both Pakistan and China have launched a number of mega projects under the umbrella of economic corridor in several fields like energy, infrastructure and connectivity which would revitalise Pakistan’s economy.

To provide greater connectivity to Gwadar Port, he said, “Various initiatives have been taken as Gwadar can act as a hub for trade between Pakistan, China, Central Asia, Gulf Region and Afghanistan”, he added.

He said the Gwadar port had the potential to become the most convenient, economic and popular access route for Central Asian commerce and as an energy corridor. Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan had important geo-economic and geo-strategic position to connect the whole region and convert it as trade hub for the entire region.

He regretted that again some quarters propagated against the Pak-China economic corridor that too when the Chinese president was expected to visit Pakistan.

He added that earlier the Chinese president's visit was cancelled because of different rumours spread during the PTI-PAT sit-in at D-Chowk.

Ahsan Iqbal said the government had taken necessary steps to enhance economic and trade ties with all regional and other countries including the United States, China and Afghanistan in order to maintain peace and prosperity in the country and the region.

All Day

Pakistan should be champion of regional integration: EU envoy -- The News

Lars Gunner Wigemark, the Ambassador of European Union, has said that Pakistan should be champion of regional integration just like six European states that had done a lot in case of EU.

He was addressing a seminar on 'Deepening of Pakistan-EU Relations: Post-Afghan Withdrawal' organised by Sustainable Development Policy Institute here on Wednesday. Mome Saleem conducted the proceedings.

The ambassador said that India should not press panic button at this stage. He said we share role being played by India in trade and Pakistan should take steps in regional integration. He welcomed Pak-China economic corridor as long it involves others also. He hoped relations with Iran will also improve one day.

The ambassador said that EU is a union of 21 democracies which arose from ashes of World War-II. He said that we support democracies in the world in education and health sectors in particular. Admitting it was not flawless model if you see past few years "but still Europeans tried to pool resources for an integrated region which seeks the countries to secede some of their sovereign rights." He said actions undertaken in promoting sovereignty have impact on neighbours.

He said that EU welcomes improvement in Pak-Afghan ties as it is important for the both countries. He highlighted importance of transit trade agreement for SAARC countries. He said that we not only promote trade with regions but also within region and referred to his country Sweden's trade with Norway and Italy asking Pakistan to explore trade vistas with its neighbouring India.

Mr Wigemark said India has ten times bigger area, population, common history and some disputes. If both New Delhi and Islamabad had positive relations, the ties with Europe will definitely improve, he said sharing Obama's reservations on protectionism expressed in India adding that we want to end non-trade barriers.

The EU ambassador said Pakistan should move forward after 26/12 tragedy in Peshawar. He said we would like to do more in terms of counter-terrorism and sharing intelligence. He said the answers lie within keeping in view culture and values while moving ahead in this respect. He said Pakistan has diversity and opinion against Taliban is dominant.

He said that EU will work in poor areas in the smaller provinces and south Punjab to combat militancy in Pakistan. He supported local elections as the MPs should not indulge in local issues.

The EU envoy said that EU is the largest donor as well as trade partner of Pakistan. He said that a country considering to trade with EU should implement the conditionalities of EU especially those related to human rights. He said that death penalty does not help in ameliorating the ties between EU and Pakistan.

Former ambassador to India Munnawwar Saeed Bhatti said that EU countries had been centre of economic and cultural activities and are like a model for us. He said that Pak-EU relationship is long term, friendly and closer than that with many other countries. EU acted as a model for other countries showing how to make their peoples prosperous.

Mome Saleem said that scholarship scheme was very productive which made students knowledge producers and not knowledge managers. She said that labour standards can only be implemented if we address other issues which are very different from EU and other places.

Malik Hussain from Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that GSP Plus status show the confidence of the world community in Pak exports. He said that death penalty was partially restored to combat the challenge of terrorism threatening the entire world.

He said West should not leave Afghanistan and must remain there to fight the menace of terrorism.

Ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel in his opening remarks said that there had been remarkable evolution in integration in the European region. Shakil Ramay from SDPI said that his organisation wants to contribute to peace and development.

All Day

Asif discussed Pak-China ties with Yang Jiechi -- APP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence and Water & Power Khawaja Muhammad Asif Saturday called on Chinese State Councilor Dr Yang Jiechi on the sidelines of the 51st Munich Security Conference, in Germany.

He exchanged views on the bilateral relations between the two countries with special reference to cooperation in eliminating the terrorism in the region, said a message received here from Pakistan Embassy in Berlin, Germany.

The minister said that both China and Pakistan enjoyed good relations which continued to grow.

He also expressed the hope that the Chinese leadership would play a significant role in the near future to bring peace and prosperity in the region.

Dr Yang Jiechi assured him of his country's full support and cooperation in Pakistan's Endeavour to overcome the socio economic issues that had gripped the country as well its efforts to bring peace and stability in the region.

All Day

Russian team coming for key talks on \$1.7b gas pipeline -- APP

Pakistan and Russia have already signed a protocol for awarding the contract of laying the LNG pipeline to a Russian company in a government-to-government arrangement. CREATIVE COMMONS

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Russia are set to meet next week to strike a final deal on laying a \$1.7-billion gas pipeline from Karachi to Lahore, which will carry imported liquefied natural gas (LNG) for overcoming energy crisis in Punjab.

According to officials, the two sides will be deliberating at a time when ministers of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India will meet to make headway and award the financing contract of a transnational gas pipeline to French energy giant Total, which will work as a consortium leader.

Separately, a Pakistani team will hold talks with a Russian delegation on the modalities of the Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (Tapi) pipeline. Pakistan and Russia have already signed a protocol for awarding the contract of laying the LNG pipeline to a Russian company in a government-to-government arrangement.

Apart from this, the Interstate Gas Systems, which deals with gas import projects, is working on an LNG pipeline in Gwadar and the Tapi project. A protocol has been inked with China for awarding the \$3 billion Gwadar LNG pipeline and terminal contract.

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet has given its, in principle, consent for the construction of the 1,100km North South Gas Pipeline from Karachi to Lahore for the supply of re-gasified LNG to proposed gas-fired power plants in northern Pakistan.

The government has planned to set up 3,600-megawatt LNG-based power plants in Punjab in an effort to tackle outages. In this regard, the Ministry of Water and Power is seeking approval of upfront tariff at Rs8.85 per unit through a petition filed with the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra).

Officials of the water and power ministry point out that the LNG-fired power plants would help meet the needs of Faisalabad Electricity Supply Company (Fesco), Gujranwala Electric Power Company (Gepco) and Lahore Electricity Supply Company (Lesco), which have been facing a shortfall.

The gap between natural gas supply and demand in the country has widened to 2 billion cubic feet per day (bcfd) with supplies at 4 bcfd.

To bridge the shortfall, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources is pushing ahead with different gas pipeline projects. In addition to these, LNG terminals will be built at the Port Qasim and Gwadar Port, which will handle imported LNG with an estimated re-gasification capacity equal to around 2 bcfd of natural gas.

In an ECC meeting, it was highlighted that the existing gas infrastructure was not designed to transport large quantities of gas from the southern to northern regions of the country as it lacked the capacity to handle additional volumes.

Therefore, the Karachi-Lahore pipeline is critical for shipping re-gasified LNG to the power plants. A speedy construction of pipeline infrastructure is necessary to

transport higher gas volumes well before the completion of LNG terminal at Gwadar and IP and Tapi pipeline projects.

Gas distribution companies – Sui Southern Gas Company and Sui Northern Gas Pipelines – are engaged in upgrading their infrastructure to prepare for handling higher gas supplies in their system.

Not only will the Karachi-Lahore pipeline enable the ministry to efficiently transport imported LNG, it will also help ship the gas to be imported from Iran and Turkmenistan, the two projects which are expected to come online in the next three to five years.

All Day

**Opportunities in China: FPCCI asks businesses to search for avenues --
Express Tribune**

"Pakistan's exports to China are nearly \$3 billion while imports from China are approximately \$11 billion."

KARACHI: Showing his enthusiasm over the upcoming visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Mian Muhammad Adrees has expressed hope that the trip will further deepen economic ties between Islamabad and Beijing.

In a sign of growing economic relations, the volume of bilateral trade between the two nations is gradually increasing and has crossed \$14 billion.

However, Adrees said, the share of Pakistan's exports is not significant as compared to imports from China. "Pakistan's exports to China are nearly \$3 billion while imports from China are approximately \$11 billion."

Despite the low exports, Pakistani entrepreneurs should continue their search for more business opportunities in China because there are several potential avenues of growth available in the Chinese economy, he suggested.

Adrees said that the traditional friendship between Pakistan and China is now going to turn into a comprehensive strategic partnership in trade, investment and economic development.

Additionally, the Pak-China Economic Corridor will be a milestone that reflects the strengthening trade and investment ties between the two countries.

"The huge Chinese investment in Pakistan, particularly in the energy sector and infrastructure, will bring an economic revolution in the region," he said.

"This will be equally beneficial for both Pakistan and China as it will help them further enhance their trade potential in the region."

Talking about Pakistan's distinct trade niche, Adrees said the country can offer its neighbour quality industrial products and commodities like rice, cotton, wheat, sugar and leather.

"There are ample opportunities for China to establish industries in Pakistan and export their products to Central Asian states."

Understanding the importance of the Chinese president's visit as a key gateway towards economic revival and advantages, Adrees urged all political leaders of the country to show solidarity by foregoing political issues and sticking to an economy-first agenda.

All Day

On G-to-G contract basis: Chinese company to begin laying 700km Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG pipeline -- BR

A Chinese oil/gas company, China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau (CPP), on Government to Government (G-to-G) contract basis, will start laying 700 kilometer Gwadar-Nawabshah Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) pipeline, which will cost \$1.5 billion. According to multiple sources associated with the project, Pakistan has officially started constructing the LNG pipeline, which as per government plans, will transport up to one Billion Cubic Feet per Day (BCFD) of LNG once it completed.

The company has assured Pakistan of completing the pipeline and LNG terminal within two-year. The Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG project is started keeping in view future construction of Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project to deal with the serious gas shortage, which at present stands at 2 BCFD.

Officials further stated that the Prime Minister of Pakistan during his last Chinese visit has signed an agreement of laying Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG pipeline, which as per government of Pakistan plans, would also be extended to transport gas from Iran under IP gas pipeline project.

"On the request of Pakistan, Chinese government has nominated the CPP to complete the project, which would cost \$1.5 billion. The company will not only construct the LNG pipeline, but will also bring the required funds for the project. The company on the directions of the Chinese government will also construct the LNG terminal in Gwadar, costing \$800 million which is most likely to be an offshore terminal. Initially the terminal will have a capacity to handle up to 500 Million Cubic Feet per Day (MMCFD) of LNG and its capacity will be further expanded to one BCFD," the official maintained.

The official also said that the government is also seriously considering completing IP gas pipeline project, which will transport 750 MMCFD gas from Iran to Pakistan and once the international sanctions against Iran are removed Pakistan will have to add just 70 kilometers of pipeline to join it with Iranian side of the already constructed pipeline.

A high level delegation of the CPP is currently visiting Islamabad under the G-to-G agreement between the two countries. The company high-ups held meetings with the relevant quarters including Petroleum Ministry and Inter State Gas System (ISGS). Managing Director (MD) ISGS Mobin Saulat during the meeting explained the contractual issues during which CPP local regional head was also present.

The ISGS consultants, who are responsible to develop the design of pipeline, were also there to discuss the design and construction issues. Nespak Project Manager Yawer Ansari, ILF experts Qamar Shah and Azhar Saif were the key members to explain the project technical details.

All Day

Chinese delegation in Gwadar -- APP

GWADAR: A 13-member Chinese delegation arrived here on Tuesday on a two-day visit.

Headed by Wang Qingli the delegation included senior Chinese officials.

Members of the delegation inspected different projects, including Gwadar Port, Gwadar Free Zone, District Hospital and GDA School.

They attended a meeting of Gwadar Chamber of Commerce.

The members of the delegation discussed bilateral trade and investment issues in the meeting and said China was interested in various sectors in Gwadar and other areas of Balochistan.

Chairman of Gwadar Port Authority Dostain Jamaldini and Director General of Planning and Development Munir Ahmed Jan gave briefing to the Chinese delegation on the Gwadar deep sea port.

All Day

Chinese FM arrives tomorrow on two-day visit -- Daily Times

ISLAMABAD: Beijing and Islamabad eye a major headway in deliberations over the much hyped multi-billion-dollar project Pak-China Economic Corridor as Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is landing here on two-day visit starting tomorrow.

He will lead an eight-member delegation to Pakistan, the Foreign Office said on Tuesday.

According to diplomatic sources, the Chinese delegation would comprise economic experts in addition to the diplomatic functionaries, to hold crucial deliberations with Islamabad on the Pak-China Economic Corridor. The visit is taking place at a time when reports are rife that the designated route of the Pak-China Economic Corridor has been changed, compared to its original route from Kashgar to Gwadar. Certain business quarters have been quoted as having expressed reservations over the reported change in the Corridor's route. However, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Ahsan Iqbal, on Tuesday slammed these reports on the change in the route of Pak-China Economic Corridor as rumours and a 'conspiracy' against the project. In a joint press conference with Maulana Fazlur Rehman he said the work on Corridor continued as per plan and the project was a 'game-changer' in the region. Beijing has committed investing over \$45 billion in the project that involves a host of Sino-Pak joint ventures on energy and infrastructure. Meanwhile, the FO, on Chinese foreign minister's visit, said Pakistan attaches great importance to its comprehensive strategic partnership with China. "Such high-level visits are a regular feature of the time-tested and unshakeable bonds of friendship between the governments and peoples of Pakistan and China."

The two sides would review and further consolidate all aspects of the bilateral relationship, with a special focus on political, strategic and economic cooperation, the FO statement said. "The visit would also afford an opportunity to both sides to have a free and frank exchange of views on regional and global developments of mutual interest." During the visit, the Chinese dignitary would hold separate meetings and delegation-level talks with Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs. In addition, he would also call on President Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Pakistan's FO and the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad would also co-host the launching ceremony of Pakistan-China 'Year of Friendly Exchanges'. The FO says Chinese President Xi Jinping would be visiting Pakistan in the ongoing 2015 but the dates have not been confirmed as yet.

All Day

2015 formally inaugurated as year of Pak-China friendship -- The News Tribe

ISLAMABAD: The year 2015 has been formally inaugurated as the year of Pak-China friendship in China and Pakistan.

A formal ceremony was held at the Pak-China friendship centre in Islamabad on Thursday. Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi were chief guests on the occasion.

Chief Minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif, advisor to prime minister on foreign affairs, Sartaj Aziz and Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Sun Vi Dang also participated in the ceremony.

Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi said that Pak-China relations are higher than the diplomatic agenda of both the countries.

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan and China are time-tested friends, neighbours and strategic partners, saying that this partnership enjoys across-the-board popular, political and institutional support in both the countries.

He said while addressing a ceremony in Islamabad, on Thursday to formally inaugurate the "Year of Friendly Exchanges between Pakistan and China." Mr. Wang Yi, Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China was also present in the ceremony.

The Speaker said that ever-since the leadership transitions in Pakistan and China in 2013, relations between our two countries have continued to maintain a steady, upward trajectory which testified the essence of Pak-China friendship.

He said that it is based on a bond that has not only stood the test of time but has remained above all domestic or regional changes. Winds of political change have swept across the region and beyond, but Pakistan-China friendship has remained steady as a rock, he added.

He said that the people of Pakistan were impatiently looking forward to His Excellency President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan which would inject fresh impetus into the "all weather multi-dimensional strategic Pak-China relationship".

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that political relations and economic cooperation are not the only drivers of our bilateral relations. Perhaps our greatest asset is that the peoples of the two countries who have a sense of affection and love for each other.

He said that it is our sacred duty to nurture these sentiments among our future generations.

He said that Pakistan firmly adheres to the "One China Policy" and supports China on issues of its core interests. He said that both the countries were committed to address the common challenges of terrorism and extremism.

The Speaker said that the past six decades have seen the development of a meaningful partnership across Himalayas not only manifested in the construction of Karakorum Highway or sophisticated JF-17 Thunder Aircraft, but is also firmly rooted in the hearts and minds of the people of our two countries.

He said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is yet another flagship project for the new phase of our relationship.

Mentioning the Chinese support for the "Green Parliament Project" at the Parliament House through the generous Chinese grant was yet another milestone and a one-of-its-kind project envisages shifting all the energy needs of the Parliament buildings on solar power, hence making Pakistan's Parliament the first in the world to go green. Recollecting his recent visit to China on invitation of his Chinese Counterpart, he said that he had the pleasure to represent Pakistan at a similar function in Beijing.

He said that people to people and exchanges at political as well as parliamentary level during the year 2015 will induce impetus to the excellent bilateral relations between Pakistan and China.

He said that parliamentary exchanges reflect the firm commitment of our respective leaderships to each other. The Ceremony was attended by a large number of Parliamentarians, diplomats and diverse gathering of distinguished Chinese and Pakistani citizens.

All Day

Gwadar, Zhuhai named twin cities -- Dawn

GWADAR: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Chinese and Pakistani officials to declare Gwadar and Zhuhai (China) twin cities.

Zhuhai Vice Mayor Wang Qingli Li, Zhuhai Port Authority director general Hauang Wen Zhong, Gwadar District Council Chairman Babu Gulab and Gwadar Port Authority head Dostain Jamaldini put their signatures on the MoU at a ceremony held here on Wednesday.

Briefing the Chinese delegation on Gwadar, Mr Gulab and Mr Jamaldini said the city had a small population of 6,000 in 1903, which increased to 45,021 – according to the 1998 national census – and now stood at 85,000.

Under the Gwadar Master Plan, they said, several development projects were being executed in the city, including those of hospitals, schools, roads and a dam.

Mr Jamaldini said the Board of Revenue and the Board of Investment were working on a plan to declare Gwadar tax-free zone. Under the plan, investment in power, water and infrastructure projects to be executed within 30km radius of Gwadar deep-sea port would be exempted from tax. The facility will also apply to products manufactured in the Gwadar industrial zone.

Later, the 13-member Chinese delegation visited Gwadar free trade zone, Gwadar hospital and other projects. The Vice Chairman of the District Council, Naimatullah Hoat and GDA director general Sajjad Baloch accompanied the guests.

All Day

2015 will open a new era of Pak-China relations -- The Nation

LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has said that 2015 will open a new era of Pak-China cooperation and development.

Participating in the Launching Ceremony of 2015 Pak-China Friendship Year of Friendly Exchanges at Pak-China Friendship Center Islamabad on Thursday, the chief minister said that everlasting relations of friendship existed between Pakistan and China. "A new era of cooperation in all sectors has been started between the two countries," he added.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who is currently on a tour to Pakistan, and Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq were the chief guest of the ceremony. Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz, Ambassador of China in Pakistan Sun Weidong, members of Senate and National Assembly, office-bearers of different organisations of Pak-China friendship and prominent personalities belonging to various walks of life attended the ceremony.

"Pak-China friendship has stood in every hour of trial. We are not only neighbors but also have always adopted a uniform stance over regional and international issues. Under the vision of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, both the countries have signed agreements of investment of billions of dollars under Pak-China economic corridor," Shahbaz Sharif said while talking to the media men after the ceremony.

Expressing his delight while participating in the ceremony, Shahbaz said that 2015 would open new phases of cooperation and development between both the countries and people of both the countries would benefit from it.

All Day

Projects under Pak-China economic corridor discussed -- APP

Projects under Pak-China economic corridor discussed

LAHORE: A meeting was held here on Friday between Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in which promotion of Pak-China cooperation and projects under Pak-China economic corridor were discussed in detail.

Talking to the Chinese foreign minister, the chief minister said Chinese cooperation for progress and development of Pakistan was highly commendable.

He said: "China is a sincere and trustworthy friend of Pakistan which has stood by it in every hour of need."

Both the countries have always supported each other's stance on regional and international issues, he added.

He said Pak-China friendship was higher than Himalayas, sweeter than honey, stronger than steel and deeper than ocean.

He said China had proved to be a true friend of Pakistan by helping it in the development of various sectors.

Shahbaz Sharif said exploration work of mineral reserves in Chiniot-Rajwa was also given to a Chinese company in a transparent manner which had discovered deposits of iron, copper and gold through hard work of ten months.

He said that Chinese cooperation and role in the exploration of mineral reserves in Punjab will always be remembered.

He said during the tenure of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Pak-China friendship was turning into beneficial economic relations and new avenues of cooperation were opening in various sectors.

The Pak-China economic corridor was an important step towards strengthening of trade and economic relations between the two countries and will usher in a new era of progress and prosperity in Pakistan, he added.

He said 2015 was being celebrated as the year of Pak-China economic cooperation due to which the friendship between the two countries will enter into a new phase.

He said the people of Pakistan were waiting for the visit of the Chinese President as it will further strengthen friendly ties and bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

He said China had made tremendous progress through struggle and hard work and become a great economic force.

He said the rapid economic progress made by China was a role model for the world.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said China will continue to cooperate with Punjab in energy, minerals, industry and other sectors. He said China highly values its relations with Pakistan.

He said that Chinese people and government consider Pakistan's problems as their own and were also extending cooperation in overcoming energy crisis in the country.

All Day

Gwadar Port has potential to turn Pakistan into 'maritime power' -- APP

KARACHI: Maritime economy and environment remained in focus on the second day of the Sixth International Maritime Conference on Sunday.

The three-day conference has been organised by the National Centre for Maritime Policy Research (NCMPR) in collaboration with the Pakistan Navy at a local hotel.

"China has pledged \$52 billion for infrastructure projects in Pakistan, of which \$32bn is to be spent exclusively on energy projects in the next five years. If this materialises, Pakistan will become one of the largest recipients of Chinese outbound investment," said Mustafa Hyder Sayed, executive director of the Pakistan-China Institute, while presenting his paper titled "Pakistan and the Maritime Silk Route".

Also read: Gwadar Port to become operational in May, senate committee told

In his paper called "The analysis on China's Indian Ocean strategy", Zhiyong Hu, a senior fellow at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, discussed the growing importance of the Indian Ocean and China's ocean strategy in the 21st century. "China took some measures to maintain its security and navigation safety, but at present, because China's navy lacks advanced equipment, it cannot provide enough strength to safeguard its forces," he remarked.

Retired Rear Admiral Dr Rakesh Chopra of India had "Maritime politics and challenges of the Indo-Pacific region" as the topic of his paper. "It is a region where the global centre of gravity is shifting and, therefore, requires examination," he said.

Rear Admiral J.J. Ranasinghe, commander of the Southeastern Naval Area, Sri Lanka, spoke on "International law framework in relation to people smuggling and its ability to combat modern instances of people smuggling".

"The organised human smugglers operating through transnational networks have chosen rich developed countries as their most preferred destinations," he said.

During the session on trade and economy, Dr Azhar Ahmad shed light on the Gwadar-Kashgar corridor and its potential impact on the region.

"Despite having a long coastline and overwhelming economic dependence on sea, Pakistan has not been able to evolve into a true maritime nation. However, development of the Gwadar Port, at the crown of the Arabian Sea, has provided Pakistan with a unique opportunity to claim its status as an important maritime power," he said.

The oceans are vital for security and economic life of the littoral states. But at the same time it is each state's responsibility to safeguard the oceans and the marine life. Keeping this in view, the second day's final session highlighted environmental issues vis-a-vis the Indo-Pacific region.

Whereas Dr Yimin Ye of the Food and Agriculture Organisation gave a comparison of the fishery management practices in the Northwest Pacific region with those of the West Indian Ocean region, retired Captain Tariq Masood, director of the NCMPR, talked about the ship breaking industry of Pakistan and how it could be made environmentally safe.

Prof Sikander Ahmed Shah of LUMS, former chief of the naval staff retired Admiral Shahid Karimullah, retired Commodore Syed M. Obaidullah and Federal Secretary of Climate Change Division Arif Ahmed Khan also spoke on the occasion.

All Day

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Rear Admiral J.J. Ranasinghe, commander of the Southeastern Naval Area, Sri Lanka, spoke on “International law framework in relation to people smuggling and its ability to combat modern instances of people smuggling”.

“The organised human smugglers operating through transnational networks have chosen rich developed countries as their most preferred destinations,” he said.

During the session on trade and economy, Dr Azhar Ahmad shed light on the Gwadar-Kashgar corridor and its potential impact on the region.

“Despite having a long coastline and overwhelming economic dependence on sea, Pakistan has not been able to evolve into a true maritime nation. However, development of the Gwadar Port, at the crown of the Arabian Sea, has provided Pakistan with a unique opportunity to claim its status as an important maritime power,” he said.

The oceans are vital for security and economic life of the littoral states. But at the same time it is each state’s responsibility to safeguard the oceans and the marine life. Keeping this in view, the second day’s final session highlighted environmental issues vis-a-vis the Indo-Pacific region.

Whereas Dr Yimin Ye of the Food and Agriculture Organisation gave a comparison of the fishery management practices in the Northwest Pacific region with those of the West Indian Ocean region, retired Captain Tariq Masood, director of the NCMPR, talked about the ship breaking industry of Pakistan and how it could be made environmentally safe.

Prof Sikander Ahmed Shah of LUMS, former chief of the naval staff retired Admiral Shahid Karimullah, retired Commodore Syed M. Obaidullah and Federal Secretary of Climate Change Division Arif Ahmed Khan also spoke on the occasion.

All Day

30 projects to cost Rs114b: Finance Ministry allocates Rs11.3b for Gwadar Port, other projects -- Custom

ISLAMABAD: The Finance Ministry has allocated an amount of Rs 11.3 billion for 30 projects costing Rs 114 billion in and around the coastal areas as well as Gwadar Port, Balochistan.

"To honor the commitment of the Federal Government for socio-economic development of Baluchistan in particular the up-gradation of Gwadar as an integral part of China Pak Economic Corridor, the Finance Ministry is ensuring uninterrupted releases of funds to the ongoing 30 projects" a well placed source at Finance Ministry told this scribe here on Monday, adding that these projects were being implemented in Gwadar, Ormara, Pasni, Jiwani and other areas.

The coastal areas contribute enormously to the national exchequer in the form of foreign exchange, however, exact contribution of coastal areas in foreign exchange earnings cannot be ascertained due to some inevitable reasons.

This mode in view the Finance Ministry has taken several measures for development of coastal areas of Balochistan including provision of substantial amounts of funds to the Provincial Government for spending on development under 7th National Finance Commission (NFC) award.

Besides provision of funds, the Finance Ministry has also announced several tax incentives including granting income tax exemptions to people hailing from specified classes of income, or persons or classes of persons, subject to the conditions.

Under article 126-A of the Income Tax Ordinance 2001, income derived by China Overseas Ports Holding Company Limited from Gwadar Port operations for a period of twenty years, with effect from February 2007.

Furthermore, in accordance with the article 126-B of the said ordinance, profit and gains derived by Khalifa Coastal Refinery have been granted income tax exemptions for a period of twenty years beginning in the month in which the refinery is set up or commercial production is commenced.

Moreover, article (126-D of Income Ordinance, profit and gains derived by a taxpayer from an industrial undertaking setup in the Gwadar has been declared as tax free because this investment will be considered falling within the ambit of Export Processing Zone Authority Ordinance, 1980 as Export Processing Zone, Gwadar, for a period of ten years beginning with the month and year in which the industrial undertaking is set up or commercial operation commenced.

The article 126-H of Income Ordinance also provides income tax exemption to all profits and gains derived by a taxpayer, from a fruit processing or preservation unit set up in Baluchistan Province between July, 2014 and June, 2017.

These units are required to be operational in processing of locally grown fruits, for a period of five years beginning with the month in which the industrial undertaking is set up or commercial production is commenced.

The under Sixth Schedule to Sales tax Act 1990 provides exemption from Sales tax to imports of supplies including plant, machinery and equipment imported for setting up fruit processing and preservation units in Balochistan to be set up by June, 2019.

Under Customs act, 1969, these projects are required to be subject to the same conditions and procedure which are applicable for import of such plant, machinery and equipment and other project related items including capital goods, for setting up of hotels, power generation plants, water treatment plants and other infrastructure related projects located in an area of 30 km around the zero point in Gwadar.

All Day

Gwadar port has offered Pakistan unique opportunity to become maritime nation -- Dawn

The three-day conference has been organised by the National Centre for Maritime Policy Research (NCMPR) in collaboration with the Pakistan Navy at a local hotel.

"China has pledged \$52 billion for infrastructure projects in Pakistan, of which \$32bn is to be spent exclusively on energy projects in the next five years. If this materialises, Pakistan will become one of the largest recipients of Chinese outbound investment," said Mustafa Hyder Sayed, executive director of the Pakistan-China Institute, while presenting his paper titled "Pakistan and the Maritime Silk Route".

In his paper called "The analysis on China's Indian Ocean strategy", Zhiyong Hu, a

senior fellow at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, discussed the growing importance of the Indian Ocean and China's ocean strategy in the 21st century. "China took some measures to maintain its security and navigation safety, but at present, because China's navy lacks advanced equipment, it cannot provide enough strength to safeguard its forces," he remarked.

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All Day

Gwadar Port to be connected with railway network -- BR

Gwadar Port to be connected with railway network

Pakistan Railways is focussing on connecting Gwadar Port with railways network and establishing new dry port at Havelian to generate revenues.

The government is committed to make Pakistan Railways a profitable organization and a number of steps are being taken in this regard, an official told.

Pakistan Railways is involving private parties in commercial management of four passenger carrying trains and cargo express trains, he added.

He said right mix of passenger and freight trains and a freight transport company is being established to give top priority to freight transportation for generating revenues.

To control corruption in the department, he said there is a strict control over expenditures through computerized payments and pensions to eliminate ghost pensioners and rule out possibility of over payments.

He said that procurement of new boogie oil tank wagons and new state-of-the-art locomotives would also enhance the revenue for the department.

The official said the project of online tracking system and monitoring of locomotives and freight wagons is also on cards.

The terminal facilities are being augmented to curtail loading un-loading time by introducing modern facilities.

He said Pakistan Railways is in process of up-gradation of its existing tracks on main corridor with the collaboration of China.

"Existing speed of trains from Karachi to Lahore would be increased upto 160 kms per hour and from Lahore to Peshawar upto 120 kms per hour,"he added.

Pakistan Railways would renovate and up-grade railway stations in collaboration with National Engineering Services Pakistan (NESPAK), he added.

All Day

Pak-China economic corridor likely to write new success story: Former SVP LCCI -- Customs Today

LAHORE: Former Senior Vice President Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) has expressed grave concern on the controversy being created on Pak-China Economic Corridor urging government to start the project immediately lest issue flares up like Kalabagh dam.

In a statement he said the corridor will prove a game changer in regional co-operation therefore the government should focus on timely implementation of this mega project.

He said that Pak-China Economic Corridor is likely to write a new success story of socio-economic development and it is the duty of the government to save it from any sort of controversies. Large mother ships will board at natural deep sea Gwadar port only if China routes its container cargo through the proposed corridor. He said resultant revenues that Pakistan would generate from trans-shipment through this corridor would enrich the government purse for development projects. He appreciated the Planning Commission of Pakistan for choosing an economical, logical and considerably short route for building the proposed economic corridor that will pass through southern districts of Pakhtunkhwa into Balochistan and go onward to Quetta and Gwadar.

Basit said that Pak-China Economic Corridor is not just a big road. It includes rail tracks, oil and gas pipelines, fiber-optic cable, projects for energy resources and Industrial parks. It would bring prosperity to the most backward areas of the country.

He said that Pak-China Economic Corridor will go a long way to revive the area and defeat extremism and terrorism. He said that rumor-mongering about the route change of Pak-China Economic Corridor is a deep-rooted conspiracy that has been hatched to cause undue delay to this important project that bound to change our fate. Abdul Basit said that we had already suffering badly because of delay in the construction of Kalabagh Dam that had fallen prey to anti-state elements and could not come up despite sincere efforts.

All Day

Govt urged to initiate Pak-China corridor -- APP

LAHORE: A former president of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Thursday expressed grave concern at the controversy over the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor, urging the government to start the project immediately.

Abdul Basit in a statement that the corridor will prove a game changer in regional cooperation.

He said that it is the duty of the government to save the project from controversies. Large mother ships will visit Gwadar port only if China routes its container cargo through the proposed corridor. He said the revenue that Pakistan would generate from transshipment through the corridor would help the government pursue development projects.

Abdul Basit said that the corridor, which will include railway lines, oil and gas pipelines, fibre optic cables, projects for energy resources and industrial parks, will bring prosperity to the most backward areas of the country. He said that rumour-mongering about changes in the route of the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor is will cause undue delays in the implementation of this important project.

Abdul Basit said that Pakistan has already suffering badly because of the delay in the construction of the Kalabagh Dam.

All Day

Credibility of The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) -- BR Credibility of The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) envisages construction of highways linking Gwadar in Balochistan to Xinjiang in China with the original route within Pakistan as follows: Khunjerab to Gwadar via Mianwali, D I Khan, D G Khan, Khuzdar and Turbat. Reports of a change in route to benefit Punjab have since surfaced with the Awami National Party accusing the Nawaz Sharif administration of unduly favouring the province that voted the party to power at the cost of smaller provinces. The ANP has since repeatedly warned the government that unless the original plan is maintained, this project may well become as controversial as the Kalabagh dam. These are very serious charges and denials by the Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Ahsan Iqbal, on the floor of the house have not eased opposition concerns. The question is why?

The project is mentioned on the official website of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms but strangely there is no mention of the route. The official website carries five photographs - four of the Minister signing some documents with, one would assume relevant Chinese officials, another where he is shaking hands with a Chinese official while one photograph is of Pakistani delegation members including Tariq Fatemi, special assistant to the prime minister for Foreign Affairs, though it is not apparent where the photograph was actually taken. There is absolutely no mention of the project specifics on the website with only the following reference to the project: "China will help Pakistan in 20,093 MW energy projects and major transportation projects including Karakoram Highway up to Islamabad, Karachi-Lahore motorway, new Gwadar Airport, and economic zones". One would urge the Federal Minister to correct this serious lapse for starters which would ease concerns of the opposition leaders.

To add to the confusion National Highway Authority (NHA) Chairman informed the Senate standing committee that the estimated cost of construction of the original route was 12 billion dollars which was not available therefore it was agreed to upgrade the existing infrastructure given the government's insistence to operationalise Gwadar port by May this year. He reiterated that the original route of the CPEC was not possible and the Chinese authorities requested their Pakistani counterparts to upgrade the existing network of roads. However, the Chairman did state that the new plan consists of both long-term and short-term projects and one would assume at this stage that the long-term projects may indicate a change in routing of the corridor to benefit Punjab if unconfirmed reports are accurate. A look at the NHA website does not show the project in detail either, though there are many sub-projects indicated, including Gwadar, Awaran and Khuzdar. And, a serious concern is that there has been no mention anywhere of tenders floated and their outcome though the NHA chairman did indicate to the Senate standing committee that work was under progress.

It is extremely unfortunate that the party that is in power for the third time and was elected to power on a promise to end corruption and make government transparent has been so remiss in meeting even the basic standards and norms of transparency that require the relevant departments/ministries to clearly define a project on its website. A press release noted that during the recent visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Pakistan the two countries resolved to work on the CPEC and related projects speedily to ensure that Early Harvest Projects could be completed at the earliest. If this statement was meant to appease those opposition members who were concerned about a change of route then it hardly met its objective.

It is indeed unfortunate that the PML-N government has been extremely lax in terms of meeting even basic norms of transparency associated with democracy and urgent remedial measures are required to save the CPEC from further controversy. Ahsan Iqbal not only needs to update his Ministry's website, not with his press statements and photographs, but with the actual project, as must the NHA website. However, at this stage one would assume that the Prime Minister needs to call the Council of Common Interests to share information on the project. He would also

need to hold an APC perhaps in-camera if there are security implications but he needs to take all on board or else this project, an essentially good project with portents of being a game changer, would remain mired in a bitter political controversy.

All Day

Federal cabinet approved Pak-China economic corridor -- Pak Tribune

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet during its meeting gave approval for the Pak-China economic corridor. Approval was also given along with for starting negotiations with Beijing for importing 1000 megawatts of electricity from China by laying a new transmission line.

Also during the meeting, the cabinet took notice of alleged horse-trading taking place prior to the Senate elections of March.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif directed that constitutional amendments must be made to make changes in the Senate elections procedure from secret balloting to show of hands.

The premier also constituted a four member legal committee consisting Attorney General of Pakistan Salman Aslam Butt, Federal Minister Anusha Rehman and Special Assistants to the Prime Minister Khawaja Zaheer Ahmad and Barrister Zafarullah Khan. The committee has been tasked with submitting a report by Monday evening regarding reforms to stop horse-trading.

He further directed all federal ministers present at the meeting to contact all political parties and brief them on Senate elections reforms.

Also during the meeting, a minute of silence was observed in light of Justice (retd) Rana Bhagwandas' demise.

The cabinet was also scheduled to be briefed on the country's energy situation. It is expected to give approvals on an agreement for a discounted loan from China for the Karachi Nuclear Power Projects I and II as well as okay loans from Japan in order to carry out energy reforms.

The approval for commencing talks with Afghanistan for an agreement to hold preferential trade was also scheduled to be discussed in the meeting.

Agreements on protection of security-related information with Egypt and exchange of criminals with Malaysia were also on the meeting's agenda.

All Day

Pak-China economic corridor approved: Govt to initiate talks with China for importing 1000MW electricity -- Customs Today

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet has given approval for the Pak-China economic corridor. It was also decided to initiate talks with Beijing for importing 1000 megawatts of electricity from China by laying a new transmission line.

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All Day

Pak-China corridor: Govt intends to approve 10,400MW projects by March -- Express Tribune

KARACHI: As the country continues to take steps in an attempt to tackle the persistent energy crisis, Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan on Wednesday said the government intends to approve 10,400-MW projects that fall under the Pak-China Economic Corridor by March.

He said this while talking to media during his visit to the head office of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).

"Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has decided to expedite the work on energy projects to overcome the energy crisis," he said, while declaring 2017 as the year in which the nation will see huge changes on both fronts — terrorism and energy crisis.

The commerce minister's visit to FPCCI was part of the events scheduled to take place on the inauguration of the Expo Pakistan 2015 – the biggest annual trade fair of the country.

The event will be held at the Karachi Expo Centre from February 26 to March 1.

"I am here to take the business community in confidence so that they can plan their investments well before 2017," said Dastgir, "Because with the help of recent steps to overcome terrorism and energy issues, Pakistan's economy will get a massive boost in 2017."

The Expo Pakistan 2015 has given the government confidence to display a strong image of Pakistan through its exportable goods, he said, adding that it has also planned a single country exhibition this summer in the United Kingdom to get business orders for our industries.

Replying to a question, Dastgir said that he was not promising to end load-shedding in 2017. "What I am saying is that Pakistan will be able to considerably resolve its energy crisis," he added.

He said that his visit to FPCCI is also linked with the government's efforts to start collecting budget proposals for the upcoming federal budget.

Speaking on a specific question on slow tax reforms in the country, he said that Pakistan definitely needs innovative solutions to overcome its problem of low tax-to-GDP ratio.

The minister also faced tough questions on why the government was not taking all provinces on board on the Pak-China economic corridor.

All Day

Upgrading railways network Pakistan, China to sign MoU under CPEC -- BR

The governments of Pakistan and China are going to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on up-gradation and rehabilitation of railways network under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on March 23, revealed the Railways Ministry officials.

Briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Railways, Secretary of Railways Ministry said that under the CPEC Main Line (ML-1) ie railway network from Karachi-Peshawar would be upgraded in the first phase. Karachi-Lahore railway track has already been doubled while the remaining track upto Peshawar would be doubled. Railways officials further said that under the CPEC dry port would be set up at Havelia, while the signalling system, stations and tracks would be up-graded and rehabilitated. A feasibility study would be carried out in this regard. Main Line (ML-2) would be up-graded in the medium term.

Pakistani and Chinese governments have agreed for the establishment of the CPEC from China border to the Karachi and Gwadar ports. During the 2nd Joint Co-operation Committee (JCC) meeting held in Beijing on 19-02-2014, the rehabilitation and Up-gradation of Main Line -1 (From Havelian to Karachi) and the construction of new dry port/cargo handling facility at Havelian were declared as High Priority Early Harvest projects (HPEHPs), Railways officials added.

In this context, several meetings were held at the Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Planning to finalise the modalities, Terms of Reference (TORs), Framework agreements and financing arrangements etc to streamline the work for joint feasibility study. A 13-member Chinese Railways technical team headed by Director

General Transport Planning and Research Institute, Ministry of Transport, China along with officials of the NHA and Pakistan Railways visited proposed route of the CPEC from April 14 to 21, 2014. After inspection and detailed deliberations, both sides agreed to carry out a joint Feasibility Study for Up-gradation of ML-1 and construction of New Dry port at Havelian. It was also decided that new rail link will also be provided from Gwadar to Jacobabad via Besima and Khuzdar (1050 Kms) and from Gwadar to Karachi (700 Kms) so as to provide rail connectivity of Gwadar port to the existing railways network and also rail linkage between two ports. The project was declared Medium Term project, as Phase II project of ML-1 and before going for the construction at the site, feasibility study will be carried out.

In this regard, the Feasibility study for laying new rail track from Gwadar to Mustung was carried out during the year 2003-04 which includes track from Gwadar to Besima. As such, feasibility study from Besima to Jacobabad via Khuzdar still needs to be carried out. PC-II amounting to Rs 135.50 million has already been approved by Planning Commission Islamabad. As per directives of the CDWP, the Terms of Reference (TORs) has been sent to Ministry of Railways for sharing with Chinese counterparts to obtain their consent and to ensure compatibility with the Chinese requirements as the project will be funded by the Chinese government if declared as feasible by the consultants. Feasibility Study shall be carried out during next financial year ie 2015-16.

However, the Committee's members expressed deep concerns over the proposed PCEC, saying that the nation has been kept in dark about the project. Kamil Ali Agha said that the nation must be told that only existing network will be upgraded under the CPEC. He further said that if the existing network is going to be upgraded then why the government is claiming of brining investment to the country and spreading hate in the country.

Director General Technical Munawar Shah said that 73 acres land meant for Railways track has been transferred in the name of Pakistan Railways after payment of 100% compensation to the affected land owners. To cater for the balance payment of Rs 647.384 million, revised PC-I for the amount of Rs 1332 million has been submitted to Planning Commission and is under process for approval.

All Day

Energy infrastructure: China to build gas pipeline from Gwadar to Nawabshah -- Express Tribune

ISLAMABAD: In a major breakthrough, Pakistan and China are set to sign a \$3 billion deal during the upcoming visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping next month to build a natural gas pipeline that would serve as an alternative to the stalled Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project.

The new project, though billed as an alternative to the Iran-Pakistan pipeline, would in reality serve as a complement to that project. While Islamabad and Tehran have been trying for several years to build a pipeline between the two countries, US and European sanctions against Iran have prevented the project from reaching completion.

The Chinese project would construct a liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal from Gwadar to the main natural gas distribution hub in Nawabshah. The pipeline location and dimensions, however, would mean that the Gwadar-Nawabshah component could be connected to any eventual Iran-Pakistan pipeline that would be built if and when sanctions against Tehran are removed. LNG imports are typically somewhat more expensive than pipeline imports.

Sources told The Express Tribune that during Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to China in November 2014, Beijing and Islamabad signed a protocol to award the LNG import contract to China National Petroleum Corporation. The government is now working on a draft agreement to be signed between the two countries when President Xi visits Pakistan next month. Interstate Gas Systems (ISGS), the state-owned company that deals with gas import projects including the IP pipeline, is finalising a deal with a Chinese company for the Gwadar project.

Pakistan and Iran were set to implement their agreement by December 2014 but the two sides failed to commission the project following the threat of US sanctions against the Pakistani companies involved in the project. The two countries have now reached understanding on an alternative plan to implement the IP gas pipeline project, with Tehran also agreeing to extend the commissioning date of project and to waive the \$2 million per day penalty.

According to initial estimates, the cost of the project is expected to be \$3 billion, of which \$1 billion will be needed to lay the pipeline from Gwadar and over \$2 billion will be required to construct the terminal with LNG handling and re-gasification facilities, in addition to developing large storage facilities.

Under the protocol, China will meet 85% of the financing needs for constructing the LNG pipeline linking the Gwadar Port to Nawabshah and the terminal. Pakistan's Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet has already given in-principle consent.

This will be the second LNG terminal in the country, after the first terminal that is already being built by Engro Corporation's subsidiary Elengy Terminal Pakistan at Port Qasim, which is likely to be completed by March 15.

The LNG pipeline starting from Gwadar will be extended to Iran for gas import when sanctions on Tehran are lifted. The pipeline will have the same specifications that were proposed for the IP pipeline including a diameter of 42 inches.

All Day

Pak-China relations transform into useful economic ties: Shahbaz -- BR
Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has said that a new era of Pak-China friendship has begun in the tenure of Pakistan Muslim League-N government, led by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, and the strong relations between the two countries have transformed into useful economic ties. "Pak-China Economic Corridor is an important step in the growing trade and economic relations between the two countries and will usher in a new era of progress and prosperity in Pakistan," he added.

Shahbaz stated this while talking to the first Consul General of China in Lahore, Yu Boren who called on him here on Monday. Matters of mutual interest and promotion of Pak-China relations were discussed in the meeting. While speaking on the occasion, the CM said, "China has helped Pakistan in every hour of need and extended invaluable co-operation in the progress and development of the country. China has proved to be a true friend of Pakistan by extending co-operation in the development of different sectors."

Shahbaz said that 2015 is being observed as the year of beginning of Pak-China economic co-operation as a result of which Pak-China friendship will enter into a new phase. He said that China has signed agreements worth billions of dollars for investment in energy, infrastructure and other sectors in Pakistan due to which economic and trade contacts will further strengthen between the two countries.

He said that China has made rapid progress through hard work and commitment and has become a big economic force. He said that the progress made by China is role model for the other nations of the world. Chinese Consul General Yu Boren said that China considers Pakistan as its brother and Chinese leadership highly values the present leadership of the country.

All Day

Sovereign ratings: Pak-China economic corridor a 'credit positive', says Moody's -- Express Tribune

Sovereign ratings: Pak-China economic corridor a 'credit positive', says Moody's

Even though the project had not yet got off the ground, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Moody's Investor Services – one of the three largest credit rating agencies in the world – has described the project as a 'credit positive' for the country, implying that the economic growth generated will eventually help the government's finances.

"The government's support for the implementation of the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is credit positive for Pakistan because it will spur investment activity, boost bilateral trade flows and help ease the country's growing energy shortages," Moody's said in a note issued to clients on Monday, according to a report in the International Business Times.

The \$46-billion project would create a 2,000-kilometre road and rail link from China's western hinterlands to the Gwadar Port, creating a network of infrastructure in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan to match the one originally built by the British (and expanded by successive Pakistani governments) in Punjab and Sindh. Moody's has the lowest rating for Pakistan, at Caa1, just two grades above default. The rating implies that Pakistan is dependent on favourable economic conditions to be able to pay its obligations. Standard & Poor's – a rival credit rating agency – has a rating of B, two notches above the Moody's rating. Fitch, the third credit rating agency, does not have a current credit rating for Pakistan. Both Standard & Poor's and Moody's have a stable outlook for Pakistan.

The influx of investment into Pakistan is what prompted Moody's to view the economic corridor as a positive from a credit perspective. The credit rating agency uses several macroeconomic indicators to determine its rating for Pakistan's government, including investment as a percentage of the total size of the economy. Pakistan's investment-to-GDP ratio is 14.6%, far lower than the median of 22.9% for countries with a B-rating, said Moody's.

Another reason Moody's believes this project will be positive for Pakistan is their belief that Islamabad will be able to get Beijing to finance several energy projects throughout the country that would reduce the cost of power generation, ultimately lowering the need for electricity subsidies – a key burden on the federal budget –

and improving economic growth, which would in turn increase tax revenues for the government. Those two effects combined could substantially reduce the budget deficit.

The rating agency acknowledged that much of the project's key benefits would not materialise until 2017, but stated that it believes at least some of the benefits from the economic corridor would likely begin accruing even before then.

While China is Pakistan's largest trading partner, foreign investment from China has historically been relatively low. Over the past decade, more than a quarter of the \$30 billion in foreign investment into Pakistan has come from the United States, with China's investment being among the lowest from larger economies. However, over the last year, China was Pakistan's largest foreign investor.

The project has run into some snags in the Senate, with lawmakers from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan alleging that the Nawaz administration is redirecting the route of the corridor to pass through Punjab and Sindh rather than their provinces. In addition, Beijing has balked at funding projects that are not directly related to connecting its economically deprived western regions to Gwadar Port.

All Day

More flights from Oman to Pakistan -- Times of Oman

Pakistan International Airlines flight gets cancelled due to bad weather
Muscat: Flights between Muscat and Pakistan have increased frequency from March 23. Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), the national carrier of Pakistan, will be enhancing its frequency from the current 13 flights, which will gradually increase to 17 by the end of this year.

Talking to the Times of Oman, Shahzad M. Paracha, country manager, PIA Muscat, said that they will be adding more flights to Islamabad, Gwadar and Turbat.

"Currently, we operate 13 flights a week from Muscat to various places in Pakistan but from March 23, we will operate 15 flights a week and by the end of this year it will be 17 a week," he said. Till July 2014, PIA used to have only nine flights a week.

PIA operates flights to Karachi, Lahore, Sialkot and Islamabad in addition to Peshawar, Gwadar and Turbat from Muscat International Airport.

"We will be adding flights to Islamabad, Gwadar and Turbat sector this year," announced Paracha.

The flights were increased after the demand to these sectors went up rapidly over the years. "The increase in frequency will give more choice to the Pakistani expatriates living in Oman," he said.

According to the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), the number of Pakistani nationals in the private sector in Oman was 215,909 in November 2014 comprising 214,832 men and 1,077 women.

Besides increasing the number of flights, the country manager said that they want to operate a bigger ATR aircraft to Gwadar and Turbat so that they can carry more passengers.

"Currently we operate an ATR-42 where there are 48 seats but we sell only 38 seats to the passengers as baggage is being kept in the remaining 10 seats," said Paracha.

But PIA wants to replace it with ATR-72s where 66 passengers can be accommodated. "This way, we will double the capacity for Gwadar and Turbat," he said.

"We do not make money in this route but we operate it as there are thousands of Pakistani nationals who live in these places and work in Muscat. Besides that, no other airlines operate in this route from Muscat," he said, adding that bigger aircraft cannot be operated on this route as the landing facilities are not good at Gwadar and Turbat.

He also said that PIA's sales figures have increased drastically in the recent months. "We are thankful to all our travel agents that our sales figures have increased by 52 per cent in 2014 compared to 2013," he said.

Besides sales, the punctuality has also improved over the last few months. "Until July 2014, 35 per cent of our flights were either delayed or cancelled. However, with more aircraft and staff efficiency, we have managed to bring it down to just 5 per cent in 2015," said the country manager.

All Day

Chamber proposes Pak-China technology university -- APP

Lahore - President Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry has proposed a Pak-China Technology University to be opened with the collaboration of Chinese universities. He said that aim of the university would be to transform appropriate technology from China that suits to the needs and demands of Pakistan. The Technology University would provide tailor made innovative solutions to various sectors of Pakistan. He added that China is interested to incorporate Chinese curriculum into Pakistan that will include Chinese language, Chinese work ethics, innovative planning and development, on the priority basis but for this they need cooperation from Pakistan.

He said that earlier in a meeting of Chinese delegation with Professor Dr Nizamudin, Chairman Higher Education Commission, the prospects of such collaboration with China were discussed. Nizamudin highly appreciated the idea and proposed to provide land for the formation of Pak-China Technology University with Chinese collaboration.

Faisal Afridi said that it would be considered a big achievement if Pakistan succeeds to form such Technology University because currently the education sector of Pakistan lacks in Technology and technical expertise whereas the youth of Pakistan is highly motivated, talented and creative, just little guidance and direction could do a lot.

He said that there are various innovative projects, strategies and products made by students in the universities but these innovative ideas go unobserved due to lack of representation and interest at the government level. He lamented that we have unfortunately created a society where innovators are neither rewarded, nor held in high esteem. We don't have institutions or a financial support structure to help entrepreneurs bring their ideas to fruition. We need radical transformation that brings the search for knowledge, science, technology and innovation to the forefront of government support.

All Day

Committee approves new projects for Gwadar Port -- BR

Committee approves new projects for Gwadar Port

SLAMABAD: The Standing Committee on Port and Shipping has approved new projects for construction of Breakwaters, Capital Dredging of Berthing Area & Channel for additional terminal and up-gradation of GPA Housing Complex for Gwadar Port employees.

The committee approved these new projects including some ongoing projects in a meeting held on Wednesday at the National Assembly.

The new project to facilitate construction of additional terminals at Gwadar Port by its operator and to protect from the effect of waves and situation as to provide safe berthing for designed DWT vessels was appreciated by the committee members.

Chairman Port and Shipping apprised the committee that for this project estimated cost would be Rs. 13000.00 million whereas Rs. 11050.00 million out of total would be invested by the foreign aid.

He further said that this project would be completed through Pak-China corridor and waiting for foreign aid.

The chairman stated that GPA Housing Complex with increasing population demanding now a well studied and workable plan for its development to make it worth living place for GPA employees and their families.

Therefore, it requires additional residential blocks, GPA house (Chairman's residence), walking track, sewerage treatment plnt, community center, commercial center, playground, water supply system etc. along with renovation of present infrastructure for fulfillment of the present and future requirements.

The proposal for GPA Housing was approved with the majority of the members.

Whereas, another project for the construction of Mehran Highway Phase III from Port Qasim to Steel Mills Road about 3.1 Km presented before the committee which was also approved along with other new projects.

Meanwhile, Najeeb Bhati Chief Education Officer proposed a new project for Pkistan Marine Academy Karachi.

He said that prade ground is a main feature of Pakistan Marin Academy, where daily assembly and day to day activities are being carried out is required excessive repair/renovation etc complete re-laying of C.C floor and re-habilitation of two way bituminous road from main gate to prade ground.

All Day

Gwadar Port: GPA Chairman highlights snags in project -- BR

The Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) on Wednesday admitted that the port is enjoying free zone status, with huge incentives, including a 100 percent tax exemption on import and export, but failed in attracting investment. This was stated by GPA Chairman Dostain Jamaldini while briefing the National Assembly Standing Committee on Ports and Shipping, which met with Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah in the chair here on Wednesday.

The Ministry of Ports and Shipping as well as GPA also admitted that Gwadar Port would not be fully operational shortly due to absence of basic utilities, allied infrastructure and rail connectivity. The Gwadar port will not be fully operational in next 3-4 years, said the Secretary of Ministry of Ports and Shipping, an observation endorsed by the GPA chairman also.

The ministry and its attached departments proposed 17 projects under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) in the fiscal year 2015-16 worth Rs 17.225 billion including an equivalent of Rs 14.6 billion foreign exchange component and Rs 2.52 billion local component. The committee approved all the proposed projects and demands for the ministry and its attached departments. The committee was told that the projects attached to the Gwadar Port are given due priority and the ECNEC has approved the construction of the Eastbay Expressway, Breakwaters, Capital Dredging of Berthing Area & Channel for additional Terminal, Pak-China Technical & Vocational Institute at Gwadar and establishment of CPEC PMU in GPA/Ministry of Ports and Shipping. The Committee unanimously approved the same. The Committee also approved the ongoing PSDP projects and gave its nod for approval of new projects for the Gwadar Port consisting of acquisition of Mobile Crane and GEO Physical Oceanographic Study for Port Development.

Until the infrastructure development, roads, rail connectivity and provision of basic utilities, including water, gas and electricity, operationalisation of port is difficult, the GPA Chairman added. The officials further said that different projects under the PSDP 2015-16 for development of the Gwadar Port are proposed, where major financial assistance is expected from China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). However, it is yet to be finalised whether Chinese assistance would be in shape of grants, soft loans or other kind. The Chairman of GPA briefed on the construction of the Eastbay Expressway project under the CPEC with a total cost of Rs 14.06 billion including an equivalent of Rs 13.54 billion foreign aid (China) and Rs 7 billion from PSDP 2015-16. The proposed Expressway with a total length of about 19 km is located in Gwadar District for which Rs 688.8 billion have been offered by China ie 98 percent of the proposed allocation for the next fiscal year. He said the Chinese team is currently visiting Pakistan where the modalities for financial support would be finalized. Chairman further said that the project was ready and was supposed to be inaugurate by the Chinese President earlier, however, the visit was delayed. The official confirmed that execution of the project depends on China.

The GPA proposed 11 projects under the PSDP 2015-16 including 8 ongoing and 3 new projects and got committee's approval while observing that all these projects are essential for the port development. The GPA Chairman proposed construction of Breakwaters with total cost of Rs 13 billion and Rs 7 billion under the PSDP 2015-16 to facilitate construction of additional terminals at the port. The official said that Rs 5.95 is proposed under CPEC from China. Under the concession agreement, breakwaters are required to be constructed by the GPA, required for moderating the sea behaviour.

The Port Qasim Authority (PQA) proposed construction of Mehran Highway Phase-III worth Rs 233 million under the PSDP 2015-16 and committee approved it. Pakistan Marine Academy (PMA) proposed three projects worth over Rs 59 million for rehabilitation and renovation and were duly approved by the parliamentary panel.

All Day

Is Pakistan Key to China's Energy Supremacy? -- Foreign Affairs

Pakistan's President Mamnoon Hussain and China's President Xi Jinping talk after a signing ceremony at the Xijiao State Guesthouse in Shanghai, May 2014.

(Kenzaburo Fukuhara / Courtesy Reuters)

A seaport in southwest Pakistan may hold the key to China's energy supremacy. At least, that's what China hopes. The Gwadar port, which China has built and will operate in the province of Balochistan, is situated near the Strait of Hormuz, a major oil-shipping lane that can serve as an energy corridor from western China through Pakistan to the Persian Gulf.

Beijing's pivot to Pakistan is a substantial one. The story goes back to 2008, when Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf proposed a railroad and an oil pipeline to link Gwadar to the Kashi port in Xinjiang—allowing China to take advantage of the shortest possible route to the Middle East. In exchange, Pakistan would get an influx of Chinese investment. Indeed, in 2014, the Chinese government committed to spending \$45.6 billion over the next six years to build the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor, which will include the construction of highways, railways, and natural gas and oil pipelines connecting China to the Middle East. China's stake in Gwadar will also allow it to expand its influence in the Indian Ocean, a vital route for oil transportation between the Atlantic and the Pacific.

Another advantage to China is that it will be able to bypass the Strait of Malacca. As of now, 60 percent of China's imported oil comes from the Middle East, and 80 percent of that is transported to China through this strait, the dangerous, piracy-rife maritime route through the South China, East China, and Yellow Seas.

The United States fears that China will come out of its dealings with Pakistan with more power. But it need not be worried: China's involvement in Balochistan, a restive area prone to insurgencies, will not end well. Many believe Quetta, Balochistan's capital, is hiding wanted leaders from the Afghan Taliban. Meanwhile, small towns in Balochistan are the breeding grounds for a decades-old separatist movement targeting federal agencies. Increasingly, China has been caught up in the violence. In 2004, three Chinese engineers were killed and nine wounded when separatists attacked their van in Gwadar. In 2009, China shelved its \$12 billion plans to build an oil refinery and an oil city in Gwadar due to security concerns.

All Day

UAE may invest in Pak's gold, copper projects -- The Nations

The UAE has shown interest to invest in Balochistan's Reko Diq exploration project, one of the world's largest gold and copper reserves, which is estimated to value over \$260 billion.

Talking to Khaleej Times Friday, Pakistan's Ambassador to UAE Asif Durrani said that work on the Reko Diq project would start soon. "There is an arbitration going on.

It is another project in which interest has been shown by friendly countries to invest in. The UAE has also shown interest saying they would like to invest in the project," he said.

Referring to UAE-Pakistan economic relations, the ambassador said the host country was the largest trading partner in the Gulf and Mena regions. "Out of \$19 billion trade in the Gulf region, our trade with the UAE is \$9 billion. So this balance of trade is in UAE's favour. We have \$7 billion exports from the UAE, mostly oil but also we have other materials such as aluminum and machineries," he explained. About exports from Pakistan, Durrani said it was \$2.3 billion exports to UAE, mostly in foodstuff with rice being the major product, which is close to \$300 million.

"The other exports include perishable fresh fruits and vegetables also valued at close to another \$300 million. We also have light engineering products exported to UAE," he said.

According to him these were last year's trade exchange figures. About this year the ambassador said: "This year we hope the trade will further grow. Compared to last year, in the last two to three months we have seen an increase in the exports of fruits and vegetables with better packaging and properly waxed. So this year we expect a growth of \$100 million to \$150 million in fresh fruits and vegetables exports. "We see the UAE as the economic hub of the entire Mena region. It is now emerging trade centre, and we are looking to benefit from the UAE's strategic location for our exports to the region."

Another major economic contribution from the UAE, he added was the remittances from Pakistani community members, which is \$3 billion annually. About hawala system for remittances, he said it has not totally eradicated but still there. He said: "In fact I would say that Pakistani government is considering how fast the banking system could provide remittance services, and how the banking system could access the remote areas." About Pakistan's energy requirement, he said it was 4bmcf and the country needs more to fulfill this through projects like Tapi (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-Indian) pipeline project and supplies from Iran and Qatar.

About Gwadar Deep-Sea Port, he said it was now emerging as an important port, especially after the agreement with China.

This will also lead to the development of multiple road networks that will link the two major North (Central Asia) and South (Gulf) oil and gas producing countries. "China will invest more than \$42 billion for the North-South corridor, which includes a road network from Gwadar to China. This will also boost the socio-economy of Gwadar and entire Makkuran region and the whole province of Balochistan," he said.

The ambassador said the port will further contribute to the economic development in the Gulf region. Gwadar Port will have capability and capacity to reservoir the energy of the Gulf region and shorten the time period and the distance for oil tankers and reduce the tanker traffic chocking. "This project is going to be a game changer in the region."

All Day

Pakistan says CPEC to prove 'game changer' in the region -- Kaleej Times

Pakistan says CPEC to prove 'game changer' in the region

Construction of various projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has just started that will open up a huge new region consisting of the UAE-Middle East in the South to Pakistan in the middle and China, Central Asia and European Union in the north and west.

Due to the security concerns Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government did not disclose the date of formal inauguration of the construction. But the strongest possibility is that it will take place on March 23, Pakistan's National Day, by Chinese President Xi Jinping. He was, in fact, expected to perform the ceremony to start CPEC in September last but the opposition-generated political turmoil forced him to postpone his visit. Sharif calls the CPEC as "the game changer for the entire region", connecting the UAE-Middle-UAE-Pakistan, Central Asian Republics, China and EU in the north and northwest. His vision is to transform the region into "a 21st century new-EU and Asean".

The CPEC, both Chinese and Pakistanis insist, is not merely a highway-railroad plan. It is a multi-dimensional cooperative project that covers energy, infrastructure, trade and financial links. It comprises the vision to expand financial and trade, and the comprehensive business links of the future from north to south, and east to west, through all-weather and cost-effective land routes, cutting several thousand mileage which the present shipping routes involve, besides their high freight and tariff. Even electricity, natural gas and energy which has a big surplus in the northern part of the new zone including the Central Asian Republic, can be easily transported through electrical networks and gas pipelines. Setting up the energy networks, by itself involves large amounts of investment. It will also create thousands of new jobs, which the region requires to spread economic prosperity among its vast low-income population.

The fact that it is much more than the corridor, is proved by the latest estimates that put the overall investment expected from China at \$70-75 billion. It includes the corridor part of investment, which is estimated at \$45 billion. The balance of \$25-30 billion is the estimated cost of other projects, like energy generation, according to Pakistan and Chinese government. The projects which are expected to go ahead along with the CPEC, funded by Chinese sources, aim at generating 16,000 megawatts of worth with an estimated expenditure of \$34 billion. The first to be completed, during the first three to four years, in the energy sector, are project costing \$11 billion, Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning and Development, said. The funding sources have been identified. "All energy and infrastructure projects are based on public," Iqbal said. "The Chinese are not being given any special treatment or benefits, but they will get the same incentives that are offered to all companies and investors from other countries," he said.

Under a three-year "Early Harvest Plan", the corridor itself will be completed by 2017. It will stretch over 2,445 kilometres. But additional link roads distance can be added to increase its efficiency and help improve and tackle the traffic load. The CPEC will connect Pakistan's south-western port of Gwadar on the Arabian Sea and located close to the UAE going up north through Pakistan, and then moving through Khunjab Pass-Sust, located in Western Himalayas and entering Urumqi, Eastern China. Central Asian Republics (CARs) and some of the other countries bordering China and Afghanistan will also linkup.

Pakistan has undertaken that it will improve its railroad facilities and track in order to increase the present train speed from 80kilometres an hour to the range of 120-140 kilometres per hour on the Karachi-Peshawar sector, as a part of the corridor.

Ahsan Iqbal, who has been specially designated as head of the CPEC project said: "President Xi will soon visit Pakistan to kick off the \$45 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor." He said completion of the CPEC would be "the fate changer". He said: "This is a decision of the Chinese and Pakistan governments to convert

their friendly relations into a long-standing economic relations under a shared vision aimed at transforming Pakistan into a critical player linking the three billion people of South Asia, China and Central Asia.”

Iqbal said: “Some powers wish to stop Pakistan from achieving this role of a leader of the big new zone, and have started raising objections to make the project controversial. But, rest assured, 2015 will be the kickoff year of China-Pakistan economic cooperation.”

The CPEC is no longer a dream. In fact Pakistan under its fast track development plan and what China calls it “Early Harvest” project are already busy building several projects. Look at this: Pakistan has just announced a 20-year tax holiday for all industries and businesses being started at Gwadar Port’s Free Trade Zone which makes the starting point of the corridor. Teaming-up with the UAE and the Gulf is all set to boost industrial production and foreign trade as the one big sign of the corridor operating full speed.

Minister for Commerce Khurram Dastgir Khan, announced that financial close of energy projects to produce 10,400 megawatts would take place in March under CPEC with a consortium of Chinese lenders. China has committed to invest \$33.8 billion in energy sector and \$11.8 billion in infrastructure projects. China Development Bank and Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd will provide funds to Chinese companies for the CPEC.

Gwadar Port and the Free Trade Zone will be linked to the country and the CPEC by railways, Basharat Waheed, chief engineer of the Pakistan Railways said. It will cost Rs1.3 billion. Part of the land for the project has been acquired. China will upgrade railway track from Karachi to Peshawar at a cost of \$3.5 billion.

All Day

Pak-China Economic Corridor: Beginning of Prosperity and Development -- Voice of Journalists

Pak-China Economic Corridor: Beginning of Prosperity and Development

Pak-China Economic Corridor is an under-construction development project to link Gwadar Port in southern Pakistan to China's north-west area of Xinjiang by means of highways, railways and pipelines. When completed, this route will be used as a primary gateway for trade between China and the Middle East and Africa. Economic Corridor is not only the road to economic prosperity for Pakistan; but would be beneficial for the people of entire world. Approximately 3 billion people from China, South Asia and Central Asia, would benefit from this project.

This is the most significant pact signed between Pakistan and China till now, and it will stretch the depth and breadth of their bilateral strategic relations. This project is not a game changer but a fate changer for Pakistan.

Gwadar Port is located at the mouth of the Persian Gulf just outside the Strait of Hormuz, near the key shipping routes ingress and egress of the Persian Gulf. It is present on the eastern gulf of a natural bluff extending into the Arabian Sea from the coastline. When the corridor is constructed, it will serve as a major gateway for trade between China, Middle East and Africa through Pakistan.

Particularly, oil from the Middle East could be offloaded at Gwadar Port, which is present just outside the mouth of the Persian Gulf. The oil would be transported to China through Baluchistan province in Pakistan. Such a link would vastly cut the 12000 km route that Mideast oil supplies must currently take to reach Chinese port.

The project received a major uplift when control of Gwadar was transferred to China's state-owned China Overseas Ports Holding in February 2013. Pakistan has signed numerous agreements with the Chinese government including construction of an international airport at Gwadar, upgrading a section of 1300 km Karakorum Highway (Rajkot- Islamabad), construction of Cross-border Optical Fibre Cable System between Sino-Pak, the Engro Thar Coal Fired Power Plant between Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company and China Development Bank Corporation, Framework Facility Agreement on Sukhi-Kinari Hydro Power Project, Karachi-Lahore motorway, construction of Havelian Dry Port and many others agreements of paramount importance. China has promised to invest 34 billion dollars in energy sector and 11 billion dollars for development projects in Pakistan which will be completed by 2017 at most.

In order to make the economic zone operational, the Chinese government has been involved in constructing a multi-billion-dollar New Kashgar City, where Kashgar Special Economic Zone is being constructed. With its juxtaposition to Pakistan and a flying time of around 1 hour, Kashgar-Gwadar Economic Corridor comprises of 6600 acres of land, will bring a revolutionary development in Pakistan, India and beyond. The Chinese government plans to accomplish this economic zone by year 2020 and industrialists have been offered tax-free zone and other government concessions.

Recently, there were rumors that the government is changing the route of the economic corridor due to which the people of FATA, KPK, Balochistan expressed their reservations on the issue. The joint opposition parties in parliament also protested against any change in the original plan. The ANP alleged that the PML-N government had altered the route that could deprive parts of KPK from benefits of such an important economic corridor. However, China has confirmed that there is no change in the route of economic corridor and the two countries have actually agreed on a single route which is the one being under development at the moment. Hence, this removes many doubts and misinformation floating around in the country.

Sino-Pak economic corridor, undoubtedly, has the potential to turn Pakistan into pivot of regional cooperation. If Pakistan uses this opportunity wisely and is able to harvest the economic benefits this corridor has to offer, it can considerably

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strengthen its regional power and esteem and prove a more priceless long-term ally for Beijing. This project would also bring development and prosperity to the people of around ten developing nations.

All Day

LCCI for private sector's role on Pak-China Economic Corridor

LAHORE: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) has urged the government to take the private sector on board on pace of work on Pak-China Economic Corridor as business community is keen to play its due role for economic uplift of the country.

LCCI President Ijaz A Mumtaz said here Wednesday that present regime was making right move by strengthening its economic ties with China, time tested & sincere friend of Pakistan.

LCCI Senior Vice President Mian Nauman Kabir said that this was one of the most significant agreement signed between Pakistan and China till now, and it will stretch the depth and breadth of their bilateral strategic relations.

This project is not a game changer but a fate changer for Pakistan.

He said that the project would give a major uplift when control of Gwadar was transferred to China.

Mian Nauman Kabir said this mega project should be completed at any cost as, undoubtedly, it has a potential to turn Pakistan into pivot of regional cooperation. This project would also bring development and prosperity to the people of around ten developing nations.

All Day

Pak-China sign MoUs for cooperation in water, power sectors -- Dunia News

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and federal ministers were also present on the occasion.

ISLAMABAD (Web Desk) - Pakistan and China have signed two memorandums of understanding for promotion of cooperation in water and power sector, Dunya News reported.

The documents were signed by Chairman of WAPDA Zafar Mehmoud and Chairman of Chinese Three Gorges Corporation Chun Lu in Islamabad today.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and federal ministers were also present on the occasion.

The first MOU relates to cooperation in construction of water reservoirs and hydel generation. Both the countries will also enhance cooperation in education and training in the respective field under the second MoU

All Day

Pakistan imported \$1.65bn security equipment -- The News

KARACHI: Public and private sector of Pakistan imported security and safety equipment worth \$1.65 billion in 2014 in order to cope with the security situation of the country, Managing Director, Pegasus Consultancy, Aamer Khanzada said.

Khanzada, while addressing a large gathering at the 11th International Safe and Secure Exhibition, said the expo is aimed to address the safety and security needs of the region by bringing together major international and local exhibitors to display latest technology.

The three day expo took place at Pak-China Friendship Centre, Islamabad and was attended by 250 companies from 31 different countries.

Maj Gen. Asghar Nawaz, Chairman NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority) appreciated the role of Pegasus Consultancy for organizing the event and said being a disaster manager, we cannot prevent the disasters but the risks can be reduced with better preparation in response to the effects.

Director General, Punjab Emergency Services and Emergency Services Academy, Dr Rizwan Naseer appreciated the role of Rescue 1122.

"Rescue 1122 has managed thousands of fire incidents successfully, but still more professionalism in the safety and security industry is required," he said.

He added that these types of international exhibitions bring an interactive platform

for the exchange of industry knowledge.

Anwar A. Ghauri General Secretary Fire and Security Association of Pakistan appreciated the role of Pegasus consultancy in organizing the event and bringing local and international exhibitors on a single platform third time in Islamabad.

The products displayed at the expo included, intelligence equipment, firefighting equipment, industrial safety equipment, alarm systems, access control systems, surveillance cameras, thermal Imaging cameras, fire resistant door, industrial safety shoes, fire protection paints and security software.

All Day

China-Pak Economic Corridor to benefit Pakistan -- AAJ News

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China emphasized the importance to speed up the process of drafting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) long term plan which is scheduled to be finalized by July this year.

In this regard, a 19-member Chinese Expert Group on Long Term Planning of CPEC led by Deputy Director General of China Development Bank Hu Dongsheng paid a visit to Pakistan and held extensive and in-depth discussions with their Pakistani counterparts led by Secretary, Hassan Nawaz Tarar of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

Both sides reiterated their determination to implement the consensus reached by the previous meetings of the Joint Cooperation Committee of CPEC, as well as its Working Groups.

They reviewed the draft Long-Term Plan of CPEC (2015-2030) and believed this draft could be a good basis for further deliberations.

It was agreed that CPEC is a comprehensive package of cooperative initiatives and projects, which covers the key areas including connectivity, information network infrastructure, energy cooperation, industries and industrial parks, agricultural development and poverty alleviation, tourism, financial cooperation as well as livelihood improvement including municipal infrastructure, education, public health and people-to-people communication.

Both sides reaffirmed that the prime objective of the construction of CPEC is to benefit all the regions and people in Pakistan.

It was agreed that the CPEC should be promoted in priority and step by step, incorporating the long term and short & medium term needs and based on the concrete conditions of Pakistan.

Both sides should push forward the implementation of the Early Harvest Projects as well as the preparation of the projects of the Long-term Plan in all sectors.

With the experience earned in the process of CPEC construction and the improvement of local economy and security conditions, CPEC will not only benefit the entire Pakistan but also contribute to the regional peace, stability and prosperity.

All Day

Govt to purchase over 18000 acres land for Diamer-Bhasha Dam -- APP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Government will purchase over eighteen thousand three hundred acres of land for the construction of Diamer-Bhasha Dam project. An amount of 49 billion will be paid against land compensation to the affectees within the next six months. Government has already purchased over three thousand kanal land from three villages in Chilas and paid compensation to the land owners, reported Radio Pakistan. Three model villages are also being set up at Chilas to provide one kanal land to each affected person free of cost. A 35 kilometers long by-pass road is also being constructed from Chital to Chilas which will be used for transportation of machinery for the dam and also smooth traffic on Karakorum Highway during the construction of dam project.

This mega project after completion will not only generate 4500 MW hydro electricity but also usher an era of progress and prosperity for the country.

All Day

Year of Pak-China Friendship (2015): 'Pakistan's participation in SCO to be a milestone' -- BR

"Pakistan's participation in Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) as a permanent member in the Year of Pak-China Friendship (2015) would prove to be a milestone in creating South-South integration through regional connectivity." President Pak-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) Shah Faisal Afridi stated this in a statement here on Wednesday.

He said that the economic integration has become an increasingly large part of the SCO agenda that had magnified significance of Pakistan for being the major partner in Silk Road Economic Belt. Similarly, the development of Gwadar Port, emerging as an energy and trade corridor for SCO countries, will also strengthen the role of Pakistan in future economic development of the region, he added.

Afridi stated that SCO has created a new model of international relations - partnership instead of alliance. He described SCO as "fully in tune with the realities and requirements of the 21st century" - the model for future international relationships. As this is going to be an Asian century, the regional and world powers couldn't ignore Pakistan in any kind of framework that places a focus on peace and development within the geographical arena of SCO, he added.

He said that Pakistan as an observer state of SCO has been playing a very important role and hoped as a permanent member, Pakistan would be able to play a proactive role in the organisation. He also said that the current requirements for joining SCO requires potential members to have observer status in the SCO, which would limit the list of candidates to Afghanistan, India, Iran, Mongolia, and Pakistan. Of these, India, Iran, and Pakistan have been tapped for the permanent membership whose process would be completed before the SCO summit 2015.

Afridi while evaluating Pakistan's quest for full membership, argued that Pakistan had the requisite credentials - constructive role in Afghanistan, determined fight against forces of terrorism, extremism and separatism, a promising and prospective energy and trade corridor for the region, historical and cultural ties with Central Asian Republics, close strategic and economic ties with China and growing relations with Russia - all supported Pakistan's claim to full membership of SCO.

According to him, extending SCO membership to Pakistan will help facilitate China's plan to revive its role as a regional trade hub. This will also aid China's Great Western Development Strategy, which was launched in 2000. "By developing an intricate oil, gas, railway, road, economic and cultural network with other Asian states, China will place itself at a stronger footing to lead in the Asian century.

He was confident that SCO membership would also help Pakistan in resolving its political disputes, as it had adopted consensus-based decision making mechanism ensuring non-interference in the internal affairs of other states. Afridi suggested that at present SCO members need to take a two-track approach to make it a successful regional grouping. At the macro level, he said, it must forge a common vision and mutual trust with similar groupings such as the Collective Security Treaty Organisation. At a micro level, bilateral and regional issues between member states need to be addressed, he added.

March 14, 2015

Sat

All Day

Pak-china Economic Corridor to benefit entire Pakistan -- APP

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistan- China economic corridor will not only benefit the entire Pakistan in terms of improvement of its economy and security conditions, but also contribute to the regional peace, stability and prosperity.

A 19-member Chinese expert group on long term planning of CPEC led by Deputy Director General of China Development Bank Hu Dongsheng recently visited Pakistan and held extensive and in-depth discussions with their Pakistani counterparts led by Secretary Planning, Development and Reform Hassan Nawaz Tarar.

Both the sides emphasized the importance to speed up the process of drafting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a long term plan which is scheduled to be finalized by July this year. They reiterated their determination to implement the consensus reached by the previous meetings of the joint cooperation committee of CPEC, as well as its working groups. They reviewed the draft Long-Term Plan of CPEC (2015 - 2030) and believed this draft could be a good basis for further deliberations.

It was agreed that CPEC is a comprehensive package of cooperative initiatives and projects, which covers the key areas including connectivity, information network infrastructure, energy cooperation, industries and industrial parks, agricultural development and poverty alleviation, tourism, financial cooperation as well as livelihood improvement including municipal infrastructure, education, public health and people-to-people communication. Both sides reaffirmed that the prime objective of the construction of CPEC is to benefit all the regions and people in Pakistan.

It was further agreed that the CPEC should be promoted in priority and step by step, incorporating the long term and short & medium term needs and based on the concrete conditions of Pakistan. Both the sides should push forward the implementation of the Early Harvest Projects as well as the preparation of the projects of the long-term plan in all sectors.

All Day

Pak-China FTA: fourth round of talks in Beijing from March 31

Pakistan and China are to hold fourth round of second phase negotiations on free trade agreement on March 31 and April 1, 2015 in Beijing, well-informed sources told Business Recorder. Additional Secretary Foreign Trade, Rubina Athar is expected to lead the Pakistan side for talks on the FTA.

Both countries have raised concerns over insufficient utilisation of concessions of tariff incentives available in the FTA, negatively influencing local industry through concessions and misuse of certificate of origin and agreed that tariff reduction modalities of the second phase will be independent of first phase TRM. China has offered a tariff reduction on 90 percent tariff lines in five years of which 70 percent will be zero rated.

Presently, 35 percent tariff lines are zero rated. Pakistan maintains that it is facing a Rs 22 billion loss per annum due to trade imbalance and has proposed a reduction in tariff of not more than 50 percent. Pakistan and China had agreed to allow banks to open branches in each other's country but no progress has been seen on this decision so far. Initially, National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) and Habib Bank Limited (HBL) are expected to open their branches in China.

If Pakistani banks start operations the following benefits are expected: (i) presently, the inward remittance/ LC is routed through European banks. Once Pakistani banks are opened the LC routing would be done through Pakistan's own banks. In this way it is expected that \$ 10 billion would move through Pakistani banks which will benefit not only forex reserves but also help in expansion of the economy and GDP; and (ii) the Chinese side will also open their leading banks' branches/offices in Pakistan and linking financial sector with world largest economy would help Pakistani banks and financial institutions in multiple ways and will strengthen their standing as well.

According to sources, Chinese investments for the Economic Corridor will be routed through Pakistani banks which would imply that Pakistan's current account deficit would be curtailed at 15-20 percent which would be an enormous achievement.

The sources said, during fourth round of second phase negotiations, Pakistan will urge China to comprehensive engage in the services sector. Pakistan raised this issue in January talks but concrete progress was not witnessed. However, it was agreed to establish a working group on trade in services and investment which is expected to be raised in the FTA meeting.

All Day

China is ready to enter the world market with its natural gas through Pakistan. -- abc.az

China is ready to enter the world market with its natural gas through Pakistan.

According to informed sources, China and Pakistan have already signed a Memorandum of Intentions on construction of the interregional gas pipeline from Xinjiang Autonomous Region to Pakistani port Gwadar.

"Giant gas deposits found in Xinjiang (China) will be a resource base for this pipeline system. China will use this gas pipeline to create the integrated gas transport network between China, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Iran. Iran also supports this project", - the source says.

In addition to the Memorandum, China and Pakistan also agreed on construction of an advanced civil and military port in Gwadar for \$4 bn. The military port will also be used as a base for Chinese military ships. Railways and motor roads will also be constructed.

"The capacity of the planned gas pipeline is still to be determined. It will be the subject of additional research", - the source said. In his opinion, other regional gas suppliers will also join the new pipe line system.

All Day

China with its gas enters global market through Pakistan -- abc.az

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March 19, 2015

Thu

All Day

Tajikistan keen on Pak-China corridor -- Dawn News

KARACHI: Tajikistan is working for transit trade with Pakistan and is interested in the Pak-China Economic Corridor (PCEC) as it would serve commercial interests of Tajikistan by providing road link to ports, said the Ambassador of Tajikistan, Sherali Janonov at the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) on Wednesday.

Speaking at KCCI, the Tajik envoy said that at present about 50 to 60 trucks are carrying goods to Tajikistan via Torkham border but this volume is insignificant. KCCI president Iftikhar A Vohra expressed desire to send a trade delegation to Dushanbe to explore the market.

Janonov told the gathering that China and India are active in his country, adding: "China is holding 5 to 6 trade exhibitions a year while Pakistan organised its last exhibition in 2004."

The Tajik envoy felt the market is still open for Pakistani products like fruits and vegetables, rice, textiles, cement and construction material.

The ambassador said that his government had already asked the commerce minister of Pakistan to appoint a commercial counselor in Dushanbe for boosting bilateral trade.

All Day

Pak-China trade reaches \$16 billion -- The Nations

Islamabad - Bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and China has reached \$16 billion, showing 12 per cent annual increase, according to the latest statistics available here on Thursday.

This is a big jump in the bilateral trade, reflecting the level of socio-economic cooperation increased in the recent two years.

Balance of trade position is also getting improved, as Pakistan's exports to China have increased to about \$4 billion.

The bilateral trade was registered dollar 5.

2 billion in 2006 which jumped to dollar 16 billion last year.

China has emerged as second largest trading partner of Pakistan in the region.

The growth in the economic ties started with signing of free trade agreement between the two countries.

Besides the trade, there was also unprecedented increase in China's investment in Pakistan in the recent months.

There is a manifold increase in number of Chinese companies working in Pakistan. Currently, around 10,000 Chinese workers are engaged in various projects, undertaken in Pakistan.

According to the sources, the two countries maintained momentum of their all-round cooperative partnership that was the result of frequent bilateral exchanges took place at various levels.

It is hoped that the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Pakistan which is expected at an early date will further upgrade and consolidate the relationship, bringing them to a new height.

Pak-China relations were an example for the other countries.

It is now stated even at the top level leadership that their friendship is stronger than iron and it's based on mutual respect and trust.

China-Pakistan economic corridor project (CPECP) will be another milestone in the development of their bilateral relations.

The leadership of the two countries attached top priority to its early implementation. The CPECP is not only road project, in fact it covered wide-range of areas including infrastructure and energy development.

This project is for the benefit for whole of Pakistan, the sources said.

It provides strong connectivity between the two countries, covering all regions of Pakistan.

China's support is also unprecedented in the development of Gawadar port and Karkarum highway.

Pakistan is heavily depending on China to overcome its energy shortage.

Currently there are 14 projects which are under-implementation with the support of Chinese government or Chinese companies.

All Day

Gwadar Port holds potential to facilitate foreign trade: official -- The News

KARACHI: Gwadar port has huge potential to facilitate international trade and development of China-Pakistan economic corridor, said a top official at a Chinese firm on Friday.

Strategically located in proximity of major shipping routes emanating from the Gulf, Gwadar port and the corridor are important both for China and Pakistan, said Zeng Qingsong, chief executive officer at China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), speaking at a maritime discourse on "The Future of Gwadar" at Bahria University.

The moot was organised by the National Centre for Maritime Policy Research (NCMPR).

Comparing ports, Qingsong said the cargo load is up to 65,000 to 70,000 metric tons (MT) at Gwadar Port compared to 45,000 to 50,000 MT at Karachi Port and Port Qasim, according to the port parameter for vessels.

He said initially 1,200m container terminal with 300m long four berths will be developed at Gwadar port. Additional access channels will also be developed, while breakwaters be constructed.

There will be an expansion of multipurpose terminal to the east subject to commercial viability, he added.

Conversion of Gwadar fish harbour into a miniport and development of free zone is also part of the next phase development.

The catalyst projects include desalination plant and development of New Gwadar International Airport, Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG terminal and 300MW coal-fired power plant and construction of Gwadar East bay Expressway.

Qingsong said COPHC's mission is to turn Gwadar port into a national gateway to Pakistan, a world-class maritime hub and a catalyst for economic development of the nation, driven by a team of experts delivering flexible innovative solution, exceptional customised services and dedicated safe operations and to grow from local port operator to one with a regional and then global presence.

He added that COPHC global approach is to create a local business environment where excellence, innovation and profitability drive core business philosophy of exceptional customer service.

Asaf Humayun, director general Asaf Humayun at NCMPR, said Gwadar is inching towards its development at a slow pace and the entire nation desires to see the progress and prosperity at a much faster pace.

"Two things will actually determine how fast Gwadar can progress, one is security and the other is connectivity," Humayun said.

He stressed on need to have due regard to the preservation of environment, which should be a part of all development work in Gwadar area.

DG said Gwadar port offers multidimensional advantages and will influence the geostrategic and economic environment in the region.

Various intellectuals, senior officers of Pakistan Navy, renowned stakeholders of maritime sector, marine scientists, students of maritime studies and many other dignitaries attended the session.

All Day

Pak-China Corridor to be fate-changer, says Ahsan -- The News

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said on Saturday that the Pak China Economic Corridor would prove to be a fate-changer project for Pakistan as well as for the entire region.

He said that the PML-N before 2013 elections stated that its government would improve socio-economic condition of the masses so it was doing what it had promised in the past.

Talking to The News, Ahsan Iqbal said that one should not narrowly think about the mega Pakistan China Economic Corridor (PCEC) Project as it would not only serve Pakistan and China but would also become future of this region. To a question, he said China wanted to get road access to Gwadar at least on one route of PCEC in next two years so they decided to use existing road infrastructure and added a fourth alignment that would better serve this purpose.

"The addition of fourth alignment in PCEC has nothing to do with any political agenda of the government because it is just a necessity and we are doing it for socio-economic benefit of the people of Pakistan and China," he said. The minister said the Chinese President in his upcoming visit to Pakistan would give a roadmap about how China would pump \$50 billion up to 2017 into host of projects that would ultimately generate billions of dollars besides creating numerous job opportunities.

Replying to a question, he said all the four alignments of PCEC would be constructed in the coming years but it would need peace and stability in some of the restive areas in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

He said, "The PCEC project is not a game-changer but a fate-changer for Pakistan and for the prosperity of three billion people of the region. The corridor will have special economic zones, a railways system, a model city, an airport and a free port at Gwadar."

March 23, 2015

Mon

All Day

**Pak-China economic corridor key to region's progress: CM Punjab --
Customs Today**

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif termed Pak-China economic corridor is an important progress towards stability of increasing trade and economic bonds between both the countries, due to which, new era of progress and prosperity of Pakistan will usher in.

Shahbaz Sharif expressed these views in a meeting with Chinese Consul General Yu Boren in Lahore, here Saturday. Matters of mutual interest and promotion of Pak-China relations were discussed during the meeting.

Shahbaz Sharif said that China is a very sincere and trustworthy friend of Pakistan. He said that China has always supported Pakistan in every hour of trial.

He said that full cooperation of China in the development of Pakistan is commendable. He said that strong friendly ties between both the countries have changed into useful economic relations.

All Day

‘CPEC-Pak’s Vision 2025 seeks to position itself from a lower middle income country to high middle’ -- BR

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Prof. Ahsan Iqbal has said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Pakistan's Vision 2025 seeks to position itself from a lower middle income country to high middle income country by achieving the target per capita GDP of \$4200.

"In order to achieve this goal and create employment opportunities for new entrants into the labor force, it aims to target a growth rate of 8 percent between 2018 and 2025 with single digit inflation", he said while addressing the think tank of China at Pak-China Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on CPEC in Beijing today.

According to a message received here from China today, Prof. Iqbal who is currently visiting the country said that the Vision has other macroeconomic targets as well. He further said that "Vision 2025 seeks to increase exports from the present \$25 billion to \$150 billion, tax-GDP ratio to 16-18 percent, investment rate in the range of 22-25 percent of GDP through domestic saving of 18-21 percent and foreign saving of 3-4 percent of GDP in the long run".

The Minister for Planning said that year 2015 has been termed "by us as the Year of Friendly Exchanges between China and Pakistan and this year of the sheep will also stand and prove to be a year of promise and prosperity for deepening cooperation between our two brotherly countries China and Pakistan".

Highlighting the CPEC, he said that the Corridor is a fusion of multiple developments in the global, regional, bilateral and domestic contexts.

The ultimate objective is peace, prosperity and well being of the people of the two countries, the region and the world, he remarked.

Prof. Iqbal said that the global economic landscape has changed dramatically.

The main drivers of this change, he said has been technology, trade liberalization, freer capital movements, advances in communication and transportation infrastructure and creation of cross border supply chains.

The centre of gravity of the world economy, he said has shifted east with the emerging economies growing at a much faster pace than the developed economies.

Prof. Iqbal said that their share of GDP doubled in the last 50 years or so. In the last decade 70 percent of global growth is ascribed to the emerging economies.

These shifts, he said find reflection in changes in global governance and responsibilities that arise from these shifts.

"The integration of the global economy has enveloped all areas of trade, service and movement of capital. Regional cooperation agreements have proliferated and strengthened in recent times to capture this change especially in the global economic landscape", he remarked.

The Minister said that regional and sub regional economic integration as a means to bolster growth, investment and trade in countries has a long chequered history.

However, recent history of regional economic integration has had some unmistakeable successes.

"In fact this has been one of the major successful developments after the Second World War. The regional integration in Europe brought success in terms of regional growth, economic development, investment & trade and more importantly fostered peace in the region", he added.

The interest in regional integration in Asia, he said has taken root more slowly but recent developments have intensified interest in Asian regional economic integration. First, he said is being projected that the Asia and Pacific region's share in world GDP between 2010 and 2050 would rise from nearly 28 to more than 52 percent, with China accounting for 20 percent and India for 16 percent both neighbouring Pakistan-in manufacturing China is already producing 25 percent of global manufacturing output.

Second, he said complementary to the first is the faster economic growth in the region and its intra regional trade than the rest of the world-trends that are likely to continue- Asia today is already producing 46.5 percent of global manufacturing output.

Third, he said the imbalance in world trade is creating an environment for greater domestic and regional investment by trade surplus countries, which are countries in Asia, providing an opportunity to relatively slower growing and investment deficit countries to attract FDI and raise their growth levels.

Fourth, he said the region includes both energy importing and energy exporting

countries and thus providing room for cross border trade in energy products; fifth, regional economic integration increases efficiencies in production especially in products with value chains spread across the region because of proximity and thus reduced connectivity costs.

Sixth, he said that after the recent economic and financial crises in the west there has been strengthening of the belief that Asian economic integration would make for more resilient economies to external shocks- a belief earlier fostered during the 1998-99 crises.

Prof.Ahsan Iqbal said that the bilateral context of the China-Pakistan is rooted in the friendship of our two countries that matches the proverbial saying that it is a friendship as pure as water, as deep as Mariana Trench and as high as Himalayas. "The bond of friendship and trust between our two beloved countries have stood the test of time and forms the foundation of cooperation in the entire spectrum ranging from trade, investment and energy to defense, transportation, science and technology", he remarked.

He added that there is convergence of views and interests in global and strategic affairs.

The support that each other provides in the international arena is legendary. Recently, he said both governments have made a conscious effort to focus on expanding the economic dimension of the relationship and bring it up to par with the excellent cooperation the two countries enjoy at the strategic and political level. This impetus towards enhancing economic and trade cooperation, he said has gained strength since the near-simultaneous change of leadership in China and Pakistan.

The new governments in both countries, he said have signaled their commitment to strengthening Pakistan-China relations very early in their terms of office.

He said that Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's decision to include Pakistan in his first foreign trip in May 2013 after assuming office in March underscored the importance leadership attaches to our relationship.

"Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's visit to China in July 2013 - his first official overseas trip since assuming office - marked a new phase in the development of the relationship by putting economic cooperation and connectivity squarely at the centre of the bilateral agenda", he remarked.

Prof Iqbal said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Pakistan's Vision 2025 seeks to position itself from a lower middle income country to high middle income country by achieving the target per capita GDP of \$4200 .

In order to achieve this goal and create employment opportunities for new entrants into the labor force, it aims to target a growth rate of 8 percent between 2018 and 2025 with single digit inflation. The Vision has other macroeconomic targets as well. It seeks to increase exports from the present \$25 billion to \$150 billion, tax-GDP ratio to 16-18 percent, investment rate in the range of 22-25 percent of GDP through domestic saving of 18-21 percent and foreign saving of 3-4 percent of GDP in the long run.

"While this is a tall order, Pakistan's case is relatively unique in gaining from connecting seamlessly to its border regions and beyond as it borders both the largest and fastest growing economies in the world; it provides access to the warm water ports to the landlocked countries in the North and Central Asian States; it links energy importing and energy exporting countries; it is rich in untapped mineral resources; it has a demography which provides a large and growing young labor force that has great potential to harness the opportunities in the region; and, it has a diverse and rich culture potentially able to absorb and cooperate with all communities and nationalities", he added.

"A study found that an investment in regional transport infrastructure gives Pakistan benefits worth US\$37 billion during 2010-2020 an

All Day

Sixty thousand tons of LNG reaching Pakistan -- The Nations

Sixty thousand tons of LNG reaching Pakistan

Islamabad- The National Assembly was informed today that the first shipment of 60 thousand tons of imported LNG, is reaching Pakistan tomorrow.

Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi told the House, while responding to a call attention notice that the imported LNG from Qatar

will flow into the system on the 31st of this month.

The Minister said the LNG price agreement is still being negotiated, between the Qatar Gas and Pakistan State Oil. He assured the House that the LNG will be imported at the most competitive price and transparent manner. He said the gas price, whenever finalized will be shared with the Parliament and other appropriate forums. He said world class terminal has been constructed at a record time, to handle the imported LNG.

The Minister said the primary recipient of the imported LNG will be the power sector and it will provide an advantage of 300 million dollars, to the power sector as compared to the liquid fuel.

Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Asif told the House that the imported LNG will be provided to four IPPs and KAPCO, for generation of electricity. He was confident that the production of electricity through LNG will help reduce load-shedding in the summer season.

Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights Pervaiz Rashid has said that a three pronged strategy of awareness, prevention and enforcement is being pursued to eradicate corruption from the country.

He told the National Assembly, during question hour today that National Accountability Bureau has been successful, not only in bringing the culprits to book, but also recovered billions of plundered money. He said the NAB has recovered 3880.47 million rupees and completed 869 inquiries since June 2013. He said the NAB also established prevention committees in order to develop doable recommendations for eradication of corruption. He said the authority is also engaged with different government and non-governmental organizations, to fight against the menace.

Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Resources Jam Kamal told the House that Pakistan and Iran are engaged in negotiating a workable implementation plan, for the Pakistan-Iran Gas Pipeline Project. He said that Pakistan is pursuing the project implementation through an alternate strategy with Chinese cooperation. The strategy encompasses completion of pipeline segment from Gwadar to Nawabshah, along with the construction of LNG terminal at Gwadar Port.

Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights Pervaiz Rashid told the House that several laws are in the pipeline, including the establishment of a National Commission for the protection of child rights. He said the proposed bills envisage enhancement of the minimum age, for fixing the criminal responsibility.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Shaikh Aftab Ahmad told the House that construction work on Karachi-Hyderabad Motorway, will start next month and completed in a span of two years at a cost of 44 billion rupees

All Day

Gwadar Port to earn higher revenue via transit facility -- BR

ISLAMABAD: The region needs Gwadar Port as it will help save significant shipment time and billions of dollars in freight saving; this was echoed by top government officials and industry experts at a one-day conference in Dubai. Addressing the 'Investing in Gwadar' conference, they emphasised that it's not just a port, it is global necessity. Future global shipping chain will not be completed without Gwadar, they claimed, and added: "The potential is tremendous and a lot of opportunities as well" Khaleej Times reported Thursday. The conference was organised by Academy & Finance. Pakistani rulers were always conscious of the potential and necessity of Gwadar as an alternative port to Karachi.

The first phase of the port was constructed in record time by China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) and completed by the end of 2005.

The port operations contract was then awarded, after international bidding, to PSA Gwadar and then 'Concessional Rights' were finally transferred to China Overseas Port Holding Company in 2013.

The conference chairman and president of Washington-based GWEST, Paul Michael Wihbey, said: "We are looking at a window of opportunity.

"Talking about the Gwadar Port potentials, Gwadar Development Authority director general, Dr Sajjad H Baloch, said that it is a gateway of China-Pakistan economic corridor and strategically located near the Strait of Hormuz.

It provides the closest access for Middle East oil & gas to Western China, he said, adding that it is a transshipment hub for heavy ships.

It also has transit trade potential for heavy ships, and the potential to create two million jobs. A senior researcher, Dr Azhar Ahmad, said that in the long-term Gwadar port is likely to earn enormous revenues for the province and the country by providing transit and transshipment facilities to a number of countries.

It is the shortest and most feasible route to the sea for most Central Asian countries, Afghanistan and for parts of Russia, Dr Ahmad added.

China is the second biggest economy end of this decade. A portion of China's transit trade through the Gwadar-Kashgar corridor could generate substantial economic activity for the whole province.

The revenues will not only be generated by transit fees alone, but innumerable employment and business opportunities will be created along the corridor.

Needless to say that once there is a road/rail and trade caravans moving over it, it automatically produces a number of opportunities.

All Day

Pak-China business forum platform to take bilateral relations: FPCCI -- AAJ News

Pak-China business forum platform to take bilateral relations: FPCCI

ISLAMABAD: The Pak-China Business Forum provides businessmen from the two countries the opportunity to improve bilateral trade relations and boost economic activities between the two countries.

This was stated by Mian Muhamamd Adrees, President of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) while addressing the inaugural session of a 4-day Pak China Business Forum organized by Comsats Institute of Information Technology.

Minister for Science and Technology, Rana Tanveer Hussain was the chief guest on the occasion.

Mian Idrees said this forum would prove as a catalyst for promoting bilateral trade relations.

He said Pakistan's top leadership has given high priority to boosting good relations with China and the mega project of China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) was reflective of the government's commitment.

He said that trade volume between the two countries has increased manifold after the signing of Free Trade Agreement between the two countries.

"Current trade volume of trade between the two countries stands at \$15 billion which is much higher than that of \$5 billion before signing of Free Trade

Agreement around 8 years ago", the FPCCI President added. He said this forum will open up new era of trade relations with China.

"It is a better way to arrange such types of forums where businessmen from both the countries can meet with each other and discuss various relevant issues so that they can develop mutual trust", he said adding once the mutual trust develops, the trade activities increase.

He also underlined the need for enhancing Pakistan's exports to China as balance of trade between the two countries was much in favour of China.

He also proposed the Pakistan's business community to take benefit from the opportunities offered by the Chinese government in its country.

On the occasion, Secretary Board of Investment (BOI) Iftikhar Hussain Babar said the forum has proved to be a valuable platform to promote bilateral business opportunities.

He said China is true and trusted friend of Pakistan who have helped Pakistan on number of critical issues.

He said the BOI is committed to provide all possible facilities to resolve various issues relating to Chinese investment in the Pakistan.

He also invited the Chinese investors to come to Pakistan and invest in different sectors including energy and infrastructure sectors.

He said number of foreign companies is increasing which show their trust on Pakistan.

He said that the \$46 billion China-Pak Economic Corridor is a great gift from China for which Pakistan is grateful to China.

Ambassador of China to Pakistan Sun Weidong said on the occasion "We

are enjoying all weather friendship and all weather good mutual relationship”.

He said China welcomes Pakistan businessmen to come to China and explore business opportunities in China.

He termed the year 2015 as year of friendship between China and Pakistan as during the year, the two countries are committed to push their bilateral relations to a new height.

All Day

Chinese president to arrive on April 9 on 2-day Pakistan visit -- Daily Dunia

Xi Jinping will meet political, military leadership of Pakistan; will sign various agreements

ISLAMABAD: (Dunya News) – Chinese president Xi Jinping will arrive in Pakistan on 9th of April, 2015 for a two-day visit. He will meet the civil and military leadership of Pakistan and sign agreements in various fields during the visit, Dunya News reported.

According to the sources, Chinese president will arrive on 9th of April and will meet President, Prime Minister, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff during the visit. He is also expected to meet leaders of the big political parties of Pakistan. A high level delegation of Chinese officials will also accompany the Chinese president.

Chinese president is expected to sign various agreements in various fields including communication, energy and broadcast. He will also inaugurate Gwadar Port, Pak-China Economic Corridor, One Belt One Road and various other projects.

Xi Jinping is also expected to visit Saudi Arabia and Egypt after Pakistan. It is pertinent to mention here that Chinese president's visit to Pakistan had been cancelled in September due to the sit-ins in Islamabad.

All Day

Government Offers To Build China City In Gwadar To Facilitate Chinese Investors in Islamabad, Pakistan -- Pakistan Tribe

ISLAMABAD – The Chinese Delegation consisted of 66 members visited the Investment Board here on Friday.

Secretary Farhatullah Babar gave briefing to the 66 members Chinese Delegation, who visited the Investment Board.

Capitalizing upon the opportunity, the Chinese Delegation was given the briefing over the climate of investment in Pakistan. The Delegation was briefed about the investment opportunities in different sectors in Pakistan.

Secretary of Investment Board, Farhatullah Babar, shredded light on the scope of investment and invited Chinese investors to invest in different sectors of Pakistan. The sectors which are worth investing in Pakistan are agriculture, mining, power generation and many others.

Secretary proposed to build China City on Gwadar to facilitate the Chinese Investors. He further said that, there are many opportunities for Chinese investors in Gwadar.

The Chinese Delegation showed keen interest in investment opportunities particularly in the fields of power generation from air and water, solar energy and food processing.

China has been a true friend to Pakistan and always remains with Pakistan in every thick and thin. Many investors from China are already investing in Pakistan, and there is still a much room left for the investment to come in many sectors, he added. Chinese Delegation looked satisfied and hinted to bring in investment in Pakistan to benefit both Pakistan and China.

All Day

Chinese's President visit will be game-changer for Pak-China relations; Mushahid -- AAJ TV

Chinese's President visit will be game-changer for Pak-China relations; Mushahid

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan-China Institute, under the chairmanship of Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a visiting delegation from the China World Peace Foundation.

The Chinese NGO, China World Peace Foundation delegation was led by its Chairman, Dr Li Ruo Hong, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

The MoU seeks to promote cooperation on such areas as culture, environment and regional connectivity.

Later, Senator Mushahid Hussain, during a briefing for Chinese media, welcomed the proposal of President Xi Jinping for holding a conference for dialogue among Asian Civilisations for promoting dialogue amongst communities, youth, media and think tanks.

"The visit of President Xi Jinping would be a game-changer for Pakistan-China relations as it would give a concrete shape to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor with implementation of projects in energy, economy and infrastructure," said Senator Mushahid, while answering a number of questions from the journalists.

Senator Mushahid also told the Chinese journalists that today 'our relations with China are a factor for strengthening the federation and national unity, since there is a broad across-the-board consensus on this special relationship among all segments of Pakistani society.

These ties are seen as a source of strength for Pakistan's security and stability plus prosperity for all the provinces, he added.

The Chinese President's proposal came during his speech to the Baao Forum on Saturday.

In his speech, President Xi Jinping also referred to the Indus Valley Civilisation as among the key Asian Civilisations, which Senator Mushahid told the Chinese journalists was a reference to present-day Pakistan, along with other Asian civilisations along the Yellow River, the Ganges and the Euphrates.

All Day

Gwadar Port to boost economy, create jobs -- BR

The project received a major boost when control of Gwadar Port was transferred to China's state-owned China Overseas Ports Holding in February 2013.

Dubai: Gwadar Port is the future of Balochistan and Pakistan that will boost economic activities for the province and the country in addition to attract billions of dollars of foreign direct investment from China and Middle Eastern countries.

Dr. Sajjad H. Baloch. Photo by Mukesh Kamal/Khaleej Times This was disclosed by Gwadar Development Authority director-general Dr Sajjad H. Baloch (in pic, right) during an exclusive interview with Khaleej Times on the sidelines of the "Investing in Gwadar" conference held recently in Dubai.

The project received a major boost when control of Gwadar Port was transferred to China's state-owned China Overseas Ports Holding in February 2013. Built by Chinese workers and opened in 2007, Gwadar is undergoing a major expansion to turn it into a full-fledged deep-water commercial port.

Dr Baloch mentioned that it is the vision of Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to develop Gwadar as a smart port city. The government of Pakistan intends to prepare a smart city master plan for Gwadar and looking for technical and financial proposals. In this regard, advertisements have been published in local and

international newspapers.

"It's an international bidding and the deadline is March 30. We expect at least 10 bids from international companies," he said. The selected company will help creating the vision and guiding strategic objectives for Gwadar City, he said, adding that it will also update the existing master plan of Gwadar City and its integration with the master plan of the Gwadar Port.

Initially, the Gwadar master plan was estimated around Rs40 billion but because of the delay, it would cost around Rs50 billion. It includes a new Rs26 billion airport, which can accommodate the superjumbo A380 aircraft.

The idea is to create a sustainable strategic development plan that ensures the socio-economic uplift of the Makran Coast in general and the Gwadar Region in particular, he explained.

"For infrastructure projects the government has certain limitation for investment so we want to invite private sector. One Chinese company is interested for the 300MW power plant in Gwadar on an IPP basis," he said.

In the long term, Gwadar Port is likely to earn enormous revenues for the province and the country by providing transit and transshipment facilities to a number of countries, he added.

It is the shortest and most feasible route to the sea for most Central Asian countries, China and Gulf nations. The port of Shanghai is about 10,000km from the Strait of Hormuz by sea via the Malacca route while Kashgar, the capital city of Xinjiang, is about 4,500km from the port of Shanghai. So Kashgar is only 2,800km from Gwadar via the envisaged China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and just over 3,400km from the Strait of Hormuz.

Dr Baloch said that Pakistan will get more than \$45 billion from China for the CPEC. Gwadar's specific projects are worth around \$3 billion in the next three years, which include the new airport, water projects, road connectivity and other developments.

The development is not possible without the involvement of local people as they should feel the ownership of the project, said Dr Baloch, who also belongs to the same area. There are also projects for health, sports and education sectors.

"We have certain skill people but we need more people. In this regard, we are establishing vocational training centre as we have to train the local people with necessary skills needed for industries and port operations.

Future activities at Gwadar are expected to generate about two million new jobs in eight to 10 years.

The Gwadar Development Authority estimates that 1.7 million people will move to Gwadar within the span of 30 years.

He emphasised that the region needs Gwadar. "Gwadar is not competing with Dubai, which is always in talks. Within UAE there are several ports but they are not competing. In Pakistan, we have Karachi just 600km away from Gwadar and then Port Qasim. We are not competing in Pakistan as each port has its own dynamics and supplement each other," he explained.

Talking about the CPEC, he said there are three timelines. One is the early harvest project, which is on priority and its deadline is 2017, which include a new airport, energy projects and road connectivity to region. Other deadlines are short-term projects by 2020 then medium-term projects by 2025 and finally long-term by 2030, he added.

All Day

Govt committed to strengthen Gwadar Port: Kamran Michael -- BR

Govt committed to strengthen Gwadar Port: Kamran Michael

SIALKOT: Federal Minister For Ports and Shipping Kamran Michael Tuesday said the government was committed to strengthen Gwadar Port.

Talking to the newsmen here, he said Pakistan was striving to ensure an easy road connectivity between Kashghar-China and Gwadar-Pakistan as 80 percent work on the project had already been completed.

The minister said that the early road connectivity between Gwadar and Kashghar would bring an economic boom under the Pak-China economic corridor besides opening new vistas of socio-economic and human development in the region.

He said the government was also elaborating the Gwadar airport, adding that the Gwadar port was fully operational now.

Kamran Michael vowed to continue the PML-N government's development agenda by taking the business community into confidence, saying that economical agenda was helping in putting the country on the highway of economical stability.

He added that the energy crisis would end in 2017 as the country was importing 4,000 megawatts electricity from China.

The minister said the present government's effective and positive economic policies were now bearing fruits due to which national economy was moving ahead towards a goal of economical stability, saying that the federal government was successfully implementing on several effective and positive economic policies and these policies were now bearing fruits.

The minister pointed out that the government was fully aware of problems of the business community and making an all-out sincere efforts for their amicable solution.

He said the government was also strengthening national economy and boosting the industrial structure besides striving to overcome energy crisis.

All Day

Pakistan Wants to Become China's Newest Superhighway to Europe -- Bloomberg, Business

Pakistan and China will announce more than two dozen deals when President Xi Jinping visits this year, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal said in an interview. The 3,000-kilometer economic corridor will start in China's western region of Xinjiang and run to Gwadar, a Chinese-funded port on the Arabian Sea.

"For the first time China is going to become a strategic economic partner of Pakistan," Iqbal, who traveled to China last month, said on March 30 at his office in Islamabad. "Gwadar is the shortest link to Europe, Africa and Middle East," he added, calling it "a very attractive proposition for China and for its competitiveness." The move represents a shift toward greater economic cooperation between Pakistan and China, which have long had close security ties amid common disputes with neighboring India. The corridor would give China access to the Indian Ocean and lead to investments that would help ease power shortages that are hindering economic growth in Pakistan.

"As an economic power China keeps on expanding," said Talat Masood, a former Pakistani army official. "India is worried. The U.S. and the West is worried."

Oil, Railways

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government has approved a proposal to buy eight Chinese submarines and a deal may be signed during Xi's visit, Rohael Asghar, chairman of a parliamentary panel on defense, said on Wednesday. Naval officials have selected two companies after visiting China, he said, declining to name them. The economic corridor was first announced in July 2013, and officials from China and Pakistan are still negotiating the final details, Iqbal said. Key among them are an oil and gas pipeline, highways, railways and about 3,000 megawatts of coal, solar and wind power, which would help Pakistan end persistent blackouts that deter investors.

Pakistan plans to train over 12,000 security personnel and form a "special division" to protect Chinese workers on the corridor, the Express Tribune reported on March 30, without saying where it got the information.

All Day

Chinese firms keen to invest in Pak oil, gas sector -- The News

ISLAMABAD: Chinese oil and gas companies have expressed deep interest to make contribution in the oil and gas sector of Pakistan to cater the growing demand of the country.

The interest was shown by the representatives from private and public sector oil and gas companies of China who participated in the workshop on Pakistan-China cooperation in the field of oil and gas sector held here on Tuesday.

Secretary Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources Arshad Mirza led the Pakistani side while Yang Lei, DG National Energy Administration, China, was heading the Chinese delegation.

This was the first workshop between the two countries on oil and gas sector wherein both sides agreed to foster bilateral cooperation in the petroleum sector. The workshop was informed that Pakistan was endowed with an estimated 160 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves including 105 trillion cubic feet of Shale gas reserves. Exploitation of these resources requires huge investment besides application of state of the art technology and know-how.

Representatives from Chinese oil and gas companies also expressed their willingness to resuscitate the abandoned oil fields in the country through Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) technique. Chinese companies were eager to invest in exploration of hydrocarbon techniques including the deep-water offshore exploration in the country.

Secretary Ministry of Petroleum in his concluding remarks appreciated the role and contribution of Chinese companies in the development of petroleum sector of Pakistan and their keen interest to invest in the sector. He expressed confidence that existing cooperation with china in petroleum sector would help Pakistan addressing the growing energy demand in the country.

The workshop was also attended by Additional Secretary Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources Furqan Bahadur Khan; Joint Secretary Petroleum Syed Taquir Hussain Shah, senior representatives from Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) and other high ranked officials from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources. Senior Officials from China Zhenhua oil Co Ltd; China National Offshore Company (CNOOC); United Energy Group Ltd; China Petroleum Pipeline Company; China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC); Kerui Group of China etc. also briefed about the products and their interest to explore further avenues of investment in oil and gas sector of Pakistan.

All Day

Confirmed: Pakistan Will Buy Eight Chinese Subs -- The Diplomat

Yesterday, the Pakistani government confirmed the purchase of eight new submarines from China. "The National Security Committee has approved, in principle, the acquisition of eight Chinese submarines," Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Defense, Rear Admiral Mukhtar Khan, informed the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Defence in Islamabad.

Details on the type of vessels or their price tag are murky. IHS Jane's quotes an unnamed Pakistani Foreign Ministry official who said that, "in the recent past, there have been reports of discussions for the Type 041 submarines."

According to IHS Jane's Fighting Ships the Type 041 Yuan-class is, "a diesel electric attack submarine (SSK), potentially with Stirling air independent propulsion, that is armed with YJ-2 (YJ-82) anti-ship missiles and a combination of Yu-4 (SAET-50) passive homing and Yu-3 (SET-65E) active/passive homing torpedoes." The export version of the vessel allegedly displaces about 2,300 tons, according to public sources.

However, as I noted here, the Wuhan-based China State Shipbuilding Industrial Corp (CSIC) supposedly had already signed a contract in April 2011 to deliver six

Type 032 Qing-class conventional attack submarines by 2016/2017. Apparently, this deal must be off the table now.

Still other media sources report that Islamabad will build submarines under license based on the Qing-class vessels displacing 3,000 tons: "Pakistan will also build two types of submarines with Chinese assistance: the Project S-26 and Project S-30. The vessels are to be built at the Submarine Rebuild Complex (SRC) facility being developed at Ormara, west of Karachi."

The procurement of a new fleet of submarines constitutes Islamabad's most expensive arms deal by far. Estimated total costs range between \$4-5 billion. IHS Jane's quotes a former Pakistani defense official who said that it is "difficult to imagine a price of less than USD 500 million per submarine, if not more."

He also said that he suspects China to extend a long-term loan, possibly at a low interest rate. Another Pakistani military expert told the Financial Times that there are still many unknowns: "At this stage, we don't know the exact financial terms and unless we know the financial terms we can't be certain about the significance of this order," he said. "Still, it's an important contract for Pakistan."

Ali Sarwar Naqvi, a former senior Pakistani diplomat, said about Beijing's rationale behind the weapons deal: "China has its own strategic reasons to help Pakistan in this area. As India prepares to head in to the Pacific Ocean, the Chinese are looking to head in to the Indian Ocean."

All Day

Pakistan, China finalise free trade agreement in banking sector -- Custom Today

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have finalized the text of agreement on banking sector after two days' hectic deliberations at the fourth round of second phase negotiations on Pak-China Free Trade Agreement (PC-FTA).

PC-FTA is in effect since 2006 and the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) expressed its concern over the insufficient utilisation of the facilities provided under the PC-FTA in which only few sectors have been able to reap the fruits of the favorable tariffs in an in assessment of the PC-FTA.

Both sides have agreed to sign this agreement during the upcoming visit of the Chinese President to Pakistan" a well placed source at Ministry of Commerce (MoC) told this scribe here on Wednesday.

In an attempt to deepen economic and strategic ties between the neighbouring countries, Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to arrive in Pakistan on April 9. He was expected to visit Pakistan in 2014 during his trip to India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives but postponed it due to the ongoing protests against the government in Islamabad.

As per this agreement, both Pakistan and China will allow banks to open branches in each other's country. Initially, National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) and Habib Bank Limited (HBL) are expected to open their branches in China.

If Pakistani banks start operations the following benefits are expected: (i) presently, the inward remittance/ LC is routed through European banks. Once Pakistani banks are opened the LC routing would be done through Pakistan's own banks.

In this way it is expected that \$ 10 billion would move through Pakistani banks which will benefit not only forex reserves but also help in expansion of the economy and GDP; and the Chinese side will also open their leading banks' branches/offices in Pakistan and linking financial sector with world largest economy would help Pakistani banks and financial institutions in multiple ways and will strengthen their standing as well.

Moreover, it will also ease Chinese investments for the Economic Corridor through Pakistani banks which will imply that Pakistan's current account deficit would be curtailed at 15-20% and will be an enormous achievement.

However, both the sides could not come to any agreement on the issue of tariff reduction modalities (TRMs) and decided to continue bilateral talks in next phase of negotiations.

Additional Secretary Ministry of Commerce Robina Ather led Pakistani delegation comprising officials from Federal Board of Revenue, Ministry of Industries, Ministry of Textile Industry and Ministry of Food Security and National Research in ourth round of second phase negotiations on Pak-China Free Trade Agreement (PC-FTA).

Main focus of the discussions and deliberations was on matters related to Sanitary Phytosanitary (SPS) /Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA), and making the PC-FTA articles namely 34 & 41 operational for removal of impediments related to SPS & TBT.

Pakistani side pressed Chinese negotiators to get permission for Pakistani exporters' concerns regarding the inspection and quarantine process of Rapeseed Meal and Canola Seed based on Pakistan's co-operation.

Moreover, both sides also tried to come to some agreement and unanimity of views on reconciled trade figures quoted in the light of study conducted respectively to find out the reasons for this discrepancy.

The both sides tried to address the concerns of either side regarding insufficient utilization of concessions, influence to local industry as a result of concessions and misuse of certificate of origin.

The two day long deliberations discussed the findings of the Working Group on Customs on modalities of establishing customs Electronic Data Exchange related to the implementation of PC-FTA.

It is pertinent to note here that the third meeting of the Second Phase negotiations of CP-FTA was held in Islamabad on January 6, 7 & 8 this year to assess the performance of Pak-China Free Trade Agreement (PC-FTA) and to propose necessary changes of mutual benefit for the two countries

Pakistan emphasized the importance to broaden its export-base to China by encouraging exports from all the sectors which falls under FTA and sought to enhance facilities and concessions on high value-added products.

All Day

Xi's upcoming visit: Slew of agreements, MoUs to be signed -- BR

Xi's upcoming visit: Slew of agreements, MoUs to be signed

Around 90 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements are expected to be signed between Pakistan and China on several development projects during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan which is likely on April 20, it is learnt.

The sources said that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has constituted a four-member committee to review the status of preparation for the visit including progress on deliverables to be signed/performed during the forthcoming visit of the Chinese President. It is headed by Finance Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar and its members are Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi and Secretary Planning Hassan Nawaz Tarar.

They said that a meeting of the Committee would be held today (Friday) in Finance Ministry to give final touches to the development projects which would be signed between the two countries. The Committee would also prepare arrangements for arrival of the Chinese President and present a report to the Prime Minister for final approval of agreements and other arrangements.

They said that there are almost 90 MoUs and agreements on nuclear power, Gwadar port, Gwadar Airport, the Pak-China Economic Corridor (PCEC), energy, infrastructure, trade and investment that are likely to be signed.

The official sources in Finance Ministry said that the Chinese President would hold high-level meetings and unveil several economic projects.

President Xi will address a joint session of Parliament on the second day of his visit, which may be summoned by President Mamnoon Hussain as late as a day before the address, sources in the National Assembly secretariat said.

The Foreign Office had earlier confirmed that the Chinese president's visit will take place this year but did not give exact dates.

The visit is significant as important developments are unfolding both in the region and on the international front. The two sides will share their views on the current situation in Afghanistan.

The issue of Yemen will also come up for discussion between the Pakistani and Chinese leaders.

All Day

Prospects of IP brighten -- BR

The successful negotiations and the achievement of a framework agreement between Iran and P5+ 1 followed by a detailed agreement targeted to be reached by June this year has opened the door for the completion of Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project. According to officials, if Iran adheres to the agreement with P5+1 most of the international sanctions against Iran will be lifted within a year which will enable Pakistan to start laying the pipeline for which all necessary works were completed in 2013. The IP gas pipeline project will transport 750 MMCFD gas from Iran to Pakistan.

Official sources told Business Recorder here on Friday that in February 2015 the two countries had agreed on a two-year extension for the completion of Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project. The deadline of the IP gas pipeline project was December 31, 2014 and due to a mutual agreement Iran has not imposed any penalty on Pakistan.

In 2014, Pakistan invoked force majeure on IP due to international sanctions against Iran to avert penalty clause of the agreement; according to which, if any country failed to complete the deadline it would have to pay \$ 2 million per day to the other country.

If the project is completed it will help save an estimated US \$2.3 billion on fuel oil import bill besides generating 4000 MW for an energy-deficient country.

According to Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, the government of Pakistan is considering different ways to develop the project and finally decided to build 700-kilometre Gwadar to Nawabshah pipeline coupled with an LNG terminal at Gwadar for which the government has nominated a company that has signed a protocol agreement with a Chinese firm to undertake Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline. The remaining 70km between Gwadar to Gbad border point with Iran would be developed separately by Pakistani contractors once sanctions against Iran are removed.

Iran has at least 30 million barrels of crude oil in storage onboard tankers that could quickly move onto the market if sanctions are lifted. Oil provides the lifeline of the Iranian economy. The country produced about 2.5 million barrels per day (mbpd) of oil before US-led sanctions that banned foreign investment in its energy projects lowered this to about 1 mbpd as of 2010. The sanctions also banned Iran's oil sales to the market beyond the same 1 mbpd it produced.

According to US Energy Information Administration (EIA), Iran holds the world's fourth-largest proved crude oil reserves and the world's second-largest natural gas reserves. Despite the country's abundant reserves, Iran's oil production has substantially declined over the past few years, and natural gas production growth has slowed. International sanctions have profoundly affected Iran's energy sector. Sanctions have prompted a number of cancellations or delays of upstream projects, resulting in a declining oil production capacity.

All Day

Raft of agreements on plate as Xi expected next week -- BR

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has expedited its preparation for eagerly-awaited visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Islamabad, expected next week, to sign dozens of MoUs including nuclear power, Gwadar Port, Gwadar Airport, Pak-China Economic Corridor (PCEC) and energy related agreements.

Xi Jinping, who had postponed his visit to Pakistan due to the political turmoil last year, would hold high-level meetings and unveil several economic projects. A committee, formed by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif under the chair of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, on Friday reviewed the reception plan and security arrangements, besides being given an overview of the important agreements proposed to be signed during the Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan.

Sources informed The Nation that Pakistan and China would sign dozens of memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and agreements during the Xi Jinping's visit.

The agreements and MoUs include nuclear power, Gwadar Port, Pak-China Economic Corridor (PCEC), energy, trade and investment. In energy-related projects, sources said that around 6000-megawatt power projects are likely to be signed.

A joint working group of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has already finalised almost 6,000MW of power generation projects for their signing.

Meanwhile, the committee constituted by the prime minister regarding Chinese president's visit to Pakistan, in its meeting chaired by Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Friday reviewed preparations for the visit. Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal and senior officials of various ministries attended the meeting.

The finance minister was given detailed briefing about the responsibilities assigned to various ministries and departments for the conduct of the visit.

Receiving briefing about the traffic management plan, the finance minister said that alternate travel arrangement should be devised to avoid any inconvenience for the general public.

The minister emphasised complete inter-ministerial coordination for finalisation of all proposed Agreements/MoUs.

He called for elaborate arrangements for media coverage with due focus on pre-visit publicity, highlighting the significance of this visit which is expected to herald a new era of Pak-China cooperation with CPEC projects leading the way to economic prosperity.

Organising seminar and symposia with Chinese participation were proposed to highlight the visit.

The finance minister and the minister for planning and development Ahsan Iqbal also issued instructions for chalking out impressive cultural events during the course of the visit, which they said should be truly reflective of the national heritage.

Ishaq Dar on this occasion said a special committee was constituted to oversee the arrangements but the respective ministries and departments had their own due responsibilities to be fulfilled and they should keep active liaison among them and with the committee, updating it on the preparations.

All Day

Pak-China cooperation vital for region: Dr Miftah -- BR

China's support in various fields was vital especially to overcome energy crisis and upcoming visit of Chinese President would further strengthen bilateral ties. This was stated by Chairman, Board of Investment Dr. Miftah Ismail talking to Radio Pakistan. He said Solar Power, Wind Power, Coal Power, Gwadar Port and Pak-China Economic Corridor projects would be signed during his visit. He said that entire nation welcomes the visit of China's President. Analyst Dr. Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema said China was time tested friend of Pakistan and this visit has vital importance.

Economist Dr. Shahid Hassan Siddiqui said, "Pak-China Economic Corridor is no more a dream rather it is a reality now. Pakistan could improve its economy with the support of China. Coal should be utilized in various projects".

He said Pak-china Economic Corridor would bring economic revolution in the country. Analyst Dr. Rasheed Ahmed Khan also said that upcoming visit of Chinese President would be very fruitful as many mega project agreements would be signed. He said Pakistan and Sri Lanka have historic and friendly relations.

Pakistan has supported the government of Sri Lanka against Tamil Nado rebels in the past, he added.

He said Sri Lanka has vital geographical importance and China has invested above 1.5 billion dollars at Sri Lankan port. Pakistan and Sri Lanka should focus on to improve bilateral relations. Sri Lanka has also been taking interest to improve its relations with China, he added. Analyst Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal said: "Visit of Sri Lankan President to Pakistan is good news. Pakistan and Sri Lanka will work jointly for peace and prosperity of the region. "

All Day

China ready to start development work in Gwadar -- PT

China ready to start development work in Gwadar

China has sought permission to start construction of industrial parks in Gwadar besides further development of the Gwadar Port, while the Balochistan government wants to supplement the development work by granting tenders for the construction of the East Expressway and a new international airport for the coastal city.

An official source said the agreements were likely to be signed during the upcoming visit of the Chinese president under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) agreement. China is expected to invest heavily in the proposed corridor which will act as a bridge for its Maritime Silk Route that envisages linking 3 billion population of Asia, Africa and Europe.

Both the countries have planned short- to long-term projects for the corridor under the early harvest programme. China plans to initiate development work at the Gwadar Port to enhance its capacity and construction of industrial parks, he said, adding that other projects related to energy, transport and infrastructure would be initiated in other areas of the country.

The government of Balochistan, he said, would tender for the construction of the East Expressway so that it is ready to develop business hub for the city. Chinese companies plan to launch commodity trade from the city and establishment of a commodity exchange is on the cards.

The government will also construct a new international airport at Gwadar to meet the future requirements of a bustling industrial city. The plan is to complete all this work within next two to three years, as by that time the government estimates the road linkage of Gwadar with Balochistan and Pakistan through under construction N-85 and M-8.

The source said both the federal and provincial government had unanimity that full benefit from the potential of the Gwadar Port should be utilised. Both the governments had decided that Gwadar would be on their development agenda for 2015 as it could bring a lot of foreign investment for the province as well as for the country.

The Balochistan government anticipates a sharp decline in militancy through the development work. It has sought permission from the federal government to allow import and export to Iran through Gwadar, Panjgur and Mand and from Noshki to Afghanistan. Allowing trade activity with the neighbouring countries would decline the power of insurgents to mislead the youth, the source added.

All Day

China to build IP gas pipeline: report -- PT

China will build a pipeline to bring natural gas from Iran to Pakistan to help address Pakistan's acute energy shortage under a deal to be signed during the Chinese president's visit to Islamabad this month, Wall Street Journal quoting Pakistani officials said Thursday.

The arrival of President Xi Jinping is expected to showcase China's commitment to infrastructure development in ally Pakistan at a time when few other countries are willing to make major investments in the cash-strapped and terrorism-plagued country.

The pipeline would amount to an early benefit for both Pakistan and Iran from the framework agreement reached earlier this month between Tehran and the US and other world powers to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. The US had previously threatened Pakistan with sanctions if it went ahead with the project.

"We're building it," Pakistani Petroleum Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi told The Wall Street Journal. "The process has started."

In Washington, US officials said details of sanctions will be negotiated as part of a

comprehensive nuclear deal with Iran due in June. Dubbed the "Peace Pipeline," the project will further bolster improving ties between Pakistan and Iran, uneasy neighbours for decades as a result of Pakistan's ties to Iran's long-term adversaries, Saudi Arabia and the US.

The pipeline will bring much-needed gas to Pakistan, which suffers from a crippling electricity deficit because of a shortage of fuel for its power-generation plants. Pakistan has been negotiating for months behind the scenes for China to build the Pakistani portion of the pipeline, which will cost up to \$2 billion.

Tehran says that its 560-mile (900-kilometer) part of the pipeline from an Iranian gas field is complete and has long pressed Pakistan to build its part of the scheme.

The prospect of an Iran nuclear agreement, which would ease sanctions in stages once the deal is completed, has given Islamabad further impetus to clear the project. Among the first sanctions to be lifted, according to the framework accord, would be the ban on Iran energy exports.

"This Iran nuclear agreement will help us in getting a few things which were coming into the way of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline to be cleared and we will move forward," Pakistan's ambassador to Iran, Noor Muhammad Jadmani, said Sunday in Tehran, according a report on IRNA, the official Iranian news agency.

Pakistan is negotiating with China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau, a subsidiary of Chinese energy giant China National Petroleum Corporation, to build 435 miles (700 kilometers) of pipeline from the western Pakistani port of Gwadar to Nawabshah in the southern province of Sindh, where it will connect to Pakistan's existing gas-distribution pipeline network. The remaining 50 miles (80 kilometers), from Gwadar to the Iranian border, will be built by Pakistan. The pipeline, which would take two years to build, would eventually supply Pakistan with enough gas to fuel 4,500 megawatts of electricity generation – almost as much as the country's entire current electricity shortfall.

All Day

TribuneKey decisions: ECC approves 23-year tax holiday for Gwadar Port -- Express Tribune

The government approved on Thursday a 23-year tax holiday for the China-run Gwadar Port in an attempt to make the deep-sea port a hub of commercial activities besides allowing the Arif Habib Group to invest \$300 million in the United States.

The decisions were taken by the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet, which also decided that the price of liquefied natural gas (LNG) would be determined on a monthly basis like other fossil fuels without conducting public hearings.

The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority biannually determines gas prices, that too after holding public hearings. However, in order to fully pass on the impact of any global changes in LNG prices to end-consumers, the government has given a mandate to the regulator to determine prices on a monthly basis.

Gwadar Port

On a proposal moved by the Ministry of Ports and Shipping, the ECC decided to extend the tax holiday period for Gwadar Port and the Gwadar Port free zone from 20 years to 23 years.

The extension was given on the request of China Overseas Port Holding Company that took over the port from the Singapore Port Authority in February 2013.

The Gwadar Port Authority Board had also recommended 23-year tax holiday. The decision was taken to attract national and foreign investors and to enhance overall foreign direct investment in the area, said the Ministry of Finance.

The Gwadar Port is described as the most significant strategic pearl in China's plan of expanding its influence in the region.

The industrial units to be set up in the free zone that is established over 46,000 acres will be entitled to the tax holiday.

Arif Habib's investment

The ECC also allowed Fatima Fertilizer Company to invest \$300 million in Midwest Fertiliser Corporation in the US through floating international bonds of an equivalent amount.

The Ministry of Finance moved the summary for ECC's consideration only after US Ambassador to Pakistan Richard Olson intervened. The summary was not part of ECC's original agenda issued on April 7.

Last month, the finance ministry had agreed, in principle, to allow the Arif Habib Group to invest in the US. However, it wanted Arif Habib, Chairman of the group, to use his influence over equity market investors in convincing them to withdraw their opposition to the tax on bonus shares, said a ministry official.

Tax break for Elengy Terminal

While setting aside objections of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) that did not hold any legal base, the ECC directed tax authorities to extend a five-year complete tax holiday to Engro's Elengy Terminal Pakistan Limited (ETPL).

In violation of the LNG policy, the FBR was opposing the tax holiday to the LNG terminal.

The ECC ruled that under the LNG policy, the terminal was entitled to a five-year tax holiday including exemption from the minimum 1% turnover tax.

The ECC also accepted the Ministry of Petroleum's assertion that the Floating

Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) should be treated as 'plant and machinery', thus, it was entitled to exemption from import duties.

The decision will go a long way in attracting new investments in the LNG sector and help in addressing the energy crisis, said Ashfaq Tola, a Karachi-based chartered accountant who played a pivotal role in convincing the authorities to give the LNG terminal a tax holiday.

On the issue of sales tax on the gas import pipeline and the LNG project, the ECC decided that LNG and imported gas would be treated like any other imported fuel and sales tax would be charged.

All Day

Chinese President Xi Jinping to inaugurate Gwadar projects -- The News Tribe

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Saifullah Chattha said that several mega projects, including the Gwadar Economic Free Zone, West Bay Expressway and Gwadar airport, would be inaugurated during the Chinese president's visit to Pakistan.

Saifullah during a briefing on the Gwadar Development Authority in Gwadar said, "The Pak-China Economic Corridor Project would not bear fruit without active cooperation of the people of Gwadar."

The mega project would directly benefit the people of Balochistan, including that of Gwadar, he said.

He said that on the instructions of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Balochistan Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch, a housing scheme would be launched in Gwadar, besides development projects pertaining to education, health and water.

Chattha said the provincial government would soon hand over ownership documents to the people of Shambay Ismail area of Gwadar.

"The allotment of land in Pasni to the people who do not belong to Pasni has been cancelled," he added.

All Day

Gwadar-Kashgar trade corridor dilemma -- The Nation

Gwadar-Kashgar trade corridor dilemma

1. The vibrant Chinese economy, manifest and multifaceted, is outreaching to venture into geographical locations still somewhat remote and outlying. One such option would be the Sea-Silk Road, announced by the Chinese President in a recent visit to the Maldives. Another option awaiting completion would be the repose of vast potential called the Gwader - Kashgar Trade Corridor.

China is spending billions of dollars on development of her western part of the country i.e.

Kashgar / Xinjiang province which is far from her ports in the east.

China is planning to connect it with Gwadar Port being the shortest access to the sea.

2. Secondly, China wants continuous flow of oil from Africa / ME through Gwadar Port, which can be potentially blocked at the Strait of Malacca. At the same time, China is interested to increase her influence & economic activities in the countries west of it till Europe by reviving the old Silk Route. Being part of her futuristic economic policy and to develop Xinjiang, China is keen to develop Gwadar - Kashgar Trade Corridor incorporating road, rail, oil & gas pipelines etc. For this, \$45 billion have been announced by the Chinese Government; \$33 billion for power projects and \$12.2 billion for the infrastructure. So far a meager amount of \$1 billion has been allocated to Gwadar city for the few early harvest projects (EHPs), which have to be completed by 2017. It is worth mentioning that the Government is accruing large Chinese investments in the name of Gwadar - Kashgar Trade Corridor, but unfortunately, other trade corridors/ roads infrastructure are being developed which have nothing to do with it, like power projects and roads infrastructure being developed in other provinces etc. As a matter of fact, the government should first develop the projects directly linked with the trade corridor for which the amount is allocated. Thereafter, other distracting projects could be dealt with later on. In case this is disregarded, it will prove to be another Sui gas issue, in which the whole country was supplied gas but not the province producing it. 50 years later, an apology and due repressions had to be dispensed to mollify the aggrieved province.

3. The government is making the issue further controversial for not disclosing the exact alignment of the trade corridor and is reluctant to publish it.
It is pity that so far the alignment of trade corridor is not announced and neither is developmental work initiated and pursued on it.
However, the focus has been shifted on to the Lahore – Multan – Sukkur Motorway and already taken in hand.
It is an indication of the Government's intention of developing the trade corridor through Lahore (Punjab) at the expense of the KP.
The announcement of the Government that whole of Pakistan is actually the trade corridor to profess and justify its route via Lahore – Multan – Sukkur – Ratodero (Sindh), which amounts to fooling the people and other provinces.
Merely changing the name from Gwadar - Kashgar Trade Corridor to Pakistan - China Trade Corridor should not alter the original route lying through Balochistan and KP.
The trade corridor via Lahore – Multan – Sukkur – Ratodero - Gwadar is neither viable nor justified.
It is not cost effective in short as well as in the long run.
It will unnecessarily lengthen the route of trade corridor by hundreds of miles.
The transportation of goods from CARs / Afghanistan through Khyber Pass and from China through Khunjerab will have to come up to Hassan Abdal.
The same will move towards east to Rawalpindi and Lahore.
Then it will be transported towards south to Multan – Sukkur - Ratodero (Sindh).
From there, it will turn west to reach Gwadar, making an unnecessary long detour to reach the sea.
This in essence alludes to the ulterior motives of the Party in Power.
Not to forget, this route will be blocked for weeks due to the foggy season of Punjab during winters.
Imagine the melee of thousands of container borne vehicles left stranded on the motorway.
4. Of the many options for the route joining Gwadar with Kashgar should be based on the principle of saving time and money - the basic principle of trade & business (approximate 15pc is the cost component of transportation of the product).
Secondly it should be completed under the EHPs so that Gwadar Port is made operational and commercial activities take off in the shortest possible time.
5. The alignment of the trade corridor should not be made bone of contention by the government / provinces / political parties for their vested interests.
It will hamper the early development of the corridor else becoming a political issue like Kalabagh dam and shelving it.
It is suggested that the whole project shall be reviewed by the experts/ economists of all the provinces and then presented to NA/PM/CMs etc.
The amount and the projects shall be so distributed that every province is benefitted in short as well as in long terms along with integration & cohesion of the provinces/ country.
The corridor shall be developed in EHPs and named "National Golden Trade Corridor" or "Pak China Golden Route" because of its potential for transit trade and being used by CARs/ ECO besides China.
Keeping in view the geography of the country, urban cities/ population, the layout of River Indus and our ports, the preferred trade corridors options are:
a. Western Gwadar – Turbat - Kharan – Quetta – Zhob - D I Khan/Tank - Kohat – Peshawar - CARs / China.
b. Eastern Karachi – Hyderabad - Sukkur – Multan – Faisalabad /Lahore – Hassan Abdal – CARs / China.
6. The advantages of "Western" are:
a. It is short, less expensive and can be developed soon as half of it is already constructed / developed.
b. It will be feasible to lay parallel railway track, gas & oil pipelines etc.
c. It will help in development of remote areas of Balochistan, KP and FATA which is

deprived of prosperity, primarily due to lack of communication infrastructure.

d.It will help in combating WOT/ extremists/ separatists by having job opportunities for the unemployed youth of the area at their door step.

e. It will help in transportation of raw material from the mineral rich areas of Balochistan and KP to Gwadar in shortest span of time.

f.It gives shortest access of Gwadar Port to all the trade corridors generating from China, CARs and ECO.

g.It is shorter route than the Iranian routes to reach out to CARs / ECO and Western China.

h. It will shed away the negative propaganda of victimisation of smaller provinces by the establishment / big province.

i.It will be cheap and easy to purchase land of undeveloped area of Balochistan & KP for the trade corridor as compared to the agricultural land of Punjab / Sindh.

j. Balochistan & KP will get the transit fee of oil & gas pipelines and taxes being applied on the transport from time to time.

k.From defense point of view it is safe from our arch enemy India who can sever the road at Rahim Yar Khan Sector (Option 2 – Eastern), thus dividing the country into two parts.

7.Both the corridors shall be linked through lateral arteries at appropriate places for shifting / transportation of the goods from one city / destination to another.

There will be need for more trade corridors due to enhanced economic activities on each corridor provided we have prudent economic policy.

The same shall be developed as and when required but the government shall plan the trade corridors in totality.

Besides China we have viable and centuries old trade corridors (via Torkham, Ghulam Khan & Chaman) with CARs through Afghanistan.

We can also have a Trade Corridor with ECO i.e.via Iran – Turkey to reach out to Europe.

Our Trade Corridors can act as a conduit between Asia & Europe, between Asia & Africa, between Asia & ME, between

South Asia & Central Asia and between developed countries & Central Asia.

Russia must be encouraged to use our trade corridors via CARs for her round the year trade with the world.

The US can have an economic policy for CARs/ECO using our trade corridors which will be mutually beneficial.

Even US & Russia can help us in developing trade corridors with CARs/EC

All Day

Eastern corridor route: Pakistan, China to sign infrastructure financing deals -- Express Tribune

Pakistan and China will sign multibillion-dollar infrastructure financing agreements during the long-awaited visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to make the eastern corridor route operational, which may put controversy over alignment of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to rest.

Both countries will sign a government-to-government infrastructure framework agreement to initiate work on four projects besides separately signing their financing agreements.

The four projects will have to be completed to make the existing alignment along eastern parts of the country operational as a 'stopgap arrangement', said authorities in the Ministry of Planning and Development.

These projects are along the eastern corridor linking Thakot in the north to the Gwadar Port.

The officials said there were many missing links in the existing alignment that have to be bridged by the end of next year to make the Gwadar Port operational under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Under the programme, China wants to develop its under-developed western parts and will also have access to strategically located deep-sea Gwadar Port to secure commercial sea lines.

During the Chinese president's visit, which is expected to begin from Monday, the financing agreements will be signed by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and China's commerce and trade minister. Dar will cut short his Washington visit and reach Islamabad on April 19.

The Chinese president's visit will also play a critical role in restoring the regional power balance that foreign policy experts say has tilted in favour of India after President Barack Obama's trip to New Delhi.

In the short term, both the countries have agreed to make the eastern route operational, which is easy to build besides being the safest among the three alignments. All of them are planned to be made operational in the next 15 years. They said there will be multiple nodes on the corridor, which will connect all the provinces.

Eastern line

The alignment has now been agreed with the starting point at Kashgar China and Khunjerab Pakistan. It will pass through Thakot-Mansehra-Islamabad-Lahore and Multan.

From Multan, the route will be linked to Hyderabad through Rohri and Dadu. The Hyderabad-Karachi portion will be linked through M-9. Karachi then will be linked to Gwadar through N-10 East Bay Express Way along the coastal line.

The framework agreement will ensure concessionary Chinese financing to make the eastern corridor fully operational.

Under the corridor, 487km Karakoram Highway Phase-II will be constructed from Raikot-Sazin-Thakot-Mansehra to Islamabad at a cost of \$3.5 billion. During the visit, an agreement will be signed for roughly \$1 billion concessionary financing for constructing 120 km of the 487km road.

The financing agreement will also cover the 387km Multan-Sukkur route to be constructed at a cost of \$2.6 billion. China will give a 90% concessionary loan.

The East Bay Express Way costing \$148 million will be part of the framework

agreement, the officials added. Financing for the New Gwadar International Airport is also part of the broader agreement.

At Sukkur, the corridor is divided into two categories. The one along the eastern line will lead to Karachi and connect Gwadar through the coastal highway.

The second one will go through the centre of the country via Dera Allahyar to Khuzdar and touch the western route.

The western line passes through some restive areas of Balochistan. The officials said the western corridor was part of a long-term plan that was under process and will be completed by 2030.

There has been opposition to the eastern corridor by some political forces and the government is trying to overcome these challenges, said the officials.

“The opponents of the fate-changing project like CPEC are the enemies of Pakistan,” said Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal.

He said the country has to learn from Chinese development experience and stop politicising mega development projects through political statements.

The officials said the CPEC will equally benefit all the provinces. In Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, an 802km road and rail network will be constructed. In Balochistan, a 3,366km road and rail network will be constructed as well.

The \$130-million breakwater construction at the Gwadar Port and \$28 million for dredging of berthing areas and channels at the port are part of the package to be signed by both the sides.

China will also fund infrastructure development at the Gwadar export processing zone, necessary facilities for fresh water treatment at Gwadar and upgradation of the Gwadar Hospital.

All Day

China gets operation rights at Gwadar port for 40 years -- The Nation

Beijing: China has been granted operation rights for 40 years at a port in Gwadar, a strategic deep-water seaport in Pakistan, Hong Kong-based Pheonix TV reported.

Infrastructure construction is nearly complete and the port could be put into full use by the end of the year, Dostain Khan Jamaldini, chairman of the Gwadar Port Authority, was quoted as saying. It could serve as a vital economic hub linking China and Pakistan, he said.

Gwadar, on the shores of the Arabian Sea in Pakistan's western province of Baluchistan, occupies a strategic location between South and Central Asia and the Middle East, being situated at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, just outside the Strait of Hormuz, gateway for about 20 per cent of the world's oil.

It is also the end of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which runs about 3,000 kilometers from Gwadar to the northwestern Chinese city of Kashgar, an important part of the ancient Silk Road linking China with Eurasia and Africa.

Oil from the Middle East could be offloaded at Gwadar and transported to China through the corridor, cutting the current 12,000 km journey to 2,395 km.

The TV station quoted Riaz Mohammad Khan, advisory board member of the Centre for International Strategic Studies as saying: "The port will turn the tables it will really benefit Pakistan and China."

The economic corridor is an under-construction development connecting Gwadar to China's Xinjiang via roads, railways and pipelines to transport oil and gas. It will act as a bridge for the new Maritime Silk Route that envisages linking 3 billion people in Asia, Africa and Europe, part of a trans-Eurasian project proposed by President Xi Jinping in 2013.

"Oil from the region to China will be facilitated," said Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari in 2013 when China was given the contract to operate the port. Gwadar would become a hub of trade and commerce in the region, bringing together the countries of Central Asia and lending new impetus to Pakistan-China relations, he said.

China is expected to invest \$1.62 billion in the Gwadar project, including construction of an eastern expressway linking the harbor and coastline, an international airport, breakwater and nine other projects expected to be complete in three to five years.

Gwadar will soon start building a container terminal measuring 1,200 metres and a 300-metre-long cargo terminal, that can harbor four berths.

When fully operational, Gwadar will promote the economic development of Pakistan and become a gateway for Central Asian countries, including Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, linking Sri Lanka, Iran and Xinjiang to undertake marine transport.

All Day

Gwadar to become trade point for many shipping routes in region -- The Shipping News

With its sparkling blue waters, Gwadar is set to become a vital trading point as it connects many shipping routes hence Pakistan and China are keen to turn it into a symbol of their expanding cooperation in future.

The coming visit of the Chinese president Xi Jinping next week will be an occasion when the two friendly countries are expected to give it a further fillip in boosting their economic and cultural cooperation.

"The Chinese government has declared Gwadar a crucial trade point for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which has great potential to turn Pakistan into a hub of regional cooperation and enhance its regional power, Chairman Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), Dostain Khan Jamaldini said.

Several projects including Gwadar Economic Free Zone, Gwadar International Airport and West Bay Expressway would change the destiny of the people of the country, he said.

Gwadar is a port city of Balochistan, located at the mouth of Persian Gulf and outside the Straits of Hormus. It is near to the key shipping routes used by the mainline vessels in the region with connections to Africa, Asia and Europe and enjoys high commercial and strategic significance.

GPA chief said that Gwadar Economic Free Zone would be the first ever social economic zone that will help reap the mammoth economic benefits for Pakistan.

GPA Chairman noted that, "We have arranged several meetings of foreign entrepreneurs with Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Quetta Chamber of Commerce to engage our business community with the foreign businessmen to reap maximum benefits.

He said many Chinese companies have agreed to sign MOUs with Balochistan's trader to improve the bilateral trade. Gwadar port is set to be handed over to Chinese company soon which has shown willingness to make it fully operational, he informed.

Gwadar Port is a gateway of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a mega project which would connect southern Pakistan to China's Northwest region of Xinjiang via highways and Railways.

The economic Corridor will run about 3000 km from Gwadar (Pakistan) to Kashghar (China) with estimated cost of \$ 45 billion.

The CPEC project would serve as primary gate way for trade between China and the Middle East and Africa.

"China our time- tested friend and trade partner wanted outlets for its trade to rest of the world through Pakistan," Balochistan Minister for Planning and Development Doctor Hamid Achakzai said.

"CPEC playing its vital role in regional integration would serve as a driver for connectivity between South Asia and East Asia," he said adding China was offered several outlets to expand its trade to Afghanistan and Middle East.

"This is the era of trade as we encourage traders of Balochistan to get benefit of the Gwadar Port as economic free zone, international Airport and West Bay Expressway are shortly being inaugurated," Mr Hamid said.

Significance of Gwadar in carrying out the CPEC project increases manifold as China plans to build oil storage facility and a refinery at Gwadar, with oil transported to its Xingjiang Uighur region via road and pipelines.

This will help China move energy and goods to inland China without going through the Strait of Malacca, which could be blocked by the US or India.

"CPEC is equally important for the people of Pakistan mainly for dwellers of Gwadar," Behram Baloch, a local journalist said. "Corridor project is one of the massive uplift projects of Pakistan that will give boost to the economic growth".

Behram said, "Some international forces don't want success of the CPEC project and all political parties should be taken on board to make the project a success".

Besides CPEC project, Chinese government also plans 21st century Maritime Silk Road, and One Belt One Road projects which would have transformative impact on Pakistan's economy and lifestyle of an ordinary man in the country.

Member of Chamber of Small Industries and commerce and President Gem and Jewelers and Merchant Association, Ramzan Dehwar called for engaging business community of Balochistan in Gwadar giving them international exposure.

"Ports are considered vital sources of economic growth in the world and we have to realize the essence of maritime economics. The connectivity which Gwadar enjoys

has even not blessed to Dubai and Singapore,” he said and emphasized the need to implement Master Plan of Gwadar in letter and spirit.

Source: APP (Associated Press of Pakistan)

All Day

Pak, China strategic partnership to go beyond usual limits -- BR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China are enjoying strategic partnership that would continue to grow with time, especially in the wake of huge investment in various sectors expected to pour in after the visit of Chinese president next week.

China and Pakistan's strategic partnership has transcended the changes of time and domestic politics and served as an example of very strong state-to-state relations.

China is making sincere efforts for improvement of infrastructure in Pakistan through investing in different areas that would help improve the life of the people. It has also started real investment on mega projects which are important for the bilateral ties and drastic improvement of the socio-economic status of the people of Pakistan.

In the last couple of years, Pakistan had consolidated its strategic partnership with China and as time-tested and all-weather relationship with China has been transformed into a strong strategic partnership, with focus on trade, investment, energy infrastructure and connectivity and counter-terrorism cooperation.

China, which already helped in the construction of Karakoram Highway is also working to upgrade it as part of a proposed economic corridor between the two countries.

China had already took control of Pakistan's Gwadar port, that had provided it access to the Arabian Sea and Strait of Hormuz, a gateway for a third of the world's traded oil.

Pakistan plans to establish industrial parks and economic zones along the proposed Kashgar-Gwadar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor that will also be helpful in bringing revolution in the region to increase the status of China in the area.

The new trade corridor will provide Chinese traders a link to deliver their goods to the international markets through the Gwadar Port. The economic corridor is being developed as part of a strategic partnership between the governments of China and Pakistan.

The proposed sites of freight terminals and industrial parks included Sust, Gilgit, Abbotabad, Loralai, Kohlu, D.G. Khan, Bhakkar, Rajanpur, Kashmore, Jaccobabad, Khuzdar, Basima, Punjgur, Turbat and Gwadar.

Like the previous Pakistani leaders, Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is also giving top priority to improve ties with China and engaging leading Chinese companies for the improvement of various sectors in Pakistan.

Nawaz Sharif who conducted his first visit to China after assuming office of the Prime Minister and established a China Cell at the Prime Minister Secretariat to follow up and expedite the projects being signed with China.

During the latest visit of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to China, the two countries signed different agreements to strengthen economic and diplomatic ties.

The two countries had also agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of maritime security, search & rescue and disaster relief at sea, combating piracy, maritime scientific research and environmental protection that will further cement the bilateral ties in the context of regional strategic ties.

Nawaz has urged Chinese investors to invest in Pakistan, particularly in the energy sector to resolve energy crisis.

Chinese consider Pakistan as a safe haven for Chinese investment, therefore, China-Pakistan's trade and economic cooperation has seen good progress in past many years.

Pakistan and China are also working to increase their bilateral trade to \$20 billion from the present figure of \$12 billion within next couple of years. These projects will increase the strategic value of China in the region and allow China to play even more effective role in its development and prosperity. The most important linkage will be linking Pakistan's Gwadar Port on the Arabian Sea with Kashghar in Xinjiang province in Northwest of China.

Over the years, China and Pakistan have insisted on mutual respects and trust for each other in exchanges and cooperation and provided timely help and valuable assistance to each other at critical moments, which has left many touching stories. China has always supported Pakistan's efforts to safeguard her independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity with practical, sincere and selfless actions to help Pakistan steer out crisis situations.

Relying upon good and strong relations with Pakistan, China is opening up its

Western part for economic progress and the province of Xinjiang would be a critical link of cooperation with Pakistan.

Pakistan-China friendship at all levels, including government to government, people to people, youth to youth, politicians to politicians are very strong and exemplary.

Pak-China friendship is unique and state-to-state relations are very strong and these could be used for ensuring everlasting peace in the region.

Besides Pakistan's support to China's core interests of Tibet and Taiwan remains unwavering, mutual collaboration in regional forums like SCO, CICA and Heart of Asia has stepped up in these recent years.

China is poised to offer investments and loans to the tune of \$ 35 billion for energy and other infrastructure projects over the next 8-10 years.

All Day

**Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline deal to be signed during Xi's visit --
Pakistan Today**

Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said that Pakistan will sign the agreement with a Chinese company to build gas pipeline from Gwadar to Nawabshah which is the main part of Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project.

President of China Xi Jinping will pay a two-day visit to Pakistan from Monday (April 20-21).

Talking to Iran's state news agency, the minister said the gas pipeline project would cost about 3 billion dollars and will be built by CPPB (China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau), a part of CNPC (China National Petroleum Corporation).

According to the minister the building of the pipeline would start shortly after both sides sign the agreement and the project will be completed in 30 months. He added that Pakistani side was insisting on completing the project as soon as possible.

The pipeline project from Gwadar-Nawabshah is over 700 kilometers.

The minister went on to say that the pipeline from Gwadar to Iran border (about 80 km) will be built by two Pakistani companies SNGPL (Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited) and SSGC (Sui Southern Gas Company) and it will be completed before Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline.

The deadline for the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline agreement expired on December 31, 2014. Iran has almost completed its portion of the project but Pakistani side has yet to begin the construction of the pipeline on its territory.

All Day

**Pakistan has to keep pace with China on economic corridor: Iqbal --
Dawn**

Pakistan has to keep pace with China on economic corridor: Iqbal

Ahsan Iqbal said a major chunk of \$35-37bn was purely Chinese investment in IPPs (independent power projects) mode. Pakistan will purchase electricity from these projects, while the remaining \$8-9bn will be Chinese concessional loans for infrastructure development like roads, ports and railways. -APP/File

Ahsan Iqbal said a major chunk of \$35-37bn was purely Chinese investment in IPPs (independent power projects) mode. Pakistan will purchase electricity from these projects, while the remaining \$8-9bn will be Chinese concessional loans for infrastructure development like roads, ports and railways. -APP/File

ISLAMABAD: With Pakistan and China expected to sign agreements worth \$50 billion during the forthcoming visit of President Xi Jinping, Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal has said Islamabad will have to move with Beijing's pace on operationalising the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC); otherwise China could choose some other route and engage some other partner.

Mr Iqbal, who is steering the multi-billion dollar programme with the National Development and Reform Commission of China, was speaking at a seminar on the CPEC here on Friday.

"It is Pakistan's responsibility to complete the Khunjerab-Gwadar route at a pace that can supplement China's economic priorities attached to the CPEC," he said. "It is the shortest but not the only supply chain available to China."

The foreign ministry has said President Xi will visit Pakistan on April 20-21 at the invitation of the president and the prime minister. This will be his first foreign visit this year.

According to an official, the CPEC was originally estimated at about \$45 billion but the size was revised to \$50bn because of addition of some projects and cost escalations.

Ahsan Iqbal said a major chunk of \$35-37bn was purely Chinese investment in IPPs (independent power projects) mode. Pakistan will purchase electricity from these projects, while the remaining \$8-9bn will be Chinese concessional loans for infrastructure development like roads, ports and railways.

He said that although final terms and conditions were yet to be agreed upon, interest rate on the loans would be the lowest in the international market. He said the Chinese government would provide subsidy to its banks while awarding contracts to its companies for these projects.

\$50bn agreements likely during Chinese president's visit

Answering a question, the minister said the army would raise a special force for the security of Chinese workers to be engaged in various projects under the CPEC.

He said all major political parties had promised to extend their full support to the China-Pakistan economic cooperation at a recent meeting presided over by the prime minister. He said Pakistan needed continuity of policies, political cohesion and stability and peace in the country to complete the projects at a fast pace.

In a presentation, a senior official of the planning and development ministry said the two sides would sign government-to-government infrastructure deals of over \$4bn. About \$10.5bn commercial deals will be signed in the energy sector for 7,250MW power generation.

The Chinese president will perform the groundbreaking of about 10 projects. These include \$44 million cross-border fibre optic data communication system project between Khunjerab and Islamabad, digital terrestrial

multimedia broadcast pilot project in Muree, \$1.4bn Orange Line Mass Transit for Lahore, Cultural Centre in Islamabad, a small and medium hydro research centre, Pak-China FM-98 channel, 720MW Karot hydropower project, 200MW wind power projects and 900MW Zonergy solar power project in Bahawalpur.

The two sides will sign an inter-governmental framework agreement for construction of Karachi-Lahore motorway's Multan-Sukkur section at a cost of about \$2.6bn, Karakoram Highway Phase-II's Thakot-Havelian section (\$920m), Gwadar east-bay expressway (\$230m) and Gwadar international airport (\$140m). The finance ministry will sign financing agreements of the four key projects which will make the eastern route operational.

A framework agreement for financing development of industrial parks will also be signed. The State Oceanic Administration of China and Pakistan's Ministry of Science and Technology will sign a protocol on the establishment of China-Pakistan Joint Maritime Research Centre.

A land lease deed for Gwadar port and Gwadar free zone will be signed between China Overseas Port Holding Company and Gwadar Port Authority. A joint feasibility study for upgradation of the main railway line and a framework agreement on Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG terminal and pipeline will also be signed.

China will extend commercial loans for executing 7,250MW projects, in addition to two coalmining projects in Thar. An agreement will be signed between Thar Power Company and a Chinese company for building two coal-fired power plants of 660MW at a cost of \$900m.

Sino-Sindh Resources Limited will sign a \$900m coalmining project at Thar Block-II and \$1.9bn Thar coal power projects of 1,200MW. Nishat Group will sign 1,320MW coal-based power projects to be set up in Rahimyar Khan. Agreements for setting up two 1,320MW power projects in Muzaffargarh will also be signed.

Shandong Ruyi Group and Huaneng Shandong Power Generation Company will sign agreements for setting up 1,320MW coal-based power plants in Sahiwal at a cost of \$1.6bn and 870MW hydropower project in Suki Kenari with \$1.8bn to be sponsored by China Gezhouba Group.

The Foreign Office said the Chinese president would be accompanied by a large delegation, including First Lady Madam Peng Liyuan, senior ministers, functionaries of the Communist Party, government officials and chief executives of business houses.

The government will confer on President Xi the country's highest civil award, Nishan-i-Pakistan, at a special ceremony to be held at the Aiwan-i-Sadr.

All Day

Pakistan, China celebrating 64 years of friendship -- ARY

Visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2015 is set to mark a new record in Pak-China friendship

(Web Desk) -- Pakistan-China friendship is regarded as one of the great examples of long-lasting alliances in world history. People have compared the strong bond between the two countries to be deeper than oceans, higher than the Himalayas and 'sweeter than honey'.

The friendship which is now 64 years old has broken boundaries and barriers beyond the conventional diplomatic relationships.

A cursory glance at the history of association between two countries will give an insight as to how the friendship progressed from its early years of infancy:

In 1949, China emerged on the world map as a country under its revolutionary leader Mao Zedong. Pakistan was the third country worldwide and the first country in the Islamic world to recognize China.

1951 saw the beginning of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries. Many years have passed since and the relationship has grown by leaps and bounds.

The first high-level diplomatic encounter between heads of two states came amidst the year 1955, when Chinese Prime Minister Zhou Enlai met Pakistani counterpart Muhammad Ali Bogra in a conference at Indonesia.

In October 1956, Pakistani Prime Minister Hussain Shaheed Suharwardi went to China on the invitation of Zhou Enlai. In December 1956, the Chinese Prime Minister reciprocated the gesture and came to Pakistan first time, in what is regarded as a milestone in Pakistan-China friendship.

In 1963, the two countries signed on the first trade agreement. In the same year, the two countries solved a territorial dispute with relative ease owing to the mutual goodwill between the two countries.

In 1964, Zhou Enlai visited Pakistan on a second tour while President Ayub Khan also visited China.

In 1972, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto visited China in a historical tour which set unprecedented heights in Pak-China relationship.

In 1980 Zia ul Haq went to China, Benazir Bhutto visited China in 1989 and 1995 while Nawaz Sharif also toured China upon assuming the position of Prime Minister.

Chinese Prime Minister Jiang Zemin came to Pakistan in 1996 to further strengthen the ties between the two countries.

2001 saw Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji visit Pakistan as well.

Former President Pervaiz Musharraf visited China 8 times during his 11 year tenure.

Asif Ali Zardari visited China 7 times while former Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gillani visited the neighbouring country 4 times during Pakistan People's Party tenure.

in the government.

During PPP's stint at the top, the visits of President Hu Jintao and Prime Minister Wen Jiabao are accorded significant historical importance.

And now in 2015, the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping is being considered as a stepping stone to bringing the Pak-China relationship to an all-time high.

All Day

Pakistan, China to sign 69 accords of over \$46 bn -- The News

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China are going to sign around 69 deliverable projects of different stages having an estimated cost of over \$46 billion for energy, infrastructure, Gwadar development and telecom cooperation during the upcoming visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Islamabad.

Prior to the Chinese president's arrival in Islamabad, JinQi, head of board of directors, Silk Road Infrastructure Investment Fund, having a portfolio of \$40 billion, will also reach Pakistan to find ways and means to provide finances for the much-hyped Pak-China Economic Corridor (CPEC), a top official of the government told 'The News' in a background interview here on Friday. The head of China Development Bank will also arrive in Islamabad to sign financing deals under the CPEC initiatives.

Regarding different stages of around 69 projects under the CPEC, there will be five projects where ground breaking ceremonies will be performed, eight projects where inauguration will be done and for the remaining 56 projects, agreements will be signed during the Chinese president's visit to Pakistan, scheduled to start from the coming Monday.

The total portfolio under CPEC might cross \$50 billion mark because some new projects would be inserted into it and one such example was the development of infrastructure for the imported LNG. China has agreed to make the LNG infrastructure a part of CPEC and work on finding out the exact cost was underway.

Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said that Pakistan and China would accord formal framework during the upcoming visit of Chinese president under the CPEC for 2014 to 2030 by incorporating projects of short term, medium term and long term basis. "Instead of creating suspicion, Pakistanis should be thankful to China for making huge investments in our country," the minister said while addressing a conference titled China's Development Experience and Pak-China Economic Corridor (CPEC) here at the P-Block Auditorium on Friday.

The minister said that Pakistan would double its energy generation capacity over the next 10 years as with the Chinese help the government would develop 10 projects at Thar to generate 610MW from each and Gwadar Port would be developed in accordance with international standards.

He also said that the CPEC intended to ensure connectivity of three billion people by bridging between South Asia and Central Asia and Pakistan would become a centre of economic activities.

In return, the minister said, Beijing also expected that Islamabad would help integrate industrial and economic activities of the western China with regional countries and globally.

China, he said, would invest \$35 to \$37 billion for energy projects in the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) mode where investors would produce electricity and the government would buy the produced power. "China will not provide loans for the energy sector but they will invest here in Pakistan," he added.

The remaining portfolio of total committed amount of \$46 billion will be provided loans on concession, he said and added that infrastructure projects would be executed through bankable feasibilities.

“China will provide concessionary loans for infrastructure projects,” he said and added that these loans would be paid back during the next 15 to 20 years’ period. Pakistan, the minister said, would have to match its efforts with the Chinese side or Beijing also possessed some alternative routes to develop its western part.

“We will have to ensure political stability and continuity of policies in Pakistan in order to match with the Chinese efforts in order to make CPEC a success,” he made it clear and warned that if this opportunity was missed out, China would start considering alternative routes for developing its western part.

- See more at: [http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-37061-Pakistan-China-to-sign-69-accords-of-over-\\$46-bn#sthash.1FAI1ffM.dpuf](http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-37061-Pakistan-China-to-sign-69-accords-of-over-$46-bn#sthash.1FAI1ffM.dpuf)

All Day

China wants to see Pakistan stand on its feet: Ahsan Iqbal -- Dunya News

ISLAMABAD – Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday said that Pakistan-China friendship is everlasting and China wants to see Pakistan to stand on its own feet. He said every Pakistani is excited for Chinese president's arrival.

Talking to the media, Ahsan Iqbal said that the journey of Pak-China friendship has advanced in every era and every government tried to further ties.

He said all Pakistani governments have agreed to stabilize relations with China but Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif gave a whole new angle to the friendship.

Ahsan Iqbal said the government is transforming Pak-China friendship into a strong partnership. He said Pakistan will curb energy crisis with China's help, adding that coal energy projects to generate up to 6000 megawatts of electricity will be deployed.

The federal minister said that other energy projects will be from all sources including coal, water, solar and wind. He said these projects will help fulfill Pakistan's energy needs.

He said the projects will begin in next three to four years. He said that attention is also being given to the Karakorum Highway project, adding that its upgradation will be completed in two stages.

Ahsan Iqbal said that projects to increase functioning capacity of Gwadar port will also be initiated whereas the process on industrial cooperation projects is also ongoing.

He said that Pak-China economic corridor is not just a road but the vision of Silk Route will start a new dimension to the friendship between both countries.

All Day

Copper-and-gold project: 'Balochistan MPAs to decide Reko Diq future' QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly will decide the future of the Reko Diq copper-and-gold project, said Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch on Saturday. "I shall provide all the docume -- APP

QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly will decide the future of the Reko Diq copper-and-gold project, said Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch on Saturday.

"I shall provide all the documents of the project to every member," he said during the assembly session. He rejected all claims that the government had struck a deal with any company on the project.

Participating in a debate on the Kashgar-Gwadar project, CM Malik said Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal will be visiting Quetta on May 5 and the issue will be discussed then.

An adjournment motion was tabled by Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party MPA Nasrullah Zehri and Deputy Opposition Leader Zamruk Khan Achakzai.

They said the Kashgar-Gwadar route is being altered and diverted to Punjab, bypassing the local Pashtun and Baloch areas. "The federal government has not properly guided the provincial government."

CM Malik said that when the federal minister visits Balochistan, all the MPAs will be taken into confidence on the meeting with him. He assured the house that the route of the economic corridor would not be changed.

He said the parliamentarians will also be taken into confidence on the Reko Diq issue, adding that he would bring all the documents to the assembly, which would decide the future course of action.

Gwadar land issues

The chief executive also asked Speaker Jan Muhammad Jamali to fix a date for a debate on the land allotment issues of Gwadar, adding that they would provide evidence to the MPAs as to what they are really doing on the Gwadar issue. "We shall compare our performance with the previous government's."

Malik asked the speaker to invite the MPAs of Gwadar and the opposition members to discuss the issue of Gwadar land allotment and their sale on throw-away prices. The speaker scheduled the debate for May 2.

Killa Saifullah deaths

The MPAs voiced grief over the death of five children in Killa Saifullah. They apparently died after being vaccinated for measles. The MPAs expressed mistrust in the investigating committee formed by the health minister.

Responding to the demand, CM Malik said the issue is technical. "We shall send the children's samples to the Aga Khan University Hospital in Karachi and to the Islamabad laboratory. Doctors can provide a more valid report."

All Day

CPEC, Gwadar Port high on agenda of Xi's visit to Pakistan -- Pakistan Today

Chinese President Xi Jinping will start a state visit to Pakistan on Monday, his first trip to the South Asian country since he assumed presidency in 2013.

During the visit, China and Pakistan will sign deals on a wide range of issues, from energy and infrastructure to education and culture, which will inject fresh and powerful impetus into the deepening of the China-Pakistan friendship and comprehensive cooperation.

And high on Xi's agenda would be talks over the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is planned to connect Kashgar in China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to the south-western Pakistani port of Gwadar, Xinhua reported.

VITAL ENERGY LINK:

GwadarPort, a warm-water, deep-sea port, is located at the mouth of the Persian Gulf at Gwadar in the province of Balochistan of Pakistan.

Just outside the Strait of Hormuz, the port is adjacent to the key oil routes in and out of the Persian Gulf. It is also the nearest warm-water seaport to the landlocked, but energy rich, Central Asian republics.

During Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's visit to Pakistan in May 2013, the two countries agreed to build an economic corridor connecting the Pakistani port to China's Kashgar city in Xinjiang. The CPEC will shorten China's routes of oil and gas imports from Africa and the Middle East for thousands of kilometres, making Gwadar a potentially vital link in China's supply chain.

Khalid Mahmood, president of the Islamabad Council of World Affairs, said: "It can help China get connected with the Gulf region, Africa, Europe and other parts of the world in an easier way and in a shorter time. Meanwhile, for Pakistan, there will be more business and trade activities in the region. Pakistan will also become the centre of energy transmission from the Gulf," Mahmood said.

COOPERATION BEYOND PORT

China has implemented large-scale cooperation projects with Pakistan on electricity and new energy and has promoted the management of the port of Gwadar.

Syed Iftikhar Hussain Babar, secretary of the Pakistan Board of Investment, estimated that China's investment in Gwadar Port, including highways connecting the port and eastern coastline of the port, bulwarks of the port, anchorage dredging, a free trade zone and the new Gwadar international airport, would all be completed in three to five years.

Moreover, the CPEC project is not confined to the Gwadar Port infrastructure construction. China is also aiming to upgrade the 1,300-km Karakoram Highway, the highest paved international road in the world, which connects China and Pakistan across the Karakoram Mountains.

In addition to road and railway construction, the project also includes energy cooperation and investment programs. Xi's upcoming visit to Pakistan will lift the project to a new level, as China and Pakistan will sign extensive deals on energy, infrastructure, education and culture.

REGIONAL BENEFITS

This vision of the CPEC, once realised, will have great strategic significance for the development of China, South Asia and Central Asia as well as for peace and stability in the region.

For China, the project with Pakistan links China's strategy to develop its western region with Pakistan's focus on boosting its economy, Ma Jiali, researcher with the China Institute of Contemporary International relations, told Xinhua.

The construction of the economic corridor will also help improve the security situation in the poverty-ridden province of Balochistan of Pakistan, which is in the front line of the anti-terrorist war. Moreover, when Gwadar Port is completed, it will become a crucial port for landlocked Central Asian countries, such as Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, and a transfer centre of those countries' cargo transportation to countries such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq and other destinations.

All Day

Grand scheme: Govt to spend Rs26b on Gwadar airport upgrade -- The Express Tribune

ISLAMABAD: The federal ports and shipping minister has said the government will soon upgrade the Gwadar airport to international standards.

Talking to the media in Islamabad on Sunday ahead of the Chinese president's visit to Pakistan, Kamran Michael said that Rs26 billion have been set aside for the project, which will be inaugurated soon.

He said the Gwadar port was a key project for Pakistan and would have significant impact on the economic development of the country. "This port is the deepest of all ports in the Persian Bay, Arabian Sea and the ports in the Bay of Bengal."

The deep-sea port at Gwadar is at the mouth of the Persian Gulf. It has been operational with three berths, each having a length of 200 metres.

Michael said in the light of an agreement signed in 2013 with the Chinese, the operational matters at the port were handed over to China, which would handle the port in consultation with Gwadar Port Authority.

He added the government was also working on a project of "East Bay Expressway" – a road network connecting the Gwadar port with other cities.

"This road may be called the main artery of the Gwadar port, as entire traffic and commercial operations will be carried through this network," he said. "This will help the investors for easy access to the free trade zone."

The minister claimed the port authorities had acquired 2,281 acres land for building roads, as the port was the gateway to China and the progress of the country and the region was related to it.

With Chinese President Xi Jinping coming to Pakistan today, the port would be high on his agenda in talks over the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which would connect Kashgar in China's Xinjiang region to Gwadar.

All Day

Pak-China cooperation touching new heights: Zafar Ali Shah -- BR

ISLAMABAD: Former Senator Syed Zafar Ali Shah has said that China's cooperation with Pakistan in diverse fields reached new heights.

Talking to a private news channel, the former senator said that Pakistan has also served as a bridge between China and other Muslim countries.

He said strong relations with China were a centre of Pakistan's foreign policy.

He said that China heavily invested in different fields especially infrastructure development projects as well as Gwadar Port.

He said both the countries were also enjoying a free trade agreement.

All Day

Pak-China ties: Worlds' largest bank to open branches in Punjab -- Express Tribune

The world's largest bank, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), will open its branches in the Punjab. The first branch of the bank will be opened in Lahore.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) in this regard was signed between the Punjab government and the ICBC administration on Sunday. Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif and ICBC chairman Jiang Jianqing were present at the event.

According to the MoU, the bank will bring Chinese investment to the province and manage financial investment from other countries where it has strong presence.

The bank will also provide financial advisory to the government. It will provide technical cooperation to the government in automobile, agriculture and several

other sectors. It has assets of \$3.062 trillion.

The ICBC will provide consultative services to the Punjab government in foreign investment sector.

Welcoming the agreement, the chief minister said that the pact would play a key role in the promotion of investment in the province. "A new era of Pakistan-China friendship is going to start," he said. Jianqing said that the bank was ready to play the role of a financial advisor for investments in Pakistan.

Chinese experts meet CM

Heads of Chinese investment companies and experts in energy, infrastructure, transport and other sectors also met Sharif on Sunday. Promotion of cooperation in various sectors including energy and investment was discussed at the meeting.

Talking to Chinese investors, Sharif said that the Chinese announcement of investing \$46 billion in Pakistan was historic. "There is no other example of such extraordinary investment in the history of the country. Historic agreements will be signed during the visit of Chinese president to Pakistan. These include energy sector projects costing \$20 billion. After the completion of energy projects by the end of 2017, 10,400 megawatts of electricity will be added to the system," he said.

The chief minister said that projects for generating 2,500 megawatts of electricity were being carried out in the Punjab.

Up-grade of transmission lines

An agreement regarding up-grade of transmission lines of Quaid-i-Azam Solar Park was signed between the National Transmission and Distribution Company (NTDC) and a Chinese company on Sunday. The chief minister was present on the occasion.

Separately, a high-level delegation of Global Mining Company and Shanghai Electric Corporation China called on the chief minister.

The chief minister said that that Pakistanis would remember the extraordinary cooperation and role of China in resolving the energy crisis.

"The upcoming visit of the Chinese president will open up a new era of development and prosperity in Pakistan," he said. The chief minister said that coal-based power plants were being set-up in Sahiwal that would generate 1,320 megawatts of electricity.

All Day

Pakistan, China ink 51 MoUs -- BR

Pakistan, China ink 51 MoUs, Agreements include energy, infrastructure, security, economic development

ISLAMABAD – Pakistan and China on Monday decided to lift bilateral ties to all-weather strategic partnership of cooperation, hours after Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived here for his first state visit.

During the delegation-level talks held at the PM House, President Xi and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif agreed to bring their relation to a new height.

According to the Chinese sources, they agreed for the up-gradation of bilateral relations in all fields of common interest. They decided to gear up for an expansion of cooperation in various fields, with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor high on the agenda.

The corridor is a planned network of roads, railways and energy projects linking southwest Pakistan's deepwater Gwadar Port with northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

At least 51 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and agreements in different sectors, including energy, infrastructure, security and economic development were signed between the two countries.

Prime Minister Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping witnessed the signing ceremony held at the PM Office. Both the countries signed the MoUs on the joint statement between China and Pakistan on establishing the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

Both the sides also exchanged notes of feasibility study of the demonstration project of the DTMB between both the governments. The exchange of notes on provision of anti-narcotics equipment, law enforcement equipment and feasibility study of Gwadar Hospital, was also made between both the countries.

Pakistan and China also signed MoUs on provision of Chinese governmental concessional loan for second phase upgradation of Karakorum Highway (Havelian to Thakot), Karachi-Lahore Motorway (Multan to Sukkur), Gwadar Port East Bay Expressway Project and Gwadar International Airport. The MoUs have been signed between China's Ministry of Commerce and Pakistan's Ministry of Finance.

Both the countries also signed protocol on banking services to agreement on trade in services between the two countries and MoU on provision of Material for Tackling Climate Change between National Development and Reform Commission of China and Pakistan Ministry of Finance. A framework agreement was signed on cooperation on major communications infrastructure project between both the countries.

Pakistan and China also signed MoUs on cooperation between NDRC of China and Pakistan's Ministry of Planning, on pro bono projects in the port of Gwadar region, establishment of China-Pakistan Joint Cotton Bio-Tech Laboratory, and framework agreement between the National Railway Administration of China and the Railways Ministry of Pakistan on joint feasibility study for upgradation of ML1 and Establishment of Havelain Dry Port of Pakistan Railways.

A protocol was also signed on the establishment of China-Pakistan Joint Marine Research Centre between State Oceanic Administration of China and Pakistan's Ministry of Science and Technology. Both the countries also signed MoU on cooperation between the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Films and Television of China and Pakistan's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Protocols were signed on establishment of sister cities relationship between Chengdu City Sichuan and Lahore, Zhuhai and Gwadar and Karamay City and Gwadar.

Financing agreement was signed relating to the 870MW hydro-electric Suki Kinari Hydropower Project between EXIM Bank of China, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Limited and SK Hydro (Private) Limited, EXIM Bank of China and Port Qasim Electric Power Company (on Port Qasim 1,320MW coal-fired power plant) and framework facility agreement for 720MW Karot Hydropower Project between China Development Bank Corporation, EXIM Bank of China and Karot Power Company.

The two sides also signed terms and conditions in favour of Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company for Thar Block II 3.8Mt/a mining project, Sindh, arranged by China Development Bank Corporation. Giving wide coverage to President's Xi visit to Pakistan, the Chinese media highlighted the fresh efforts, being made by the two governments for consolidating the decades' old partnership.

All Day

Pakistan, China share common future, says President Xi Jinping -- Daily Dunia

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President Xi Jinping addressed the press conference

(Web-Desk) -- Top dignitaries including Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif unveiled the agreements that took place between the two governments on Monday.

The projects that are being displayed during the exhibition include Quaid-e-Azam solar power project, Engro Thar coal power project, Qasim coal power plant, extension of Metro bus project in Lahore, establishment of Pak-China friendship radio channel FM 98 with help of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation and Chinese authorities and laying down of optical fiber between the countries among other projects.

Dignitaries that signed the agreements with their counterparts include Ahsan Iqbal, Ishaq Dar, Sartaj Aziz, Khawaja Asif among other high-ranking officials.

Addressing the press conference, PM Nawaz Sharif remarked that Pakistan's friendship with China is deeper than oceans, sweeter than honey and stronger than steel.

Highlighting the friendly relationship between the two countries, the PM said that a number of projects had been agreed upon during President Xi Jinping's historic visit to Pakistan.

The PM further added that it was cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy to pursue good relationship with its neighbour.

Chinese President Xi Jinping also addressed the press conference and said that the current trade agreements between the two countries will help propel the relationship into a strategic partnership.

The Chinese President said that his government will continue his unwavering support for uplifting the economy of Pakistan adding that he will endeavor to step up on measures to increase economic partnership between the two countries.

He also praised Pakistan's effort for countering terrorism in the region, promising to help the country to in its mission of eradicating terrorism.

All Day

China Pakistan to build airport at border -- News Tribe

According to the civil aviation authority department of China, it will be the first project of China in Tashkurgan city of Xinjiang province at Karakoram Highways near Pakistani border.

Also it will be the first airport to be built at the Pamir Mountain.

This airport will be at an elevation of 3200 meter above sea level.

According to the Chinese news agency, this airport will have immense strategic importance.

Up till now china's highest airport is at an elevation of 4,411 meter above from sea level.

Tashkurgan is a small trade town of China and its population is almost 50 thousand.

This area possesses enormous importance with respect of Pak-China economic cooperation.

This airport will be ranked at number 18 in the list of world highest airports.

All Day

Pakistan has cashed in on China's desire to have a short land route to the Arabian Sea while China has taken advantage of Pakistan's longing for economic linkages with China -- Daily Times

Since the end of the Cold War in 1991, Pakistan has been boasting its geostrategic location in South Asia, claiming to be a gateway to Central Asia. We thought that the world needed to access the markets of the Central Asian Republics through Pakistan. Unfortunately, that dream remained unfulfilled because of the perpetual unrest in Afghanistan. Perhaps Pakistan did not realise the significance of becoming a gateway to East Asia where the People's Republic of China is located. In the context of Pakistan's geostrategic location, becoming a gateway to China is its first success. However, this is not an isolated move; Pakistan made a sagacious decision to side with China by recognising it as a state in 1950. After that, the interests of both Pakistan and China have coincided, both regionally and internationally.

Pakistan, under President General Pervez Musharraf, decided to enhance cooperation with China in the year 2000. The immediate reason could have been the isolation of Pakistan in the world after Kargil and the economic sanctions imposed on Pakistan. This cooperation was motivated by economic and defence related issues. Pakistan wanted to join East Asian regional economic organisations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, as China showed interest in Gwadar port. In 2002, Pakistan allowed China to start the construction of Gwadar port. After Musharraf, the leadership of the PPP also focused on enhancing economic cooperation with China and, in March 2008, the inauguration of Gwadar port took place. In the same year, both countries signed an agreement to construct a railway track along the Karakoram Highway to link the rail network of China to Gwadar.

In 2011, on the 60th anniversary of bilateral relations, both countries celebrated the Pak-China Friendship Year. In February 2013, the management of Gwadar port was handed over to the state run Chinese Overseas Port Holding Company and, in July, both countries approved the Pak-China economic corridor project to link Gwadar port with the western part of China. In short, Pakistan has cashed in on China's desire to have a short land route to the Arabian Sea while China has taken advantage of Pakistan's longing for economic linkages with it. Shared economic interests have brought both countries closer and have helped them expand cooperation beyond just the defence sector, though the flow of this collaboration is more from China to Pakistan than vice versa.

China now seems more confident about Pakistan's cooperation in enhancing its economic capacities through the possible traffic (of both goods and oil) coming from Gwadar port. In the past 15 years, Pakistan has resisted the pressure mounted by India and the US to deter it from sharing the fruits of Gwadar port with China. It is quite unprecedented that a country allows its neighbour existing on one border to establish a satellite on its other border. Pakistan has done that. This step will not only help Pakistan reap economic benefits but will also make China more economically competitive.

After Hong Kong joined China through the transfer of sovereignty from the UK to China in 1997 the focus of Eastern China has been industrial growth under a capitalist economic model. In the course of development, the western parts of China have been lagging behind. In this context, the supply of goods and oil through Gwadar port is bound to accelerate the speed of industrial development in western China, which will also enhance its exports to the world and link it to the Gulf and Africa. Incidentally, Pakistan's western half is also less developed than its eastern half. Hence, the Pak-China economic corridor will bring prosperity to the western halves of both the countries.

A point is being bandied about on whether China's longing for extraterritorial presence will be viewed in terms of places or bases. Friends of China place their bets on the former while the rivals of China consider it to be the latter. For instance, Pakistan is believed to have offered China a place in Gwadar to establish and

enhance China's competitive economic and commercial edge over the rest of the world. However, China's rivals, especially those that are concerned about its naval power, believe that China is seeking bases in the Indian Ocean through what is called a 'string of pearls', of which Gwadar is one pearl only (the rest of the pearls are the islands belonging to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives and Somalia) to enhance the reach of the Chinese navy. Rivals try to infer China's intentions from its actions but are biased because of their own apprehensions.

One of the reasons for this effort to misunderstand China may be because it is unprecedented in history that a country has named its rise "peaceful development", as China has asserted. China advocates development characterised by mutual trust and benefit. Perhaps the rest of the world believes that economic well-being is counter intuitive to mutuality and cooperation. There must be rivalry causing a loss to one party and benefit to another. However, China believes in win-win cooperation, as it has asserted. The lesson for Pakistan to learn is that the world has gone economic. Now, financial establishments matter more than defence establishments and financial spending has greater value than defence spending. Countries that remained in isolation for centuries are striving hard to come out of the morass of loneliness. Cooperation, not rivalry and conflict, is the key to success in the future.

All Day

Bahawalpur to have world's largest solar power plant: Pak-China -- Pakistan Today

Pakistan awarded a \$1.5 billion contract for its largest solar power project of 900MW to a Chinese company by the name of Zonergy, which has the biggest solar power plant of only 170MW back home, according to local media sources.

After meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Water and Power Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Wednesday, Zonergy Company Limited President Yu Yong told reporters that his company's total portfolio in China was of 1,200MW worth plants, with the largest being in Xinjiang, according to local media outlets.

He said the company had an association of over 17 years with Pakistan. Previously, it had been engaged in telecommunication sector through another company ZTE since 1998, according to sources.

He explained that Zonergy was not a subsidiary of the ZTE, but one of the largest shareholders in the ZTE was also the largest shareholder in Zonergy.

All Day

Pakistan, Iran agree to increase bilateral trade to \$5 billion -- The News

Pakistan, Iran agree to increase bilateral trade to \$5 billion

ISLAMABAD: At the time of souring relations in the wake of the lingering Yemen crisis, Pakistan has formally informed the Iranian authorities that for the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline, Gwadar to Nawabshah gas pipeline was a part of the Pak-China Trade Corridor and was slated for early implementation.

"Pakistan will arrange construction of the remaining portion of gas pipeline from Gwadar to Iran border, thus paving the way for the import of Iran's gas by Pakistan," Federal Minister for Commerce Khuram Dastgir Khan told Tehran on Wednesday.

According to an official announcement made by the Ministry of Commerce here, the seventh meeting of Pak-Iran Joint Trade Committee was held in Tehran. Minister for Commerce Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan headed the Pakistani delegation while the Iranian side was led by the Minister for Industry, Mines and Trade Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh.

The two sides reviewed the present trade level and agreed to formulate a five-year trade-facilitation plan to fulfill the shared vision of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President Rouhani to increase the bilateral trade from dollars 1 billion to dollars 5 billion. Both sides also agreed to form a working group to devise substantial widening of the 2006 Pak-Iran Preferential Trade Agreement.

The two sides also reiterated the need for joint investment in agro-food processing and infrastructure, particularly in the field of establishing effective rail, air, road and sea links between the two countries, as well as opening new border trade-posts at Mand-Pishin and Gabd-Reemdan.

Pakistan's commerce minister enunciated Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's vision to achieve shared prosperity through economic integration: enhancing trade, investment and connectivity of infrastructure, banking systems, customs and visa.

Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan expressed concern on arbitrary and unilateral import bans, high textile tariffs, and import authorisation system. He emphasised early elimination of all non-tariff barriers between the two countries under the 2006 Preferential Trade Agreement.

On IP gas pipeline, Pakistani commerce minister said Gwadar to Nawabshah gas pipeline was part of Pak-China Trade Corridor and was slated for early implementation. Pakistan will arrange construction of the remaining portion of gas pipeline from Gwadar to Iran border pipeline, thus paving way for import of Iran's gas by Pakistan.

The Iranian commerce minister assured that hurdles and obstacles in the way of bilateral trade would be removed through effective measures. He offered maximum facilitation for Pakistan's private sector to hold and participate in trade exhibitions in Iran.

The last Joint Trade Committee meeting was held in Islamabad in 2011. Earlier, Pakistani Commerce Minister Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan met Iranian Minister of Economy and Finance Dr. Ali Tayyab Nia. The two sides focused on urgently establishing a banking channel to expedite trade. Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan also called on Akbar Torkan, Advisor to President of Iran and Secretary Supreme Council of Iran's Free Trade, Industrial and Special Economic Zones. Both sides mooted proposals for a joint free-trade zone between the ports of Chabahar and Gwadar and a trade corridor to link Chabahar, Gwadar and Chaman.

APP adds: Iranian Minister of Economy and Finance Ali Tayyebnia said that he was pleased with success of the two countries' Joint Economic Commission in expansion of economic relations and trade ties, expressing hope that effective steps will be taken soon to implement the agreements reached by the commission, IRNA news agency quoted.

Highlighting the role of peace and stability in boosting the trade ties in the region he said that broad cooperation between Iran and Pakistan could play a decisive role in strengthening the regional peace and stability.

The Iranian minister said that Iran considers no limits for expansion of comprehensive ties with Pakistan, highlighting the great significance of border trade to boost ties.

All Day

China's \$46 billion economic corridor to Gwadar buys Pakistan key spot on chessboard -- WorldTribune.com

China's \$46 billion economic corridor to Gwadar buys Pakistan key spot on chessboard

UNITED NATIONS — The rhetoric reached the heights of the Himalayas, the pomp and pageantry evoked that of an operetta, but the political optics delivered a clearly focused political message: Pakistan has a firm and reliable friend in the People's Republic of China.

The high profile visit to Pakistan by China's paramount leader Xi Jinping brought more than political bromides from Beijing to beleaguered Pakistan; China has put \$46 billion in infrastructural investment on the table for its long-time South Asian ally.

The reasons for the renewed coziness between Islamabad and Beijing are plenty: a common border, shared political interests concerning both the dangers of Islamic radicalism, and concerns in both capitals that American political inroads into neighboring India, Pakistan's historic rival, need a counterbalance.

Gwadar1What ties the bow together is China's ambitious geopolitical New Silk Road and New Maritime Silk road economic initiative connecting the Middle Kingdom with Eurasia by land and Southeast Asia by sea.

China's \$46 billion infrastructural investment in Pakistan is set to build a network of roads, railroads, and port facilities which are part of the New Silk Road connecting China to Europe through Central Asia. The ambitious plan for a 1,800-mile highway allows the PRC backdoor overland access to the port of Gwadar but through Pakistan's restive Baluchistan region.

Though Pakistan has been courted by Washington as a vial ally in the war on terror and as a key player in Afghanistan, the relationship was often stormy and beset by political mood swings on both sides. Between 2009 and 2012, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton proposed a \$7.5 billion economic program for Pakistan which was largely unfocused and part of the Obama Administration's widely flawed "AfPak" security policy plan which was deemed a failure.

Since 2002, U.S. aid to Pakistan has reached \$31 billion, about two thirds of which is security assistance, according to the Congressional Research Service.

The real question becomes whether Pakistan's economy will be able to effectively absorb so much aid over a short period without wasteful and massive corruption.

Without question, Beijing is playing for higher stakes and putting more money on the table. The unspoken concern by the Chinese is that Islamic radicalism is already spilling across the Pakistan border into China's restive Xinjiang province where a large Muslim population is tightly controlled by the communist authorities. Addressing the Parliament in Islamabad, PRC President Xi Jinping recalled the historically close ties with Pakistan, one of the first Islamic states to recognize the People's Republic in 1951 during its era of diplomatic isolation.

"The invocations of enduring friendship are music to the ears of a country accustomed to being vilified globally for so many years now," wrote an editorial in Pakistan's major daily newspaper Dawn. China, opines Dawn "commands the credibility amongst the leadership and the populations " in the region.

Setting up the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has a clear commercial logic but equally a military one. The Port of Gwadar, being developed by PRC engineers since 2013, would be the terminus of the long overland line from Xinjiang in China's remote and landlocked West. Yet Gwadar, once ruled by Oman but sold to Pakistan in the 1950's, is quite close to the Persian Gulf and Straits of Hormuz sea-lanes through which over forty percent of the world's petroleum flows. Interesting Through its presence in Gwadar, China seeks to surround India. Separate reports indicate that China has sold Pakistan 8 submarines. The deal for the diesel Yuan-class subs is reported to be \$5 billion. The PRC is already Pakistan's largest weapons supplier and equally played a key role in developing its nuclear weapons program.

As in fitting tribute, as Xi Jinping's 747 aircraft left Pakistani airspace, it was escorted by eight Pakistani JF-17 fighters, a military jet co-produced with China. Beijing's renewed relationship with Pakistan has reached a new intensity and is based on common economic and security interests. How much these ties will impact on India and the USA throughout the region are yet to be seen.

John J. Metzler is a United Nations correspondent covering diplomatic and defense issues. He is the author of *Divided Dynamism the Diplomacy of Separated Nations: Germany, Korea, China* (2014).

All Day

Will make an international airport in Gwadar, corridor will be game-changer in the region, says PM -- Dunia News

LONDON: (Dunya News) – Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has on Thursday said that the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor will change the fate of the region. He said that Gwadar will be made an international city and an international airport will also be constructed there. He said that there will be no load shedding in the country by 2017, reported Dunya News.

Talking to media outside his residence in London, PM Nawaz Sharif said that he discussed the Yemen conflict in detail with the Saudi authorities. He said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoyed extra-ordinary mutual relations and Pakistan kept Saudi security very dear.

Talking about Chinese president's visit to Pakistan and the economic corridor, PM Nawaz said that Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan was extremely successful. He said that projects will be started throughout the country and they will positively affect the region. "Thousands of jobs will be created with this economic corridor. Power projects will be established on Bin Qasim Port, in Thar and at various other places of the country", he said.

PM said that Pak-China economic Corridor will not benefit any province in particular. "Projects in all provinces will be started", he added. "Work has been started on Hazara Motorway. We are also establishing a coal power project in Azad Kashmir", he said.

PM Nawaz also said that all economic indicators were improving. "Our GDP is improving, foreign exchange reserves are increasing, inflation is at 14-year low and we are strengthening our economy with each passing day. These new projects will further help enhance Pakistan's economic strength", he said. He said that power prices have been reduced in the country. He urged the media to inform the people that petrol prices have been lowered and electricity prices have also been reduced. "There will be no load shedding in two years time. We are installing new power projects that will help curb the energy crisis", he said.

Responding to a question about NA-246 by-poll, PM said that there is a pattern. "We had won the Nankana Sahib seat by around 5000 votes in General Election 2013. Our candidate died and his daughter was awarded the ticket for by-poll. She won by some 28,000 votes. Same happened yesterday in Karachi where Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) won", he said.

Earlier: PM Nawaz arrives in London after Saudi Arabia visit. PM completed his Saudi visit, will meet David Cameron and will stay in London for 5 days.

After completing his Saudi Arabia visit on Friday, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif arrived in London on a 5-day visit. Pakistani High Commissioner Syed Ibn Abbas and British government officials gave him a warm welcome at Heathrow Airport. Prime Minister will meet British counterpart David Cameron tomorrow, Dunya News reported.

Earlier, PM Nawaz met Saudi king Shah Salman Bin Abdul Aziz in Saudi capital Riyadh. Yemen conflict was discussed during the meeting and the two leaders expressed concern over growing security threats in the Middle East.

According to a statement issued from Pakistan Foreign Office (FO), PM reiterated his resolve during his meetings with the Saudi government officials that Pakistan gave top priority to Saudi Arabia's defence and security and could never stay silent on threats to Saudi Arabia. Nawaz Sharif made it clear that any aggression on Saudi Arabia will be dealt with strongly and effectively. He said that Pakistan

strongly condemned the overthrow of Yemeni government at the hands of Houthi rebels.

The statement issued by FO demanded Houthis to leave all occupied territory including Sanaa. PM also met Shah Salman Bin Abdul Aziz earlier along with delegations before meeting him one-on-one and also met Saudi Vice Crown Prince, and Interior Minister, Muhammad Bin Nayef and Defence Minister Prince Muhammad Bin Salman as well.

Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Army Chief General Raheel Sharif, Special Advisor to PM Nawaz Sharif Tariq Fatemi and Secretary Defence also accompanied Nawaz Sharif on the visit to Saudi Arabia.

All Day

**The details of the agreements signed between Pakistan and China: --
Express Tribune**

The details of the agreements signed between Pakistan and China:

1. Economic and technical cooperation agreement between China and Pakistan.
2. Exchange of Notes of feasibility study of the Demonstration Project of the DTMB.
3. Exchange of notes on provision of Anti-Narcotics Equipment.
4. Exchange of notes on provision of Law Enforcement Equipment.
5. Exchange of Notes on Feasibility Study of Gwadar Hospital.
6. MoU on provision of Chinese governmental concessional Loan for second phase up-gradation of Karakorum Highway (Havelian to Thakot) between Ministry of Commerce of China and Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs of Pakistan.
7. MoU on provision of Chinese governmental concessional Loan for Karachi-Lahore Motorway (Multan to Sukkur) between Ministry of Commerce of China and Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs of Pakistan.
8. MoU on provision of Chinese governmental concessional Loan for Gwadar port East Bay Expressway Project between Ministry of Commerce of China and Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs of Pakistan.
9. MoU on provision of Chinese governmental concessional Loan for Gwadar International Airport between Ministry of Commerce of China and Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs of Pakistan.
10. Protocol on Banking Services to Agreement on Trade in Services.
11. MoU on provision of Material for Tackling Climate Change between National Development and Reform Commission of China and Ministry of Finance of Pakistan.
12. Framework Agreement on Cooperation on Major Communications Infrastructure Project.
13. MoU on Cooperation between NDRC of China and Ministry of Planning Development and Reform of Pakistan.
14. MoU on Pro-Bono Projects in the Port of Gwadar Region between Ministry for Planning, Development and Reform of Pakistan and the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.
15. MoU on establishment of China-Pakistan Joint Cotton Bio-Tech Laboratory between the Ministry of Science and Technology of China and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Pakistan.
16. Framework Agreement between the National Railway Administration, China and the Ministry of Railways, Pakistan on Joint Feasibility Study for up-gradation of ML1 and Establishment of Havelain Dry port of Pakistan Railways.
17. Protocol on the Establishment of China-Pakistan Joint Marine Research Center between State Oceanic Administration of China and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Pakistan.
18. MoU on cooperation between the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Films and Television of China and Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage of Pakistan.
19. Triple Party Agreement between China Central Television and PTV and

Pakistan Television Foundation on the re-broadcasting of CCTV-NEWS/CCTV -9 Documentary in Pakistan.

20. Protocol on establishment of Sister Cities Relationship between Chengdu city Sichuan Province of PRC and Lahore City.

21. Protocol on establishment of Sister Cities Relationship between Zhuhai City, Guangdong province of the People's Republic of China and Gwadar city, Balochistan of Pakistan.

22. Protocol on establishment of Sister Cities Relationship between Karamay City, XianjianUgur, autonomous region of China and Gwadar city, Balochistan of Pakistan.

23. Framework Agreement between NEA and MoPNRon Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG Terminal and Pipeline Project.

24. Commercial Contract on Lahore Orange Line Metro Train Project.

25. Agreement on financing for Lahore Orange line Metro Train project.

26. MoU on financing for KKH up-gradation Phase-2 (Havelian to Takot), KLM, Gwadar East Bay Expressway, Gwadar International Airport Projects.

27. Financing Agreement relating to the 870MW Hydro-Electric Suki Kinari Hydropower Project between EXIM Bank of China, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Limited and SK Hydro (Private) Limited.

28. Financing Cooperation Agreement between the EXIM Bank of China and Port Qasim Electric Power Company (Private) Limited (on Port Qasim 2x660MW Coal-fired Power Plant).

29. Framework Facility Agreement for 720MW Karot Hydropower Project between China Development Bank Corporation, EXIM Bank of China and Karot Power Company (Private) Limited.

30. Term Sheet of the facility for Zonergy 9x100MW solar project in Punjab between China Development Bank Corporation, EXIM Bank of China and Zonergy Company limited.

31. Drawdown Agreement on Jhampir wind Power project between UEP Wind power (Private) Limited as Borrower and China Development Bank Corporation as lender.

32. Terms and Conditions in favor of Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company for Thar Block II 3.8Mt/a mining Project, Sindh province, Pakistan Arranged by China Development Bank Corporation.

33. Terms and Conditions in favor of Engro Powergen Thar (Private) Limited, Sindh province, Pakistan for Thar Block II 2x330MW Coal Fired Power Project Arranged by China Development Bank Corporation.

34. Framework Agreement of Financing Cooperation in Implementing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor between China Development Corporation and HBL.

35. MoU with respect to Cooperation between WAPDA and CTG.

36. MoU among PPIB, CTG, and Silk Road Fund on Development of Private Hydro Power Projects.

37. Facility operating Agreement for Dawood Wind Power project between ICBC and PCC of China and HDPPL.

38. Framework Agreement for Promoting Chinese Investments and industrial Parks

Developments in Pakistan between ICBC and HBL on financial services corporation.

39. The financing term sheet agreement for Thar Block-I between ICBC, SSRL.

40. Energy Strategic Cooperation Framework Agreement between Punjab Province of Pakistan and China Huaneng Group.

41. Framework Agreement on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor Energy Project Cooperation between Ministry of Water & Power and China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation (SINOSURE).

42. Cooperation Agreement between Sino-Sindh Resources (Pvt.) Ltd and Shanghai Electric Group for Thar Coalfield Block I Coal-Power integrated Project in Pakistan.

43. Cooperation Agreement for Matiyari-Lahore and Matyari (Port Qasim)-Faisalabad Transmission and Transformation Project between National Transmission Distribution Company (NTDC) and National Grid of China.

44. IA on Port Qasim Coal fired Power Plant between Power China and GoP.

45. Facility Agreement for the Sahiwal Coal-fired Power Plant Project between industrial and Commercial Bank of China Limited, Huaneng Shandong Electricity limited and Shandong Ruyi Group.

46. Cooperation Agreement on Hubco Coal-fired Power Plant.

All Day

China reaffirms commitment on economic corridor -- Dawn

ISLAMABAD: The Peoples Republic of China has reaffirmed its commitment for the multi-billion dollar project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the fate of which was sealed during Chinese President Xi Jinping's momentous visit to Pakistan earlier this month.

This was stated when China's Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong called on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at the prime minister house on Thursday where he presented a letter from the Chinese president to the premier, a statement issued from the PM House said.

In the letter, Chinese President Xi Jinping upheld Beijing's commitment for the implementation and success of the economic corridor, the culmination of which is expected to further reinforce the friendship between the "iron brothers".

Jinping also conveyed his thanks to the prime minister for the hospitality extended to him by Islamabad and the excellent arrangements made to ensure a successful visit.

During Xi's much talked-about visit, Pakistani and Chinese officials signed a series of more than 50 accords to inaugurate the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which will create a network of roads, railways and pipelines linking China's restive west to the Arabian Sea through Pakistan.

The project is part of Beijing's "Belt and Road" plan to expand its trade and transport footprint across Central and South Asia. It will give China easier access to Middle Eastern oil via the deepwater port of Gwadar.

All Day

Chinese mega projects to start in Gwadar -- The Nations

Islamabad: China will start five mega projects worth Rs60 billion in Gwadar next year, an official of the planning commission said.

The projects include health, education, infrastructure, communication, an industrial zone and two thermal power projects of 300 megawatts. A simultaneous work on a water drainage project, a technical training and water treatment plants, will also be carried out to facilitate the residents of Gwadar.

The Chinese government will also establish a hospital, at a cost of Rs10 billion to provide the state-of-the-art treatment facilities to the area residents.

All Day

Pakistan-China Economic Corridor: a cost-benefit analysis -- Express Tribune

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan-China Economic Corridor (PCEC) has been rightly termed a game changer. A careful cost-benefit analysis is required to assess for whom it will be the game changer. The key parameters should be additional business and additional savings.

Every day, China spends around \$18 million on import of 6.3 million barrels of oil as shipment costs from the Middle East, accounting for 80% of its all oil needs, routing through the Strait of Malacca covering a distance of 9,912 miles. By cutting a corridor directly from Kashgar to Gwadar, it will bring these costs significantly down to one-third of the current levels as new distance will be 3,626 miles to Central China, whereas only 2,295 miles till West China.

Even if China were to use PCEC only for 50% of its current level of oil supplies, it will save around \$6 million every day, almost \$2 billion every year.

It is true that these savings are peanuts to the Chinese economy, however, the greater gain may lie in the strategic outreach via Gwadar as its Maritime Silk Route.

There is another benefit that will accrue to China. As half of Chinese exports are destined on its Western side, it will also gain tremendously by saving on its containerised traffic costs.

China is one of Pakistan's largest trading partners; the two-way trade exceeded \$16 billion last year, marking an annual growth of 12.57%. While our exports to the United States and European Union earn us trade surplus, our imports from Chinese contribute to enlarging the trade deficit.

The Chinese president has promised \$46 billion investment to Pakistan and the planning minister has stated that out of that amount, \$11 billion has been set aside for infrastructure work on the corridor, while the remaining \$35 billion will be directed towards energy projects.

In all likelihood, the \$11-billion amount for infrastructure purposes is a Chinese loan whereas the \$35-billion investment for the power sector is yet to be converted into a concrete term sheet.

Consider this example. According to the Ministry of Finance, the Executive Committee of National Economic Council, in 2014, approved Karachi-Multan-Lahore Motorway Project – construction of Sukkur-Multan section (387 kilometres) – with a rationalised cost of Rs259.353 billion or \$2.59 billion.

Ten per cent cost of the project will come from the Public Sector Development Programme and 90% of the cost as credit financing through the government of China. This will be part of PCEC.

In the form of PCEC, Pakistan will acquire a new asset in terms of infrastructure. However, it has to first mobilise its own industry and trade sectors to make the best use of the corridor. Else, it will be a road and pipeline largely meant for Chinese business – on Pakistan's taxpayers' cost – and now protected by the Pakistan Army on our cost.

The term-sheet for Chinese investment in the power sector does not seem very promising at the moment. The federal government's sovereign guarantee has been called in several times by IPPs over the last few years. The Chinese may not give it its due value.

The next alternative for them as a guarantee is a revolving letter of credit backed by the government. That is almost a non-starter for the government as it will imply special privileges to Chinese investors and no bank can offer revolving letter of credit for the life cycle of a power project, running over decades. The government should refuse such requests.

What Pakistan needs to do?

If Pakistan cannot overcome its power crisis, and prepare a trade-centric economic vision, we stand to benefit little from PCEC in terms of additional business opportunities apart from temporary jobs. One scenario for our planning and finance ministers is to consider imposing a toll tax on Chinese oil shipment and trade traffic. Another possibility is to negotiate infrastructure projects on the basis of build-own-operate-transfer instead of an outright loan.

China needs us. Pakistan should embrace this huge opportunity with a pragmatic, and business-like cost-benefit analysis instead of confounding this transaction with metaphors of oceans, mountains, honey and now iron. It's about hard cash which the finance minister badly needs for the country. We should not leave too much cash on the Chinese Wall.

All Day

Step forward: Lahore prepares to welcome Chinese consulate -- APP

LAHORE: In a bid to facilitate the business community establish close contacts with their Chinese counterparts, a Chinese consulate will be opened in Lahore.

This was stated by Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industries President Faisal Shah Afridi.

According to Afridi, the consulate will help the business community obtain the country's visas, which would go a long way in facilitating the province that is already seeing heavy investments from the Chinese side due to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"This is a step forward by China to speed up Punjab-based investment projects promised under the CPEC."

Afridi said China will then be in a position to assist its companies in relocating to Lahore and other parts of Punjab.

For instance, the Lahore Orange Line Mass transit, to be executed with the help of the Chinese at an investment of \$1.6 billion, will require 5,000 professionals and labourers.

Additionally, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China bank has signed \$4.23 billion worth financial agreements with different companies to execute other projects in Punjab.

Meanwhile, Afridi said that there was a need to train the Pakistani workforce that lacks in specialised expertise.

"Pakistan is in dire need of expertise — something majority of our workforce lacks," said Afridi.

"We are also turning our training institute into a university to meet future labour demands."

Afridi added that as president of PCJCCI and a stakeholder in the Economic Zone, which is currently involved in 11 joint ventures with China, he remained optimistic over the partnership agreement between the two countries.

"Pak-China economic relations are not dependent on any particular government. They will largely remain unaffected by political change."

All Day

Pak China ties: More power to SEZs -- BR

Haier is deemed as a case study for private players at home for joint ventures with Chinese companies under the umbrella of China Pakistan Economic Corridor. It is a success story of entrepreneurial partnerships between the two friendly nations, established 13 years ago in Lahore.

Haier Pakistans turnover was Rs46 billion last year employing around 5,000 workers and managers, and it is the top Air conditioning brand in the country. The complex started with assembling home electronic appliances and within couple of years backward integration took place to improve the supply chain by producing parts as well, BR Research learnt in its recent visit to Haier factory at Raiwand Road.

The vacant area in the complex is dedicated to a special economic zone created for Chinese investment in Pakistan with local partners. Chinese government has created numbers of SEZs across the globe and Haier-Ruba is one of them which mean Sino official machinery is supporting and promoting this SEZ in Pakistan. The idea was initiated in 2006 but the development could not expedite due to poor law and order situation at home and lack of concentration on SEZs.

Lately, Chinese Presidents visit to Pakistan emphasized on two SEZs - one is in Gawadar to develop port for shortening Chinese goods shipping route to the rest of world, and the second one is Haier-Ruba. The existing land available at the complex visited by BR Research has 300 acres which is too short for the kind of Chinese investment (loans) sought in the region. The group is in the process of acquiring land of 2,000-5,000 acres near motorway exit of Faisalabad to provide ample space for Chinese ventures.

In the initial stage, the idea is to build space for construction material to cater need of industrial, power and road infrastructure development. The premises will not only spur industrial activity but will also provide vocational training space for developing requisite skilled workers for respective industries.

One primary objective of these SEZs from Pakistans perspective is to bridge the trade gap between the two countries. According to Shah Faisal, CEO Ruba SEZ, Pakistans import from China (including unofficial numbers) is \$13 billion while exports are only \$ 2billion. The FTA between the two countries is further exacerbating the trade deficit.

China has given multi-product access under SEZs to Pakistan and upon capitalizing the opportunity, Pakistan can produce at home and send it to China. The need of the hour is to seek opportunities of producing goods that don't only substitute imports but can also be exported to China.

Haier-Ruba SEZ is eyeing to develop those industries that can substitute imports from China. Another idea is to nurture industries adding value to Pakistans own raw materials which can enhance export potential within the country. The third stage is to have buyback agreements from China to bridge the \$10 billion plus trade deficit from China.

Over ten thousand MOUs have been signed between Pakistan and China since the inception of the country. Exceptions aside, majority remained on paper.

Here is hoping some of the projects envisaged in \$45 billion Chinese money will be executed in the coming years irrespective of whosoever is ruling the country. The few projects which are likely to commence soon include Lahore Metro train (orange line) mass transit system. The cost is estimated at \$1.6 billion but experts fear that it may well escalate to \$2.7 billion. The first phase of 27 KM is likely to complete within a year.

Then Industrial and Commercial Bank of China operating in Pakistan has signed \$4.32 billion worth of financial agreements (not MOUs), enthusiastically proclaimed by Shah Faisal who is also president of Pakistan China Joint Chamber of

Commerce.

The SEZ has worked on the maiden assembly line of Laptops and Mobile Phones which is expected to be commenced this calendar year. The next in line is manufacturing of Chinese branded cars in Pakistan. This will give competition to existing Japanese brands and the first car to be launched will be in the 660 CC category, which is likely to be priced at less than Rs0.6 million per unit. Let the game begin.

All Day

Pakistan to start exports during next week from Gwadar Port: Kamran Michael -- APP

Minister for Ports and Shipping, Kamran Michael has said Pakistan was going to start exports from Gwadar Port for first time, during next week whereas till now it was being used for imports only.

He stated this while addressing the Pakistani community and media at a reception organized by Pakistan High Commission London, according to a message received here on Thursday.

Pakistan's High Commissioner to UK, Syed Ibne Abbas welcomed the Minister as well as the community to the High Commission.

He requested the Minister to inform the community about the benefits of Gwadar Port and Pakistan China Economic Corridor (PCEC).

The High Commissioner also congratulated Zubair Gul, who was present on the occasion, on his appointment as Commissioner for Overseas Pakistanis.

Addressing the community, the Minister said, "Pakistan China Economic Corridor, for which \$ 46 billion Chinese investment has been agreed upon, will bring about unprecedented development and prosperity to the people of Pakistan."

In order to enhance the efficacy of Gwadar Port, he said, 2281 acres of land has already been earmarked where tax-free industrial zones and ware houses would be established.

"Pakistan's economic future is linked with successful operation of Gwadar Port as it would help increase our exports and generate economic activity in the region. All this is according to the vision of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif."

The Minister invited the expatriate community to take advantage of the investment opportunities in Pakistan and assured them of the safety of their investment

He also appreciated the role of Pakistani diaspora in the development of the country.

In his brief remarks on the occasion, Zubair Gul, Commissioner for Overseas Pakistanis said that he would put in his best efforts to serve the overseas Pakistanis without any discrimination.

Welcoming suggestions from the community to improve the functioning of his office, he assured the community that he would remain accessible to them to solve their problems.

Gul expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister for reposing confidence in him.

Around 100 community members and media persons attended the reception.

All Day

First export ship to embark on journey from Gwadar Port -- Express Tribune

"The idea is to encourage production of export-quality fish to increase foreign exchange," he said. PHOTO: FILE

"The idea is to encourage production of export-quality fish to increase foreign exchange," he said. PHOTO: FILE

ISLAMABAD: The first consignment, comprising fish exports, is expected to depart from Gwadar Port on Monday, formally kicking off commercial activities, said Federal Secretary for Ports and Shipping Khalid Pervez.

The Chinese Overseas Ports Holding Company is responsible for operation of the port; officials from the company would be present on the occasion along with others including Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping Kamran Mischeal.

On Sunday, the Chinese Overseas Shipping Company (COSCO) will bring empty containers to the port before they will be loaded with fish, marking the formal inauguration of export from the deep sea port.

The Chinese have taken control of the activities for export of their products to Central Asian countries and Middle East in the long run, part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project, which was recently kicked off by Chinese President Xi Jinping during his last-month visit to Pakistan.

Import activity from the Gwadar Port began in 2009. Since then, cargoes containing fertilisers and wheat have been imported through this port by the government.

However, the private sector has yet to start its export/import from the Gwadar Port, hindered because of the connecting roads being under construction. The Economic Coordination Committee of cabinet had decided in 2009 that the Trading Corporation of Pakistan(TCP) should use Gwadar for the import of wheat and fertiliser via the newly establish port aimed at starting the operation gradually.

A senior officer in the Ministry of Ports and Shipping said that the Gwadar Port has been given to the Chinese company on the basis of the 'Land Lord Port Concept' on 9% gross revenue for the next 40 years. He explained that the company will pay Pakistan from its gross revenue and not on the net profit.

The officer said that at this stage, fish cargo can only be exported via Gwadar port as there are only fish processing factories in the area.

The officer believed that it will take decades for the port to become profitable due to the geographical location of Gwadar.

Port Qasim, he mentioned, had become formally operational in 1979 and reached its breakeven point after two decades despite being situated in the business and industrial hub of the country.

All Day

First export ship leaves Gwadar -- Dawn

GWADAR: The Gwadar Port, which started its operations about eight years ago, for the first time on Monday handled commercial containerised cargo for export of seafood.

M V Zi Jingson, a bulk-break vessel of the China Overseas Shipping Co (Cosco), which reached Gwadar port's outer anchorage late Sunday evening, was allotted berth on Monday to load reefer containers, laden with sea-food.

The export shipment will be unloaded at Jebel Ali, Dubai, from where a larger ship will carry these reefer containers to Far-East with its expected destination to Malaysia and China.

The managing director of local company, Abdul Basir Qadir Bukhsh, whose first export shipment was handled at Gwadar port, told Dawn that for the last 20 years his company had been exporting seafood through Karachi.

Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping Kamran Michael, speaking at a ceremony organised at the Gwadar port to see off the ship, assured that the government is committed to develop the port area for the benefit of the local people.

He said that the government holds Gwadar Port and the Gwadar City at the top of its development agenda as success of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) depends on it.

The minister said soon Gwadar will be connected with its hinterland through motorway M-8 and National Highway N-85, thereby providing connectivity to upcountry and beyond to Afghanistan and Central Asian states and western China.

The minister said that CPEC is the shared vision of the two friendly countries – Pakistan and China – and a very important pillar under the Chinese leadership's vision "One Belt – One Road" which is compatible with Pakistan leadership's "Vision 2025."

Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) chairman Dostain Khan Jamaldini, highlighting the available facilities and services at the Gwadar port, said presently it was being run by China Overseas Ports Holding Co (COPHC).

He informed the dignitaries, who specially flew from Karachi with newsmen to attend the ceremony, that the Gwadar port had been handling imported cargo belonging to government, like wheat and fertiliser.

He said it was for the first time that the local catch of seafood was being exported from this port which is a significant development.

The significance of this shipment is that it comprises fish from Gwadar's coastal area. The locals depend on fishing for their livelihood.

The next ship will depart on 18 of this month carrying another shipment of fish, he informed. The export of fish will revolutionize the lives of local fisher men, he said. He said that 2,281 acres had been acquired for establishing a tax-free zone.

All Day

Gwadar port starts operations for commercial export -- The News

GWADAR: Gwadar port started its long-awaited operations for containerised shipment services on Monday as the first private container vessel berthed at the deep sea port.

The MV ZI JING SONG container vessel was the first reefer container vessel to berth since the port's completion in 2007. With this, Gwadar Port has begun using its existing multipurpose terminal.

The containerised shipment service will initially focus on export of local fish to international market.

May 11, 2015 Continued

Mon

The government plans to make Gwadar, the country's largest port, fully operational by the end of the year. The port has been handling government's seasonal cargo in the past

All Day

First export ship leaves Gwadar Port -- CCTV

As a key project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor plan, the Pakistani Gwadar Port for the first time handled commercial container cargo for export on Monday.

The Gwadar Port started its operations about eight years ago, and mainly dealt with import goods. A Chinese ship is carrying containers of seafood to Dubai, from where a larger vessel will transport the goods to Malaysia and China. It is the first ever export shipping handled at the port.

The Gwadar Port is the third largest port in Pakistan, and a key project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. China Overseas Ports Holding Company started running the Gwadar Port in 2013, and helped improving its operations.

Besides foreign trading, the port is also working on improving infrastructure construction and promoting fishing sector development. It's expected to bring more vigour to the local economy.

All Day

Govt to consult provinces before setting up CPEC's industrial zones -- APP

Govt to consult provinces before setting up CPEC's industrial zones

ISLAMABAD: The government on Wednesday said all provinces will be consulted before finalizing the sites for establishment of industrial zones under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal in a detailed briefing given to the leaders of parliamentary parties at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said all provinces would be taken on board on CPEC project.

The meeting was especially convened at the PM House to apprise the parliamentary leaders about China Pakistan Economic Corridor and remove the apprehensions of provinces about the project.

The Minister dismissed the impression that the route of CPEC had been altered to pass through Punjab ignoring other provinces.

Instead, he said, the working group which was responsible to demarcate the sites for industrial zones was yet to be formed.

"After the formation of the said working group, all provincial governments would be asked to suggest the areas feasible for industrial parks in their provinces," he said. He mentioned that other four working groups on energy, communication network, Gwadar Port and infrastructure were already functional and comprised members from China and Pakistan.

The Minister said that CPEC was not just the name of a road or a route, rather it was a portfolio of projects having complete framework.

"The CPEC is an umbrella which includes the projects of energy, industry, Gwadar port and infrastructure worth 46 billion dollars," he added.

Ahsan Iqbal said there would be three principle alignments to access Gwadar upto Khunjrab that would pass through the eastern, central and western parts of the country.

He said the operational connectivity of Gwadar would be made by upgrading the existing road network and construction of missing road links.

He mentioned that work on Gwadar-Sorab missing link and on the 650 kilometre road from Quetta, Qila Saifullah and Zhob to Gwadar was being carried out by Frontier Works Organization (FWO) for last two years.

He said the connection road of N-85 would be completed by 2016.

The government will sign agreements with Asian Development Bank (ADB) tomorrow for upgradation of N-50 from Dera Ismail Khan and Quetta besides N-70 from Loralai and Multan.

He said a portion of Karakorum Highway was being constructed with China's assistance, while the N-85 and N-8 were being built-up with the Pakistan government's own resources and in collaboration with Asian Development Bank (ADB).

About 65 percent work on Gwadar-Hoshab and 30 percent work on Sorab to Hoshab has been completed. The 110 kilometre Khuzdar-Besima section has also

been included in CPEC, he added.

About the priority projects of 10,700 mega watt under CPEC, the Minister said Quaid-e-Azam solar park (1,000 mega watt), Dawood project (50 mega watt), Sukki Kinari (870 mega watt) and Gwadar coal power project topped the list.

He said Gaddani power project, Jetty infrastructure and Hubco project were among the second line projects.

He said Pakistan and China had also agreed on further five billion dollar on the transmission of electricity.

The Minister clarified that no loans were being taken for completion of energy projects and added that entire process was being carried out transparently.

He said no new motorway projects were being initiated under CPEC.

All Day

Gwadar port: export activity formally begins -- BR

Federal Minister for Ports & Shipping Senator Kamran Michael stated that export activity at Gwadar port formally began and in this regard an export ship carrying 23 tons of fish left for Dubai. This ship will dock at Jabal Ali Port of Dubai from where deepwater fish of Pakistan will be exported to the rest of the world. The Federal Minister has said that Gwadar deepwater fish has no match in the world.

In his statement the Federal Minister said that Gwadar Port was being merely used for import purposes before this day and fertilisers and wheat was being imported through this port. He said that 23 ships have imported fertilizers and wheat till today. Michael said that the next ship will depart on 18th of May, carrying another shipment of the highest quality fish. Federal Minister stated that two million people will get their livelihood from this port once it will become fully functional. Michael said that according to direction of Prime Minister, local Baloch will be given priority in jobs.

Federal Minister stated that 2281 acres of land has been acquired for establishing a free zone and he had invited the entire world to invest here as it is completely tax-free zone. In his statement, the Minister has said that "Halal Food Industry" is going to be set up at Gwadar and Halal Food would be transported to the rest of the world. According to spokesperson of Ministry, Federal Secretary Captain Khalid Pervaiz (ret'd), Chairman Gwadar port Authority Dostain Jamal Dini, CEO of Chinese project and Deputy Councillor General were also present at the inauguration ceremony.-PR

Source: Business Recorder

All Day

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Source: Business Recorder

All Day

Ahsan reveals three routes of corridor -- Dawn News

ISLAMABAD: Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal said on Thursday that Pakistan and China had agreed to "fill in the blanks" in the existing route between Gwadar and Kashgar under the CPEC project, adding that no new alignment had been considered over the past two years.

Talking to journalists, he said the leadership of the two countries had signed a memorandum of understanding on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on July 5, 2013 and constituted a joint working group to make decisions on connectivity of routes from Gwadar to Kashgar.

Take a look: Special committee to oversee CPEC project

In line with the Chinese wisdom, he said, Section 3 of the MoU required that a long-term plan should be developed under the principle of scientific planning and work on the easiest sections of the project should be given priority.

Minister insists no change has been made in original plan

Under this philosophy, the working group decided to expand the existing motorway through construction of its Multan-Sukkur section by the Chinese government and Karachi-Hyderabad section by the Pakistan government.

The minister disclosed three routes of the economic corridor. According to him, the western route originating from Gwadar will pass through Turbat, Panjgur, Nag, Basima, Sorab, Qalat, Quetta, Qilla Saifullah and Zhob and reach Dera Ismail Khan before leading to Islamabad. A couple of sections of the road between Gwadar and Quetta are currently at an advanced stage of construction.

The second (central) route will originate from Gwadar and reach Dera Ismail Khan via Basima, Khuzdar, Sukkur, Rajanpur, Layyah, Muzaffargarh and Bhakkar.

The third route will include Gwadar, Basima, Khuzdar, Sukkur, Rahimyar Khan, Bahawalpur, Multan and Lahore/Faisalabad and then reach Islamabad.

The minister said the road from Islamabad to Khunjerab had to be improved to the standard of Khunjerab-Kashgar road.

In reply to a question, he said the confusion over the location of industrial parks or economic zones along the economic corridor was politically motivated because no decision had been made on that yet. "So far only four joint working groups on energy, long-term planning, Gwadar port and transport and infrastructure have been formed and are working. The fifth group on industrial parks or economic zones is yet to be constituted."

He said it was illogical to talk about the sites of industrial zones when the body to decide their location had not been formed.

He said all the parties and provinces had been asked to suggest sites for industrial zones that would be considered on scientific and economic grounds by the joint working group.

He said the rail project as part of the CPEC was a long-term project to be taken in hand after 'early harvest' projects were completed in two to three years, followed by medium-term projects to be completed in 2020.

He said Gwadar to Khunjerab rail link was included in the long-term projects which would be completed by 2030.

All Day

Pak-China friendship touches new heights: Envoy -- APP

Islamabad - Chinese Ambassador to Islamabad Sun Weidong said that Pakistan and his country embarked on historic journey of peace and prosperity by signing milestone agreements during president Xi's visit to Islamabad last month. He said after the signing of historic agreements, the two countries are committed to

implementing them in the best possible forms and as quickly as possible. The Pakistan-China Economic Corridor envisaged in the recently signed agreements would be mutually beneficial. This would usher in era of prosperity and economic development in all parts of Pakistan.

The ambassador was addressing the 14th Chinese Bridge – Chinese Proficiency Competition at the National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad.

Ambassador Sun Weidong said friendship between Pakistan and China touches new heights with the passage of time. He was confident that it would continue growing from generation to generation. He noted that the Chinese youth using internet introduced a new term 'Iron Brothers' to portray the depth and strength of the friendship between the two countries.

The Chinese ambassador said Pakistan and China believe that they should continue efforts to further strengthen their multidimensional cooperation. He said the ultimate objective of China is to promote peace and prosperity not only for its own people but the whole world.

Regarding President Xi's recent visit to Pakistan, he said it opened a new chapter in the bilateral relations. "Pakistan is the top priority of Chinese diplomacy," he added. He highly lauded the role of NUML in strengthening Pakistan, China cooperation by promoting Chinese language and culture. He welcomed the opening of NUML International Center of Education (NICE) at the Shinjiang Normal University, Urumqi, China.

Director General NUML Brig. Azam Jamal in his welcome address said the NUML takes pride in contributing to friendly relations between Pakistan and China.

"It was a matter of pride for NUML that it signed an MoU and an agreement in the presence of Chinese president during his last month's visit to Islamabad. He said the NUML's project to set up international centre of education at Shinjiang Normal University, Urumqi, China is the only project from Pakistan to China as part of the Economic Corridor while all other projects are from China to Pakistan.

Rector NUML Maj. Gen. (Retd) Masood Hassan and Director General Brig. Azam Jamal joined the Chinese ambassador to distribute prizes among the winners of the competition.

May 17, 2015

Sun

All Day

Area of focus: Steps for Gwadar rail link-up -- APP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways is focusing on connecting Gwadar Port with a rail network and establishing new dry port at Havelian to generate revenues. The government is committed to make Pakistan Railways a profitable organisation and a number of steps are being taken in this regard, an official in the railways ministry told APP. Pakistan Railways is involving private parties in commercial management of four passenger carrying trains and cargo express trains, he added.

All Day

CHINA PURSUES 1+ 4 FORMULA IN IMPLEMENTING CPEC PROJECT -- Pak Observer

Monday, May 18, 2015 - Islamabad—China is committed to pursue 1 + 4 formula while implementing economic corridor project and making its contribution for socio-economic development of Pakistan as an iron-friend. In all the statements appeared so far from Pakistani and Chinese side, the main focus was laid on equal benefit to the people of Pakistan under the PCECP. A senior Chinese diplomat in Islamabad while explaining the 1 + 4 formula says, 1 means benefit to the people of entire country and 4 means priorities areas i.e. Gwadar Port, energy, infrastructure and industrial development. It was made clear by the Chinese leaders while launching Pak-China Economic Corridor project (PCECP) that it meant to ensure equal benefit to whole of Pakistan.

Chinese President Xi Jinping in his article written on eve of his recent visit to Pakistan said, , “We need to form a ‘1+4’ cooperation structure with the Economic Corridor at the center and the Gwadar Port, energy, infrastructure and industrial cooperation being the four key areas to drive development across Pakistan and deliver tangible benefits to its people.” There should be no doubt to this effect that all the regions of the country will receive equal benefit under this fate-changing project, he added. Meanwhile, establishment of special security division of Pakistan army for the protection of Chinese workers has raised high the confidence of the Chinese companies to make maximum investment in the country. According to the Chinese companies which are engaged in various China-funded projects in Pakistan, the decision of handing over the security of Chinese workers to the army was received well by the Chinese workers and they are now more inclined to work in Pakistan,

The establishment of a special division also reflected the commitment and support of the security forces towards the China-Pakistan economic corridor project (CPECP), said a senior official of Chinese company which is working with an energy-related project in Pakistan. It was decided during the recent visit of President Xi Jinping that Pakistan military will train over 12,000 personnel who will be inducted into the special division. This high-profile force will help to provide foolproof security to the Chinese workers. As per the decision, ranger’s personnel will also be part of this security plan in addition to the army unit. The Chinese diplomat appreciating the decision to the effect said that our concern about the security of the Chinese workers was well attended by the government of Pakistan. Both the governments, he said will be working together for promoting a peaceful environment to implement the CPECP on fast-track basis. While appreciating the counter-terrorism measures recently taken by Pakistan, the official said ‘terrorism is our common enemy’ and it has to be rooted out through joint efforts. The official assured that the Chinese government will provide all possible support to Pakistan to promote peace and tranquility in the country for its socio-economic development.

Stating that Pakistan and China are enjoying exemplary relationship in all spheres of life, the official further said people of the two countries enjoyed shared destiny and their enhanced cooperation is meant to improve the living conditions of their people across the board. They have taken a pro-active approach for fostering their mutually beneficial cooperative partnership on the basis of win-win situation, he added.

The recent visit of President Xi has created new opportunities for the two countries, bringing their strategic partnership to a new height. It was an historical visit that has also given a new direction to the development of their multi-dimensional relationship, he added. He referred to the joint declaration issued after the visit, which he said provided a comprehensive overall framework for addressing their common problems, and promoting peace and development in the region. Following his highly fruitful visit, the two countries are now laying greater focus on quick implementation of CPECP, which a flagship project of the Belt and Road initiative.—INP

All Day

Mammoth Rs 359.4b budget allotted for 19 CPEC projects -- Pakistan Today

The government on Tuesday finalised a mammoth Rs 359.4 billion for 19 development projects under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for next financial year's Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

This was decided at the Annual Plan Coordination Committee (APCC), chaired by the Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal. The APCC helped finalise the development outlay for the next financial year.

According to the details, overall the development spending is estimated to be over Rs 1,400 billion during the next financial year, including a Rs 838 billion provincial component. The total cost of projects under CPEC is estimated to be Rs 1.122 trillion, while during the next financial year the allocation will be Rs 359.4 billion, out of which Rs 234.4 billion have been allocated for road and infrastructure projects while Rs 125 billion have been allocated for LNG based power projects. The government has allocated Rs 200 billion for highways, Rs 40 billion for railways while higher education gets an allocation of Rs 21 billion.

The allocation approved under CPEC projects is Rs 7 billion for New Gwadar International Airport, Rs 1 billion for land acquisition of Karachi – Lahore Motorway, Rs 76 billion for 387 km long Multan – Sukkur Motorway, Rs 10.6 billion for Lahore – Abdul Hakeem Road, Rs 12.4 billion for Sukkur – Hyderabad Road, Rs 74.5 billion for Raikot – Havelian – Islamabad Road, Rs 28.5 billion for KKH Thakot-Havelian Road, Rs 6 billion for Thakot to Havelian Road, Rs 4 billion for Construction of Break Waters (CPEC), Rs 4.7 billion for Construction of Eastbay Expressway, Rs 900 million for Dredging of Berthing Areas and Channel for Additional Terminal, Rs 1.2 billion for Infrastructure Development for EPZA and GIEDA, Gwadar, Rs 3 billion Necessary Facilities of Fresh Water Treatment and Supply Gwadar, Rs 984 million for Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute at Gwadar, Rs 2 billion for Upgradation of Existing 50 Bed Hospital to 300 beds Gwadar, Rs 290 million for Comprehensive Feasibility Study for Upgradation of Mainline, Rs 1.2 billion for Installation of 300 MW Coal Fired Power Plant at Gwadar, Rs 62.5 billion for LNG Based Power Plant at Balloki, Rs 62.5 billion for LNG Based Power Plant at Haveli Bahadurshah.

The government has projected a GDP growth rate of 5.5 per cent for 2015-16 backed by a projected growth of 3.9 per cent in agriculture, 6.4 per cent industry, with six per cent in large scale manufacturing sector, 8.3 per cent in small and household, 8.5 per cent in construction industry and six per cent in electricity generation and gas distribution, and 5.7 per cent in the services sector.

Inflation is projected to rise to six per cent in 2015-16 compared to a provisional estimate of 3.6 per cent in the current year.

May 28, 2015

Thu

All Day

Pak-China Sign An Important Deal In Railways -- Dawn

LAHORE – Pakistan and China sign an important deal on the transportation of coal through Railways. The ceremony of signing MOUs in underway in Lahore.

The Railways Minister Khwaja Saad Rafique attends the ceremony. The minister said that different proposals are under consideration for the development of railways sector.

“1320 MW of electricity would be added to the national transmission through Sahiwal-Coal Project.” Saad added.

Talking about the current plans in upgrading the services, he said that the E-Ticketing would soon be employed for the convenience of passengers.

Khwaja Saad Rafique said that 55 new railway engines would soon be purchased to replenish the overgrowing needs of the sector.

Commenting on the CPEC, he said that the project would be completed as per the plans at all costs.

All Day

Construction sector: PCJCCI, Chinese delegates review opportunities for JVs -- BR

Pak China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Shah Faisal Afridi has said introduction of cost effective, space efficient and environment friendly Chinese construction material could bring a revolution to the construction sector of Pakistan. He stated this while meeting four-member Chinese delegation headed by Xiaoming Cheng Board Chairman, Shandong Building Materials Group. Other members were Zhang Pei Hao, General Manager Marketing, Tony Hu, Sales Manager and Xiao, Vice President Yantai Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The delegation visited the chamber's office to review opportunities for joint ventures in the construction industry that would further supplement other related industries such as cement, iron, steel, timber, wood, marbles, tiles and stones, plastics, fibres, furniture and electrical appliances.

Welcoming the Chinese delegation, Shah Faisal Afridi said the construction industry of Pakistan is one of the prime source of employment generation in Pakistan and the second largest industry of Pakistan followed by textile sector, which is providing jobs to millions of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled work force. But, the industry still has a huge untapped potential due to lack of latest infrastructure needs in Pakistan, he added.

Referring to a World Bank study, he speculated that the growth in the construction industry of Pakistan this year would be higher than the previous year due to increased foreign investment and the improved law and order situation that is helping the industry to grow at a faster pace. This year the construction industry grew by 11.3 percent so far against the set target of 5.7 percent while the share of the industry in GDP at 2.4 percent by raising the annual growth to over 10 percent because of the growth in construction industry, he mentioned.

He was hopeful that the visit of Chinese entrepreneurs would produce fruitful results as it would help in exploring potential areas of mutual collaboration. Xiaoming Cheng, Head of the Chinese delegation said that Chinese entrepreneurs were encouraged to find out tremendous possibilities of investment and joint ventures in Pakistan in the field of construction industry. This is the time to transform the good historic ties into thriving trade and economic relations between the two countries. He further invited the members to visit Taitou Town, Shouguang, China where he has developed innovation production facility centre that he want to relocate partially to Pakistan due to rising labour costs in China.

Zhang Pei Hao, General Manager Marketing, Shandong Building Group said that as per market research conducted by our team, there is a huge untapped potential that requires concerted efforts along with giving special prices for widespread introduction. He also presented proposals for joint ventures in building materials, PPR pipes and fittings, interior designing, electrical equipment including elevators and excavators, mobile and mobile accessories, innovative and smart lifestyle products, security solutions and tourism sector.

All Day

Parties give go-ahead to China-Pak corridor -- Dawn

ISLAMABAD: Doubts expressed by the political leadership over the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor were partially addressed by the government on Thursday and an all-party conference held at the prime minister's office gave a go-ahead to the project.

The remaining concerns will be addressed by a bipartisan/bicameral parliamentary committee which the government agreed to constitute for a regular oversight of the project.

The government also agreed to set up joint working groups having representation of all provinces to give their views and suggestions on economic and industrial hubs to be built along the corridor.

All concerns over western alignment linking Gwadar with Khunjerab addressed

An APC on the matter held earlier remained inconclusive because of the Safoora Goth carnage having taken place on the same day.

Thursday's meeting decided to first take up the corridor's western alignment which would pass through Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa connecting Khunjerab with Gwadar to address concerns of the two provinces.

MNA Asad Umar, of the PTI, told Dawn, "Our concerns about project-wise details and three alignments of the corridor have been addressed."

The government's decision to constitute a special parliamentary committee and working groups is a way forward for forging political consensus.

He said his party would raise its concerns at the parliamentary committee and working groups about the nature of investment and actual terms and conditions under which the Chinese money would be invested.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi, who led the PTI delegation, highlighted the same issues.

Talking to newsmen after the meeting, MQM leader Dr Farooq Sattar said his party had only agreed to the western alignment and it would give its input once central and eastern alignments would be discussed.

JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said his party had agreed to the western alignment which was the real project.

ANP chief Asfandiyar Wali Khan said the meeting had agreed to build the route for which his party had been campaigning.

The western alignment, passing through Thakot, Mansehra, Hassanabdal, Peshawar, D.I. Khan and Quetta, will connect Khunjerab to Gwadar.

It appeared that the efforts of Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal, who along with his special assistant Asim Niazi, had one-to-one meetings with heads of all political parties had paid off.

"The minister spent hours briefing parliamentary heads and chiefs of political parties at their residences on the nitty-gritty of the project," a government source told Dawn.

The planning minister told the politicians that about \$46 billion of Chinese investment would not be distributed among the provinces because it was meant for energy, road and rail projects.

He clarified that the Lahore's Orange Line project was not part of the corridor.

Mr Iqbal said no new road would be constructed, but the existing road network would be improved for better interconnectivity so that the entire country benefitted from the project.

He said roads along the three major alignments would be upgraded for an improved North-South connectivity.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif thanked the political leadership for their support to the project which, he said, would help Pakistan achieve its cherished dream of becoming a developed country and would also benefit other countries in the region.

He said having a difference of opinion was a healthy tradition which helped to reach better decisions.

Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Khurshid Shah of the PPP, Shah Mahmood Qureshi of the PTI, Asfandiyar Wali of ANP, Farooq Sattar of MQM, Maulana Fazlur Rehman of JUI-F, JI chief Sirajul Haq, BNP leader Dr Jehanzeb Jamaldini, Mushahid Hussain Sayed of the PML-Q, Mehmood Khan Achakzai of the

PkMAP, Hasil Bizenjo of NP, Ijazul Haq of PML-Z, Aftab Ahmed Sherpao of QWP, Senator Prof Sajid Mir, Syed Ghazi Jamal and Shah Jee Gul from Fata and Peer Ejaz Hashmi attended the conference.

Chief Ministers Qaim Ali Shah of Sindh, Pervez Khattak of KP and Dr Abdul Malik Baloch of Balochistan, Leader of the House in the Senate Raja Zafarul Haq, Defence Minister Khwaja Asif, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Information Minister Pervaiz Rashid, Petroleum Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Railways Minister Saad Rafique, Minister for Safron retired Lt Gen Abdul Qadir Baloch, Special Assistant to the PM on National Affairs Irfan Siddiqui, Special Assistant to the PM on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistants Barrister Zafarullah Khan and Khwaja Zaheed Ahmed also attended the conference.

5:10 PM - 10:00 PM

Flight to Jeddah -- Multan MUX

Pakistan flight 739

Multan MUX 5:10pm (local time) - Jeddah JED 8:00pm (local time)

Confirmation number: ILQXQV

All Day

Ahsan Iqbal succeeds in hammering out consensus on CPEC route --

The News

ISLAMABAD: It was minister for planning and development Ahsan Iqbal who worked tirelessly to evolve consensus among the political parties on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) route.

Prior to the all parties conference chaired by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Thursday Ahsan Iqbal held a series of meeting with the leaders of all political parties to allay their concerns. Those he met included JUI (F) chief Maulana Fazalur Rehman, ANP chief Asfandiyar Wali Khan, senior leaders of the PTI Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Dr Shireen Mazari and Asad Omar, chief of PkMAP Mehmood Khan Achakzai and chief of Qaumi Watan Party Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao.

Sources said Ahsan Iqbal assured them that the chief ministers will be taken on board and working group will be established with representatives from all provinces to examine the sites for industrial parks/economic zones and prepare feasibility studies for presentation to the Joint Working Group in July 2015.

He assured Asfandiyar Wali Khan that presently no new road is being constructed under CPEC but only the existing network of roads is being upgraded. He informed Asfandiyar Wali Khan and Mehmood Khan Achakzai about the projects that would be initiated in KPK and Balochistan which include early harvest projects, Gwadar Eastbay Expressway, New Gwadar International Airport, Gwadar Projects (school, hospital, marine works, infrastructure, social sector projects) 660 MW coal-based project, Hub 300 MW coal-based project, Gwadar 600 MW solar project, and upgrading of railways and road network.

Minerals Processing Zones in Balochistan include Khuzdar (Chromite, Antimony, Chaghi (Chromite), Qila Saifullah (antimony, chromite), Sandak (gold, silver), Reko Diq (gold), Kalat (iron ore), Lasbela (Manganese), Gwadar (oil refinery), Muslim Bagh (chromite), Industrial Economic Zones/Parks in Quetta, Dostan, Gwadar, Khuzdar, Uthal, Hub, Dera Murad Jamali.

The mega projects in KPK include Early Harvest Projects KKH Phase-II (Thakot-Havelian), Havelian Dry Port, Fiber Optic Data Communication System (Khunjerab-Islamabad), 870 MW Hydro power project, Suki Kinari, Mansehra and Potential projects includes Swat Expressway, Hydro Projects Shogosin 132 MW Chitral, Balakot 300 MW, Shigokuch Dir 102 MW, etc), Chashma Right Bank Canal, Outer Ring Road, Peshawar.

Ahsan Iqbal said that CPEC-Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Potential Economic Zones/Industrial Parks include Minerals Economic Processing Zones Dargai (Chromite), North Waziristan (Chromite), Kurram (Antimony), Waziristan (copper), Chitral (Antimony), Besham (iron ore, lead), Nizampur (iron ore), Mohmand (Marble), Industrial Economic Zones/Parks, Hattar, Gadoon, Ghazi, D I Khan, Jaloza, Nowshera, Banu, Chitral, Risalpur.

The Early Harvest Projects of Gilgit-Baltistan include KKH Fiber optic Data communication system (Khunjerab-Islamabad). The CPEC-Gilgit Baltistan Potential Economic Zones/Industrial Parks include Minerals Economic Processing Zones, Gilgit (copper, antimony), Diamer (iron ore), Gilgit (herbs, herbal medicines), Gilgit (handicraft), Gilgit (wood industry) and Industrial Economic Zones/Parks at Gilgit and Sakardu.

For Sindh, he said, the projects include Thar, Port Qasim, Thatta power projects, power transmission lines and LNG pipelines, Peshawar-Karachi motorway while potential projects include water supply for Karachi city, mass transit system for Karachi and provision of reliable electricity to Karachi

while Potential Economic Zones/Industrial Parks in Sindh include Minerals Economic Processing Zones, Thar (coal), Lakra (coal), Industrial Economic Zones/Parks in Sukkur, Larkana, Karachi, Bin Qasim, Korangi Creek and Khairpur.

In Punjab early harvest projects include energy projects in Sahiwal, Bahawalpur and Salt Range; power transmission lines and LNG pipelines, Peshawar-Karachi motorway work, while Potential Economic Zones/ Industrial Parks in Punjab include Minerals Economic Processing Zones in Salt Range (antimony), Chiniot (iron ore), and Industrial Economic Zones/Parks in Sialkot, Gujranwala, Rawat, Lahore, Sundar, Multan and Vehari.

Ahsan Iqbal told the political leaders that working group comprising representatives of the provinces would study the feasibility of setting up of viable economic zones along the Western, Eastern and Central routes.

He invited the representatives of political parties for their input and suggestions in this regard. He said the projects along the Western alignment would be completed by 2016.

All Day

Pak SMEs can use CISMEF to explore Chinese business opportunities -- The Nations

Islamabad - The 12th China International SME Fair (CISMEF) would be held in October 2015 with the aim of boosting cooperation and development of SMEs in China and other countries and it is an ideal platform for Pakistani SMEs to attend the Fair and explore opportunities of business matchmakings with Chinese and other countries SMEs.

Liu Zhigen, Vice Governor, Guangdong Province of People's Republic of China said this during his separate visits to Board of Investment and Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Chinese entrepreneurs of SME sector have shown interest to establish business collaborations with Pakistani counterparts.

SMEs were representing various sectors including economic, information technology and communications.

Addressing the local business community, Liu Zhigen, Vice Governor said that Guangdong Province was home to a lot of industries with matching facilities.

Liu Zhigen said Pakistani and Chinese businessmen should strengthen liaison in areas of mutual interest to promote bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries.

This way, they could also compete more effectively in the international market.

He said entrepreneurs of both countries should share expertise, experiences and resources for mutual benefits.

He said maximum number of Pakistani SMEs should visit China to attend 12th China International SMEs Fair and find out opportunities of business expansion and joint ventures.

He also invited a delegation of ICCI to attend the said fair.

In his welcome address, Muzzamil Hussain Sabri, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry highlighted the investment potential in various sectors of Pakistan's economy.

He said that economy of Pakistan was in a recovery mode and time was ripe for Chinese investors to enhance investment in Pakistan, especially in energy, information technology, infrastructure development and exploration of natural resources.

During the visit to Board of Investment, Iftikhar Babar, Secretary, BOI briefed the delegation about the available investment opportunities in Pakistan in all sectors of the economy specifically in power, energy, infrastructure, mining & minerals and machinery etc.

The Secretary, BOI informed that Pakistan is committed to provide an investment friendly regime to investors by offering lucrative fiscal incentives and conducive business environment to foreign investors.

The Secretary, BOI said that China and Pakistan have entered into a comprehensive plan of Pak - China Economic Corridor.

Pakistan China trade and economic relations have a great scope for further expansion.

Pakistan and China as strategic partners and have been cooperating in various fields of mutual interest.

The recent visit of the Chinese President will further cement the existing relations and open new avenues of investment, trade and cooperation.

All these strengths offer Chinese investors and business community unlimited business opportunities.

Liu Zhigeng, Vice Governor, People's Government of Guangdong Province thanked BOI for cooperation and briefing regarding the investment opportunities available in Pakistan.

Liu Zhigeng has shown keen interest in different areas of investment specifically in transport and information technology sectors.

He also invited Secretary, BOI to participate in their incoming International Investment & Trade Fair in Guangdong, China.

June 1, 2015

Mon

All Day

Pak's acquisition of nukes smashed India's dreams: Aziz -- Pakistan Today

Pak's acquisition of nukes smashed India's dreams: Aziz

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs and National Security Sartaj Aziz on Sunday said that Pakistan's acquisition of nuclear power "smashed India's dreams".

Aziz was addressing a gathering of the Nazaria Pakistan Council where he also said that Pakistan's enemies would not succeed in sabotaging the China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"Pakistan's adversaries have started their conspiracies to sabotage the Pak-China Economic Corridor, but make it clear that enemies' nefarious designs will never succeed."

He also said India's desire for regional hegemony would not be allowed, and stated that economic prosperity and self-reliance are imperative to a strong defence.

The adviser said Pakistan — and the entire region's future — was dependent on the completion of the CPEC.

Talking about the war on terrorism, Sartaj Aziz said Pakistan has to fight a war against evil ideologies, including extremism and terrorism, which are harming the country.

Aziz's assertions follow statements by the Pakistan Army that Indian spy agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) is involved in terrorism in Pakistan.

All Day

Budget 2015-16: 12% of approved funds goes to CPEC's western alignment -- Express Tribune

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif chairing a meeting of the National Economic Council (NEC) at the PM House on Monday. All four chief ministers attended the meeting. PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif chairing a meeting of the National Economic Council (NEC) at the PM House on Monday. All four chief ministers attended the meeting. PHOTO: PID

ISLAMABAD: After achieving political consensus, the government has made small changes in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects and allocated 12% of the approved Rs171 billion for construction work on the western alignment.

Headed by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, the National Economic Council (NEC) approved next year's federally funded development programme including over two and a half dozen CPEC-related projects. The approved NEC plan shows that the government has included Rs942 billion worth of CPEC projects in the 2015-16 budget and allocated Rs171 billion for spending in the year.

However, the Annual Plan Coordination Committee (APCC) that met on May 26 had proposed CPEC projects valuing Rs842 billion and suggested an allocation of Rs194 billion. After the APCC meeting, an All Parties Conference was held where all political parties agreed to construct the western alignment of the CPEC first.

China wants to build a trade link through Pakistan aimed at using the Gwadar Port for strategic and commercial purposes. After a year of controversy, political factions have eventually reached a consensus on the alignment of the corridor route.

Western alignment

The NEC's plan shows that 12% or Rs20.8 billion worth of CPEC projects will go to the western route. Of the five schemes that have been shown on the western route, construction work on four has already started. One dated back to 1999 and was nearing completion, work on second commenced in 2007, the third was approved in 2010 and the fourth approved last month.

The fifth project is general in nature called the land acquisition and construction of CPEC projects. The total cost of this project is Rs60 billion and Rs10 billion has been allocated.

A lion's share of Rs95 billion or 57% of CPEC allocations will go to projects on the eastern corridor. An amount of Rs31.8 billion or 18.7% of the allocation is proposed for the northern alignment, which is the link for all the routes.

The Ministry of Ports and Shipping will receive Rs6.8 billion or 4% of the allocation for Gwadar-related projects while the Ministry of Interior will get 2% of the allocation or Rs3.5 billion for raising 28 civil armed forces wings for ensuring security of the CPEC route and Chinese workers.

Eastern alignment

The NEC has approved Rs60.2 billion for the construction of a 387km Multan-Sukkur section of the eastern route. The total cost of this project is Rs259.3 billion. For the 296km Sukkur-Hyderabad section of the eastern route, the NEC allocated Rs10.5 billion. The total cost of the project is Rs148 billion.

It approved Rs20 billion for a 230km Lahore-Abdul Hakeem road section.

Northern alignment

For the northern alignment, the NEC cleared Rs31.8 billion or 18.7% of the CPEC allocation. For the construction of 120km Thakot to Havelian section, the NEC approved Rs23.5 billion. The total cost of the project is Rs95.4 billion. For the acquisition of land for this project, the NEC allocated another Rs6 billion.

The council approved Rs2.3 billion for construction work on the Burhan-Havelian road section, with a total estimated cost of Rs39.5 billion.

Similarly, for construction of the Islamabad-Mianwali-Dera Ismail Khan road, which will link eastern and central routes, the NEC approved Rs10 billion. The total cost of the project is Rs68 billion.

For the construction of an approach road to the New Gwadar International Airport, the NEC approved Rs503 million and allocated Rs30 million for the new fiscal year.

In order to complete work on the Gwadar Port, the NEC approved eight projects worth Rs41.6 billion and allocated Rs6.8 billion for the next year. These projects include construction of break way waters, capital dredging of berthing areas, infrastructure development for the Export Processing Zone Authority, Pak-China Technical and Vocational Centre and upgrading of the existing 50-bed hospital to 300-bed at Gwadar.

The NEC also approved Rs4.7 billion allocation for the construction of Eastbay Expressway that will link Gwadar with the coastal highway.

All Day

Economic corridor will help to bring peace and stability in the region:

Hua Chunying -- Dunya News

Spokesperson of China's Foreign Office Hua Chunying said on Tuesday that Pakistan-China Economic Corridor is not against any country, she was addressing a press conference in Beijing. She said that Pakistan and China are making a framework for the economic corridor in order to increase co-operation in all fields, she further said that this will be an important project under China Belt and Road project.

Hua Chunying said that Pakistan-China Economic Corridor will prove to be extremely helpful in the development of Pakistan and China and also for the peace and stability of the region. Talking about Kashmir, she said that the roots of Kashmir issue are in the history of Pakistan and India and it should be solved through dialogue and table talk.

All Day

Economic cooperation to open corridor of prosperity: Chinese CG -- The Nations

Chinese Consul General in Lahore Yu Boren has said the Pak-China economic cooperation will open new corridors of prosperity for the people of Pakistan and appreciated contributions made by the Technical and Vocational Training Authority to provide skilled training courses.

He admired efforts by the Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) for initiating the Chinese language courses. "This course will be beneficial for realizing the need of overcoming the communication barriers between both the nations. It will also helpful for the youth who will learn Chinese language in getting jobs in Chinese companies who are investing in Pakistan," he said.

He also said, "China is committed to helping Pakistan and putting it on the path of prosperity. China is helping Pakistan in evolving a win-win strategy for developing joint ventures. A more developed China will make greater contribution and bring more opportunities to the world, he said adding that the year 2015 was marked as a special year for the "friendly partnership for common development" between China and Pakistan."

His comments came in the inaugural ceremony to launch the Chinese language courses at the TEVTA Secretariat on Tuesday which also drew in Deputy Counsel General Wang Dauxue, Chairperson TEVTA Irfan Qaiser Shaikh, Chief Operating Officer TEVTA Jawad Ahmed Qureshi, Secretary General Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry Salah-ud-Din Hanif and other dignitaries of both organisations.

Chinese Consul General Yu Boren while addressing the participants said that the purpose of this language programme is to make the already technically skilled labour force of Pakistan more acceptable in the Chinese market. He asserted that it was the right time to make better choices and take progressive initiatives by imparting Chinese language and work ethics to the trained labour force of Pakistan which would increase its competitiveness and effectiveness in the large economy of China. Imparting language training to Pakistani labour with the collaboration of China would enhance labour capacity utilization and preference over untrained workforce. This trained workforce having a competitive edge could be preferably hired by countries that are expanding their manufacturing sector by relocating it in other viable countries, he added.

Wang Dauxue, in his address, quoted an old Chinese saying "Long distance never separates close friends and true neighbours don't necessarily live next door". He said China and Pakistan had different social and cultural traditions, but the people of the two nations had expressed an earnest wish to enhance friendship. He said that, "I believe China and Pakistan will work more closely to push forward bilateral relations and strengthen coordination and cooperation in the international affairs".

Authority Chairperson Irfan Qaiser Sheikh said, "TEVTA is doing its full efforts to provide trained manpower in shortest time as per requirement of the Industry. On the recommendations of relevant Industry, TEVTA is starting new short courses. TEVTA is signing memoranda of understanding with different organisations to introduce new courses to meet the requirement shortage of trained manpower. Expertise of our manpower on Chinese Language will provide better working environment with Chinese stakeholders in Pakistan."

All Day

PM emphasizes on Pak-China relations -- The Nations

Islamabad: Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has said that Pakistan and China are Iron Brothers co-operating closely in all domains with the common vision to build a better future for the peoples of the two countries and promote regional peace.

He was talking to a delegation of Research and Development International, a new joint China-Pakistan think tank on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

today.

The Prime Minister welcomed the establishment of the think tank which comprises of leading scholars, public figures and business groups from China.

Nawaz Sharif said the corridor is the flagship project of the "One Belt and One Road" initiative, since both the Belt and the Road have their meeting point in Pakistan.

He was confident that the agreements and the MOUs signed during the visit of the Chinese president will forge an ever stronger relationship between the two countries.

The delegation congratulated the government on achieving a historic consensus on the corridor project in the recently held All Parties Conference.

The Prime Minister said a parliamentary committee has also been formed to oversee the corridor project and to speed up the process of its building.

The delegation informed the Prime Minister that the Research and Development International plans to establish China Pakistan Information Corridor as well, in order to support and supplement the CPEC, which would be a one window operation to provide necessary information to all.

The Prime Minister was informed that Chinese authorities are deliberating to hold China-Pakistan Economic Corridor forum every year in the Karamay city of Xinjiang.

All Day

China backs Pak membership of Nuclear Suppliers Group -- The Nation
BEIJING: China on Wednesday said it backed Pakistan's "engagement" with the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) but at the same time maintained that acceptance of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was a standard to admit new member-states in the 48-nation grouping.

"China has noted Pakistan's aspirations for the NSG membership. Pakistan has taken steps towards its mainstreaming into the global non-proliferation regime," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told a media briefing.

"We support Pakistan's engagement with the NSG, and hope such efforts could be conducive to the authority and effectiveness of the international non-proliferation regime. We wish to strengthen communication and coordination with Pakistan," she said. At the same time, she said, "It is the long-standing consensus of the international community that the NPT is the cornerstone of the regime".

She was replying to a question on how China views Pakistan's aspirations for NSG membership at the NSG plenary meeting being held in Argentina. "In fact, besides Pakistan, there are other non-NPT states who have expressed similar aspirations," she said in an apparent reference to India's interest to become NSG member.

All Day

National Highway Authority spent Rs1.342 trillion on 72 projects in 2014-15 – Gwadar handed 6.279 million tons -- ARY News

The 2014-15 Economic Survey of Pakistan released this evening by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar provided the following details about Pakistan's communications sectors, especially the roads network, railways and ports

Pakistan's total road network is around 263,942 Kms which carries over 96 percent of inland freight and 92 percent of passenger traffic.

Length of the NHA (National Highways Authority) road network is around 12,131 kms and comprises of 39 national highways, motorways, expressway and strategic roads.

During 2014-15, the NHA executed 72 development projects costing Rs 1,342 billion.

3-n10-pakistan

The M-9 highway in Balochistan

The Government of Punjab and the Federal government jointly completed the Rawalpindi-Islamabad Metro-Bus service project with a total cost of Rs44.21 billion.

The network of Pakistan Railway comprises of 7,791 route kilometres, 452 locomotives, 1,732 passenger coaches and 15,948 freight wagons.

During the financial year 2014-15, 90 kms of track has been rehabilitated besides doubling of 57 kms track. pakistan-railways

PIA's expenditure decreased by 38 per cent and its operating revenue increased from Rs. 95.771 billion to Rs 99.519 billion in 2014.

During July-March, 2014-15, the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation companies earned revenue of Rs12.20 billion compared to Rs 11.37 billion over the corresponding period of last year.

During July-March 2014-15, the total cargo handled at Gwadar Port stood at 6.279 million tons against 5.764 million tons over the corresponding period of last year showing a growth of 8.9 percent.

All Day

China to set up massive industrial park at Gwadar -- The Nations

ISLAMABAD - Chinese will establish a massive Industrial Park at Gwadar, which will house an oil city and petroleum refining zone beside dozens of other technical and logistical installations.

Chinese City of Karamay and Gwadar have decided to enter in a sister city relationship.

A Memorandum of Understanding for Framework Draft Plan in this regards was signed today by Babu Gulab, Chairman District Gwadar, and Zhang Hongyan, Mayor Karamay Municipal government Xinjiang People Republic of China.

A sister city, county or state relationship is a broad-based, officially approved, long-term partnership between two communities, counties or states in two countries.

According the agreement Xinjiang Petroleum will develop Gwadar Karamay Industrial Park, the industrial park will include two parks, hi-tech and petro chemical industrial park, four sectors including trade, tourism and catering, agriculture processing and training of occupational skills and three routs including wharf, highways and air route.

Both parties are willing to further enhance friendship and mutual trust in order to create a friendly exchanges and cooperation platform in various fields such as culture, education, health, science and technology, economy.

Other parts of the agreement included teaching training in Karamay, doctor training, short courses for students in science & technology, Chinese language training etc.

Under the agreement Karamay will develop an oil city where they will set up petroleum refining zone, petroleum engineering and technical service zone and logistics center.

Moreover building material area, logistic and warehousing area, high tech zone, commodity wholesale district, food processing zone, machinery and equipment rental area will be also part of the industrial park.

About further details of the agreement an official of the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) told The Nation that Chinese told us that they will require about 10 km area for setting up the industrial park.

The GDA coordinator, Nawabzada Zakir, said that it is a long term project and the MoU will be implemented in 6 phases.

The Chinese official have told us that the project is in very beginning stage and they will obtain the whole information about the area, investment environment etc and will start work step by step.

He said that the Chinese told us "we will put ourselves in Pakistan shoes to solve its primary concern".

The Chinese delegation has invited the official of district government Gwadar to visit Karamay to further the idea of the industrial park.

A 15-member team consists of Chairman Gwadar Port Authority, Chairman District Council, DG Gwadar Development Authority will be visiting Karamay on 15 July, he informed.

All Day

Govt to spend Rs.3bn on new Gwadar International Airport -- APP

ISLAMABAD: The government will spend Rs.3 billion during the next fiscal year 2015-16 to construct new Gwadar International Airport, Minister for Finance and Revenue, Ishaq Dar said.

In his budget speech for 2015-16 in National Assembly here on Friday, he said keeping in view significant role Gwadar has to play for strengthening the economy in the coming days, the government takes the development of this area very seriously.

He said accordingly, allocations are being made for a host of development projects and added provision of Rs.2 billion has been made for Gwadar Development Authority.

For necessary facilities of water treatment and supply, the government is making a substantial allocation of Rs.3 billion.

All Day

No one can come between Pak-China love: Chinese envoy The Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong has said that no other country holds value between Pakistan and China relations, adding that the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor would be completed at a -- **Pakistan Today**

The Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong has said that no other country holds value between Pakistan and China relations, adding that the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor would be completed at all cost.

Talking exclusively to the media on Thursday after the address of the joint session of the Parliament, the Chinese envoy said that no one should doubt relations between Pakistan and China. He said no third country, which is attempting to damper relations between the two countries, would be allowed to succeed and neither it holds any value.

He said that Pakistan-China Economic Corridor would be completed at all cost and it will prove to be beneficial to the entire region, and not only Pakistan. He said that the corridor would open avenues of employment for all the people in the region.

Regarding Kashmir issue he said that Kashmir is a disputed area and China desires a solution for it according to UN resolutions.

Regarding the president speech to the joint session, the Chinese envoy said that his speech was appropriate, adding that the Government and Parliament should make their decision in light of the president's address so that a new era of development could open.

All Day**Budget: Rs700bn for development -- Dawn**

The government on Friday announced Rs700 billion Public-Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for 2015-16 with major emphasis on water and power, temporarily displaced persons, highways, railways, education, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, PM Youth Loan Programme and ports and shipping.

The allocation was higher by 29.1 per cent from this year's PSDP of Rs542bn.

WATER AND POWER: An amount of Rs142.2bn was allocated for this sector, with Rs30bn in water and Rs112.2bn in power.

The budget document said that 13 major water projects are hoped to be completed this year including Drawat Dam, Raine Canal, Shadi Kaur Dam etc.

Major allocations include Rs4bn for construction of break waters, Rs300 million for capital dredging of berthing areas and channel for additional terminal for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Rs500m for infrastructure development of export-processing zone at Gwadar, Rs3bn for Gwadar fresh water treatment and water supply.

The government has earmarked Rs112.2bn for power sector and planned to add 14,400MW to the national grid by 2017-18. It also hopes to fetch 10,400MW under CPEC project by the year 2018.

Besides more than 4,000MW thermal projects would be initiated in public-sector including 425MW Power Project Nandipur; 1,320MW Coal-fired Power Plant Jamshoro; 2,400MW LNG-based Power Plants at Haveli Bahadur Shah and Balloki.

HIGHWAYS: National Highway Authority (NHA) was allocated Rs159.6bn against this year's Rs111.5bn, an increase of around Rs48bn (43pc).

Of the allocated amount, Rs14.6bn was earmarked for on-going projects and Rs86.8bn for other new projects and Rs58.1bn under new initiatives of CPEC.

RAILWAYS: Another major chunk of Rs40bn was allocated for railways but the increase is nominal when compared to this year's Rs39.6bn allocation.

The railways authorities claimed that the work would continue on projects of rehabilitation and doubling of track, procurement and manufacturing of locomotives, passenger coaches.

PORTS AND SHIPPING: Allocation of Rs12bn was made for this sector from this year's Rs2.576bn, a significant increase of around 366pc.

Additional allocation of Rs9.3bn has been made in this sector for CPEC projects.

PM YOUTH LOAN PROGRAMME: The programme attracted a sum of Rs20bn against this year's allocation of Rs7bn.

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION: The government earmarked Rs20.5bn for 191 development projects of different universities for research development, infrastructure development, programmes, scholarships programmes, establishing of new varsities etc.

PAKISTAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION: The commission was allocated an amount of Rs30bn from this year's Rs42bn, a decline of 28.57pc.

All Day**CPEC fetches sizeable amount in PSDP -- The Nations**

ISLAMABAD - The China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) - a development megaproject which aims to connect Gwadar Port to China's Northwestern region of Xinjiang via a network of highways, railways and pipelines - has fetched Rs1961 million in the Public Sector Development Programme 2015-16.

Out of the total estimated cost of Rs3554 million of the project, the government

would be spending Rs155 million as of June 30, 2015 and further Rs1961 million have been allocated in the PSDP 2015-16. The allocation shows government's interest in completing the project which is considered central to Pak-China relations, on priority basis. The project will run about 3,000 km from Gwadar to Kashgar in China.

The CPEC projects as shown in the PSDP include feasibility study (PC-II) for the construction of new rail link from Havelian in district Haripur to Pak-China border (682km) (Rs1 million); feasibility study for up-gradation of existing Main Line-II (Rs 300 million); comprehensive feasibility study for upgradation/rehabilitation of mainline-I and new dry port at Havelian (Buldhair) district Haripur (Rs270 million); acquisition of land for new dry port at Buldhair, district Haripur (Rs300 million); and PC-II for feasibility study to connect Gwadar with Karachi and feasibility study from Gwadar to Basima and from Basima to Jacobabad via Khuzdar (Rs10 million).

The CPEC project, according to the experts, will prove to be a game-changer and for this purpose work on Raikot-Islamabad road will also be launched during the next fiscal year. For this purpose, Rs29 billion have been allocated. Similarly, Rs10 billion have been allocated for the construction of Islamabad-DI Khan road.

The Corridor is an extension of China's proposed Silk Road initiative, which would go a long way in making Pakistan a richer and stronger economic entity than ever before, the experts believe.

The CPEC-related development schemes put in the PSDP 2015-16 also include a vast network of roads.

According to the Programme, Western Alignment (CPEC) include Gwadar-Turbat-Hoshab Section (200km) of Gwadar-Ratodero Road (892km) M-8 including Khuzdar-Shahdadt-Kot-Ratodero (143km)-(Gwadar-Turbat, Khuzdar in Balochistan and Kamber, Shehdadt-Kot and Larkana in Sindh). Rs2,800 million have been allocated for this project. Similarly, Rs2500 million have been allocated for widening and improvement of N-85, Hoshab-Nag-Basima-Surab Road (459km) (Khuzdar,Paniquir); Rs3,000 million for Zhob Mughal Kot 81km N-50; Rs2,000 million for rehabilitation of DI Khan Mughal Kot 50km section N-50 and Rs10,000 million for land acquisition/construction of Western Alignment and other CPEC projects.

As far as Northern Alignment of CPEC is concerned, Rs2,300 million have been allocated for construction of Burhan-Havelian Expressway (59km); Rs20,500 million for Thakot to Havelian (120km) (Construction) (phase-I) and Rs5000 million for Thakot to Havelian (120km) (Land) (Phase-I).

Similarly, Rs10,000 million have been allocated for the construction of Islamabad-Mianwali-DI Khan CPEC route including land acquisition and technical study.

All Day

JF-17 programme a symbol of Pak-China friendship: China Aviation Industry -- Express Tribune

Chairman Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) Lin Zuoming assured his all-out support to enhance the capabilities of JF-17 aircraft, Radio Pakistan reported.

Chief of Air Staff Marshal Sohail Aman, during his visit to the Headquarters of Aviation Industry Corporation of China, expressed his satisfaction over the JF-17 programme.

The programme was also deemed by the marshal as a symbol of the Pak-China friendship.

Read: China to deliver 50 more JF-17 Thunder jets to Pakistan

It was announced earlier during the year that China would deliver another fifty JF-17 Thunder fighters to Pakistan over a period of three years.

During a recent visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to Pakistan, it was also asserted by both sides that the jets were a symbol of friendship.

The close friendship has come under scrutiny by India who have termed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) 'unacceptable'.

June 6, 2015 Continued

Sat

This vocal opposition lends credence to Islamabad's claims that New Delhi is fomenting unrest in Balochistan in a bid to sabotage the project described as 'game changer' for the region.

All Day

200 Pak engineers to get thermal engineering training in China -- The Nations

LAHORE - Presiding over a high level meeting held here to review progress of Sahiwal coal power project, Punjab Chief Minister said that initial design of this 1320MW project has been prepared and an agreement reached with Pakistan Railways for transportation of coal from Karachi.

The Chief Minister told the meeting that overcoming energy crisis is top priority of the government since promotion of industry, trade and economic activity is not possible without it.

All out resources are being used for ending shortage of electricity.

Shahbaz Sharif said that work is continuing on generation of energy through coal, hydle, wind, solar, gas and other alternate sources.

He said that two coal power projects of 660MW each are being set up in Sahiwal and a total of 1320MW electricity will be generated from this project.

The Chief Minister said that the project will be implemented transparently by ensuring high quality and speed.

He said that this project of national importance will be completed in 2017.

He said that Punjab government will impart training of thermal engineering to 200 Pakistani engineers in China from its own resources.

He directed that a comprehensive programme with regard to training of Pakistani engineers in China should be evolved and presented within seven days.

Shahbaz Sharif said that setting up of thermal engineering department in Engineering University Lahore should also be considered.

He said that the decision of imparting training to Pakistani youth in thermal engineering discipline in China by a Chinese company is a welcome step.

The Chief Minister said that he will personally monitor the progress of Sahiwal coal power project and also visit the site soon.

Head of the project Song Taiji gave briefing to the meeting.

Addl Chief Secretary Energy, Commissioner Sahiwal Division, Chairman PPDC, concerned authorities and officials of Chinese companies working on Sahiwal coal power project attended the meeting.

June 9, 2015

Tue

All Day

Pak-China friendship follows no boundary: CM Shahbaz -- Dunya News
Pak-China friendship follows no boundary: CM Shahbaz

Chief Minister of Punjab (CM) Shahbaz Sharif on Tuesday has termed China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as vital to the region's progress.

While talking at the ceremony in Lahore, CM Punjab stated that the visit of Chinese president Xi Jinping has created a new history.

He said that the previous government has failed to utilize the China relations in a positive sense but the government of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has given new dimension to Pak-China friendship.

CM Punjab expressed that Pakistan-China friendship is more than the marked boundaries as it's between two nations without following the barrier of borders.

He further vowed to stand by the China at any cost.

CPEC is a gift from Chinese investors for Pakistan, we should employ it for the development of the country, he added.

Moreover, Shahbaz Sharif invited the political leaders to be united for nation's progress.

All Day

No tax on export of Halal meat through Gwadar port -- The Nations

Federal Minister for Ports & Shipping Senator Kamran Michael has said that there will be no export tax on export of Halal meat through Gwadar port.

In a statement issued here on Tuesday, the minister said that the Government is encouraging the investors and exporters for 'Halal Meat Industry' as there is huge demand of Halal meat in international market.

Michael said that Government has exempted the investors and industrialists from all kind of import and export taxes, adding that exporters who may get clearance from export bureau and launch their Halal Meat Industry till 2016, they will be exempted from taxes for next four years.

Michael has said that Central Asian States are earning \$3 trillion only through Halal meat sector while Pakistan earns least from this sector but present Government is the first one to pay heed towards this.

Federal Minister has stated that the lives of local fishermen will be changed with the commercial exports of fish from Gwadar port.

Michael remarked that for the first time, Baloch would be benefiting directly through this export.

The Minister said that the foreign exchange reserves have started increasing with export of deep sea water fish, adding that government is taking special steps for expanding the export of fish at maximum level.

All Day

Pak-China sign agreement for MSA patrol vessels -- Daily Times

ISLAMABAD – Pakistan and China signed a landmark agreement on Wednesday for construction of six patrol vessels for Maritime Security Agency (PMSA).

The agreement was signed on Wednesday during a ceremony at the Ministry of Defence Production (MoDP) in Rawalpindi. Documents were signed by M/s China Ship Trading Company (M/s CSTC) and the Pakistani government on behalf MoDP. According to the agreement, four ships will be constructed in China while the remaining two will be built at Karachi's Shipyard and Engineering Works under Transfer of Technology.

The spokesman for MoDP said that acquisition of new ships was a step towards PMSA's capacity building by the government which will boost the agency's operational preparedness for protection of resources in Pakistan's Exclusive Economic Zone and fishery protection. The spokesman further said that new ships will be used for maritime law enforcement operations against drug trafficking and illegal immigration.

All Day

Motorways will be built in Sindh, KP and Balochistan: Nawaz Sharif -- Pak Tribune

Motorways will be built in Sindh, KP and Balochistan: Nawaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Thursday while addressing the National Assembly said that motorways will be built in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan as well.

The budget discussion at the House enters its third day as Premier Sharif shed light on the country's infrastructural development projects.

"We initiated [the motorway] in Lahore and from there we went to Peshawar," PM Nawaz recalled. "It was not supposed to end in Lahore...it was to be built till Karachi and Gwadar."

In response to points raised by Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) Nawab Ali Wazan, the premier said that progress on the Hyderabad-Karachi motorway is underway.

He further said that in the past, the project came to an end when his government had previously ended in the early 90s. He added that in 1997 his government again conceived of a project to build a motorway till Karachi.

Similarly, the premier said that there will be a motorway from Lahore to Multan and Multan to Sukkur, which comes under the Pak-China Economic Corridor (PCEC).

"Our government also made a coastal highway from Gwadar to Karachi," PM Nawaz said. "We have started construction in Gwadar and want to make it Pakistan's best city and district."

He went on to stress importance of Gwadar and making it a duty-free port.

"Gwadar should be given the status of a free port and a new administrative system and unit should be developed there," PM Nawaz said. "Like Gulf countries, Gwadar should also become a duty-free port and have the same progress as countries like Singapore, Dubai and Hongkong."

The premier also acknowledged PPP's efforts and mentioned the Attabad Lake. "A tunnel is being constructed a few kilometres away from the lake, on which around Rs27 billion are being spent," he said.

He acknowledged that PPP started the project and said it was a positive move.

The opposition in both houses of parliament had on Monday refused to participate in the debate on the budget unless the government agreed to arrange live coverage of all speeches through the state-run PTV, forcing a day's postponement of the debate.

Leader of the Opposition Khursheed Ahmed Shah was temperate in criticising the government for missed targets in the outgoing financial year and perceived deficiencies in the new budget while opening the debate in the National Assembly.

The federal cabinet last week approved the budget for the fiscal year 2015-16 (FY2015-16), with a total outlay of Rs4.313 trillion, which is 9.1 per cent higher than the revised 2014-15 outlay of Rs3.9tr.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar while presenting the budget for fiscal year 2015-16 on the floor of the National Assembly said a growth rate target of 5.5pc had been set for the upcoming year, which he said is budgeted to reach 7pc by the end of PML-N government's tenure in 2017-18

Before announcing the budget, the minister briefed the cabinet about the salient features of the budget and said measures have been proposed which may enhance exports, industrial growth, and employment.

All Day

A new administrative unit should be made for Gwadar, says Nawaz -- Daily Times

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Thursday told the National Assembly that a special status should be given to Gwadar to make it a model port, and a new administrative unit should be established for it.

"Gwadar should be made a duty-free port like in Gulf countries, Singapore, Hong Kong, etc, and for this purpose, we should sit together to frame new laws. I will approach the opposition parties in this regard. We want to make Gwadar the best port, city and a district," the prime minister expressed these views while speaking on the floor of the National Assembly on Thursday.

The prime minister said that Gwadar should not only be a gift to Pakistan but to the entire region. He said that Tajikistan and other countries are keen to connect with Gwadar. "We will increase Tajikistan's connectivity with Gwadar," he said.

The prime minister said that load shedding would end within three years, adding that two big energy projects of 650MW each – based on coal – had been launched in Thar. The Thar coalmine will also be developed and its coal will be used in these projects, he said, and added that two projects of 1,320MW would be completed at Port Qasim and Hub.

Leader of opposition in the National Assembly Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah said that the PPP government had handed over Gwadar to China and PML-N government has continued this policy, which was good for the country. He said that continuity in policies was required to take Pakistan forward on the path of development.

The opposition leader maintained that there is 10 to 12 hour of load shedding in cities and 18 to 20 hours in the rural areas. He acknowledged that people of some areas where load shedding duration is high are not paying electricity bills. However, he said that it was the responsibility of the government to control line losses and electricity theft.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar informed the lawmakers that the Moody's Investor Service has upgraded Pakistan's sovereign credit rating from Caa1 to B3.

He said that Moody's had downgraded the country's credit rating to Caa1 on July 13, 2012. However, Moody's has upgraded Pakistan's rating, which shows macroeconomic stability in the country.

Taking part in the budget debate, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf member Ali Muhammad Khan gave an emotional speech on problems being faced by common man in rural and far-flung areas of the country. He said that the budget does not reflect the needs of the poor people, low ranking government officials, students, farmers and labourers.

"The budget is just a jugglery of words and offers no relief to ordinary people," he said, adding that the government should pay a little focus on building schools, colleges and hospitals as well, along with the motorways and metro buses.

PML-N member Dr Ramesh Kumar, however, defended the budget, saying the government has presented a balanced budget despite all the odds. He said that economic indicators have improved a lot as compared to the previous government and the effects would ultimately trickle down to improve the living standard of the ordinary citizens. Several members took part in the budget debate.

Speaking on the occasion, Information Minister Senator Pervaiz Rashid said that PTV National would broadcast live proceedings of parliament.

The minister said that PTV National had been assigned the task to broadcast live proceedings of the budget session keeping in view the desire of members of the National Assembly and Senate from both treasury as well as opposition benches.

The minister said he had issued instructions that equal time must be given to members of the National Assembly and Senate, as proceedings of both the houses were going simultaneously.

Pervaiz Rashid expressed the hope that members of parliament would be satisfied with the decision, as their voice would reach to the people of the country.

All Day

**Hub: Will connect Gwadar port with Central Asia, says PM Nawaz --
Dunya News**

Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif said on Friday that military operation will be launched till eradication of terrorism. He said that perpetrators of tragedy of Safoora Chowrangi will be caught and justice will be served soon, reported Dunya News.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony after ground breaking at Hub oil refinery, PM Nawaz said that the condition of the country is improving and expressed hope that all terrorists will be caught.

Calling the current military operation a 'well calculated' decision, PM Nawaz said that operation Zarb-e-Azb had been launched after deliberation and much thought.

He said that North Waziristan had become peaceful once again.

PM expressed determination that culprits behind the tragedy of Safoora Chowrangi will be caught and speedy justice will be served.

Talking about energy crisis, PM said that coal plant is being set up at Thar while the crisis is expected to end in 2017.

PM Nawaz said that Gwadar port will be developed as free port and will be connected with Central Asia.

Talking about the construction of oil refinery in Balochistan, PM Nawaz said that construction of refinery is an important achievement which will increase oil output.

All Day

CPEC, Gwadar port to be built at any cost: COAS -- The Nations
KARACHI - Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif has said that the world endorses security concerns of Pakistan.

The country, he said, is willing to cooperate with other nations for peace but not at the expense of 'our national interest, sovereign rights and national pride'.

Addressing the passing out parade of Pakistan Navy cadets, the army chief said ceasefire violations, bloodletting in Balochistan, Fata and Karachi manifest enemy's hostile intent, in a clear indication to India's anti-Pakistan activities.

"We are ready to pay any price to protect our nationhood and safeguard our interests, be it Kashmir, development of new ports or exploitation of natural resources.

"We are acutely aware of our enemy's campaigns and will defeat its designs," he declared.

Talking about China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he said that CPEC holds enormous potential for transforming lives of our region's people.

"CPEC with Gwadar port as its catalyst will be built and developed as one of the most strategic deep-sea port in the region at any cost whatsoever," Gen Sharif said.

"The entire nation expresses resolve to eliminate the menace of terror and operation Zarb-e-Azb is delivering decisive results.

The terrorists are now resorting to desperate actions.

Battle against terrorism won't be won by Armed Forces alone and it is encouraging to see the entire nation is pursuing this national effort with great sense of purpose."

While congratulating and extending felicitations on achieving this milestone, the army chief advised the passing out Midshipmen and cadets to always ensure that "interests of the state and the service is prime for you and never let your personal feelings stand in the way to your commitment to the national duty bestowed upon you".

Earlier in his welcome address, Commandant Pakistan Naval Academy highlighted the salient features of the officers' training.

He apprised the audience that the commissioning term comprises of 86 Midshipmen, including 48 from Pakistan and 38 from brotherly countries like Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Nigeria.

He added that 43 cadets from Short Service Commission Officers batch were also being passed out.

The commandant highlighted that cadets from Bahrain, Jordan, Libya, Maldives, Nigeria, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and Yemen are also undergoing training at Pakistan Naval Academy.

Later, COAS Raheel Sharif gave away prizes to the winners and those attaining distinction.

Midshipman Fazal Qadeer was awarded the coveted Sword of Honour for his overall best performance.

Midshipman Syed Mubashir Shah won the Academy Dirk.

Lieutenant M Bilal Asif, Cadet Arsalan Tariq, MSC Perera (from Sri Lanka) and Cadet Muhammad Shahid (SSC) were given Quaid-e-Azam Gold Medal, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Gold Medal, Chief of the Naval Staff Gold Medal and Commandant's Gold Medal, respectively.

The ceremony was attended by a large number of senior military officers, ambassadors, defence attaches of various countries, civil dignitaries and parents of passing out midshipmen and cadets.

All Day

China, Pakistan should build railways to link with South Asia: Official -- Economic Times

BEIJING: China and Pakistan should build a railway network in further to a due \$ 46-billion mercantile mezzanine to boost trade with South Asia and Arabian Peninsula, a tip Chinese central said.

"We should ready to build a railway between China and Pakistan as shortly as possible," He Sanqiu, conduct of ride in Kashgar was quoted as observant by state-run Xinhua news group today.

Kashgar, a Chinese city in flighty Xinjiang region, borders Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), that will be connected with a 3,000-kilometre-long China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with Pakistan's pier city of Gwadar.

The corridor, due to pass by a PoK, is objected by India due to a doubtful standing of a region.

The news pronounced that a construction of roads, railways and pipelines opposite Pakistan is approaching to take around 15 years.

Rail is "the easiest way" to couple Kashgar with South Asia, a Arab Peninsula, and even tools of easterly Africa around a Arabian Sea and a Indian Ocean, He Sanqiu said.

There are copiousness of opportunities to boost trade, including industrial parks, cultivation and tourism, he said.

China and Pakistan have skeleton to boost trade to around \$ 20 billion within 3 years from a stream \$ 16 billion.

The mercantile mezzanine will emanate new business opportunities for enterprises in many mercantile sectors, Sun Weidong, Chinese envoy to Pakistan said.

All Day

Gwadar Port Zone completes land acquisition process for free zone ISLAMABAD: The Gwadar Port Authority has completed land acquisition process for free zone (FZ) and its execution is expected to start soon. The funds for acquisition of land to be han -- Express Tribune

ISLAMABAD: The Gwadar Port Authority has completed land acquisition process for free zone (FZ) and its execution is expected to start soon.

The funds for acquisition of land to be handed over to concession holder for establishment of FZ has been provided through Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) as with FZ development the port throughout in trans-shipments, export and import will enhance significantly.

The same time the company is going to establish a large exhibition centre adjacent to Port for display of Chinese and Pakistani products. This would be the first Zone in Pakistan, spread over an area of 9.23 sq km, adjacent to the port.

According to a budget document, Gwadar port offers lots of opportunities to prospective investors. Chinese investors have taken keen interest in establishing Marine Silk Route and establishment of heavy industries in the industrial zone.

In this regard, banks from China and Pakistan are working on concept of development of Special Economic Zones in Punjab and Balochistan and the investors, especially the Chinese, are planning to establish a steel mill and a cement factory in Gwadar.

Moreover, under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Gwadar Port is said to be strategically important to China because it will bring closer Middle Eastern ports to China through Karakoram Highway (KKH) linking Gwadar with

Kashgar.

Under CPEC, Gwadar Port is considered as gateway of CPEC, and Gwadar city as one of the pivotal cities of the corridor.

The first special economic zone (SEZ) of CPEC is being developed in Gwadar city. The government-to-government CPEC agreements have created bright prospects for optimum operationalisation of Gwadar Port and harnessing the benefits of regional trade connectivity through this naturally deep-sea port by Pakistan, China, Central Asian Republics and Afghanistan.

To resolve the port connectivity with the highway network, "Gwadar Port Eastbay Expressway" project has now been agreed upon for funding under CPEC. The project has been approved by ECNEC at an estimated cost of Rs.14 billion and its execution has been started.

The proposed expressway will connect the Gwadar Port with the Mekran Coastal Highway, passing along the east bay of Gwadar City, with a total length of 18.98 Km, including 4.3 Km along -the-shore/off-shore and 14.6 Km on -shore sections. A rail link along this expressway is also part of the project.

All Day

Pakistan wins first JF-17 order at Paris Air Show: PAF -- Express Tribune

PARIS: After high expectations for a deal to pull through, Pakistan was successful in securing its first ever export order for its JF-17 Thunder fighter on Monday at the first day of the International Paris Air Show.

Air Commodore and Pakistan Air Force officer dealing in sales and marketing, Khalid Mahmood said "A contract has been signed with an Asian country." However the name of the country was not disclosed and deliveries are likely to begin in 2017.

The report added that 80 people were promoting the JF-17 in Paris this year, reflecting a significant marketing push.

Read: Pakistan eager to secure first ever-order for the JF-17 at Paris Air Show

Due to security concerns and client sensitivities, Mahmood chose not to specify the name of the customer and the number of aircraft it will obtain from Pakistan.

Further, speaking to AFP from the Paris Air Show by phone, Air Commodore Syed Muhammad Ali said an order for the plane had been finalised but declined to give details.

"That's the case, we've finalised the order," he said, citing sensitivities for not naming the client, the number of aircraft or the date of delivery.

Mahmood further stated that the sales for the JF-17 had been delayed due to the political turmoil in numerous countries in the Middle East.

Having brought three aircraft to the show this year, one of them will make its flying debut.

Commenting on the success of the show, Mahmood said the choice of venue in terms of meeting prospective customers from French speaking countries is a good one.

Read: China to deliver 50 more JF-17 Thunder jets to Pakistan

Analysts believe the major selling point of the JF-17 is its cost, which is likely to be substantially less than the \$16-18 million cost of an US-made F-16.

The latest models of the jets, which are locally produced in cooperation with China, are lightweight multi-role aircraft capable of Mach 2.0 (twice the speed of sound) with an operational ceiling of 55,000 feet.

With a total 11 countries including Pakistan, China also markets the aircraft.

Updating the guests and media on Pakistan's induction of the type, he claimed that a total of 54 examples of JF-17 have been delivered till date. Out of which the first 50 were delivered in a Block I configuration and an update of these to a Block II standard is underway.

The Block II configuration features improved avionics and better software, and adds a fixed air-to-air refuelling probe. The JF-17 is powered by a single Klimov RD-93 engine.

An addition of Block III configuration with 50 aircraft and 46 aircraft delivered in the Block II configuration is expected to push Pakistan's fleet to 150 examples, aiming to be delivered by the end of 2018.

"Though the aircraft's developers are still working out the specifications of the Block III aircraft, upgrades are likely to include an active electronically scanned array (AESA) or Passive electronically scanned array (PESA) radar", Mahmood said.

Further, the configuration could also include an infrared search and track (IRST) sensor, stations under the forward fuselage for various pods, and expanded precision weapons capabilities.

With the aim to serve mainly as a trainer, a two-seat variant is also planned by the developers. Pakistan produces 58% of the airframe and China 42%.

Pakistan was eager to secure its first-ever order for the JF-17 at the international event as Canada's Bombardier is particularly hungry for sales, after its new C Series aircraft struggled through development delays and difficult market conditions.

Airbus has also confirmed it will display its A400M military transport plane for the first time since a fatal crash in Spain last month caused by a massive engine failure.

With air passenger numbers set to double to six billion annually by 2030, the world's premier air show in Paris will next week focus on green issues even as the aircraft sales war remains centre stage.

The Paris Air Show brings together some 315,000 visitors and 2,260 exhibitors from 47 countries, with much of the attention focused on which big manufacturers, particularly Airbus and Boeing, will land the most orders.

Pakistan's large and well-funded military has long been a major importer of defence equipment, particularly from China.

The Paris Air show runs from June 15 to 21, with the final three days open to the public.

All Day

**Pakistan launches project to connect Gwadar Port with Central Asia --
Dispatch News Desk**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that the federal government is launching a mega project to connect the southern Gwadar port with the Central Asian states and then to the Western route of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

While speaking on the floor of the National Assembly in Islamabad on Tuesday, the prime minister said that all the link roads from Gwadar to Central Asian city of Tirmiz in Uzbekistan will be completed to connect Pakistan with all central Asian countries Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan through Afghanistan.

The prime minister said that Quetta-Chaman route will be completed by the end of next year. He said that Chaman-Kandahar-Mazar-e-Sharif-Tirmiz road connection will be developed.

Sharif said that work on Peshawar-Torkham-Jalalabad motorway is going on. He said that the Frontier Works Organization (FWO) is constructing this project and will soon be completed. He said that it will be extended from Jalalabad to Kabul-Mazar-e-Sharif and Tirmiz.

Nawaz Sharif said that with the completion of these routes, Balochistan will be opened and will be connected with all parts of the country. He said that these are big communication projects which will connect the whole country. He said these projects are necessary for integrity, unity and cohesion of the country and ending sense of deprivation of Balochistan.

All Day

Chinese Embassy compound inaugurated amid applause, celebrations -- Pak Observer

Islamabad—Amid appreciation and applause, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong, accompanied by Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, inaugurated on Tuesday the new building of the Embassy of People's Republic of China in Islamabad, the federal capital.

Situated at Zhu-Enlai Avenue, it is the largest Chinese embassy overseas (area-wise)

While addressing hundreds of participants including large number of ambassadors, politicians, bureaucrats and celebrities during launching of new compound of Chinese Embassy, Chinese ambassador termed the compound as symbol of friendship between China and Pakistan.

The completion and launching of new compound is testimony to the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan, he said adding that it was the largest compound of Chinese Embassy (by land area) across the globe.

Speaking about China Pakistan Economic Corridor, Chinese envoy said the construction of China Pakistan Economic Corridor maintains a good momentum.

"The CPEC, as a significant initiative, is based on the principle of broad consultations, joint contribution and shared benefits," Chinese ambassador said.

While speaking highly of incumbent government for allocating huge chunk of prime land in the heart of Islamabad exclusively for building new compound of Chinese Embassy, Chinese ambassador said the new compound was 'as huge as Pakistan-China friendship.'

Followed by national anthems of China and Pakistan, Chinese ambassador delivered a short speech in which he vowed to continue Chinese support for Pakistan in the fields of defence, education and economy.

" We will continue to support Pakistan through thick and thin. The CPEC will benefit 180 million people of Pakistan. We will continue helping our Pakistani brothers in the future," Weidong said.

Hundreds of participants, who especially came to attend launching ceremony of the new Chinese Embassy, appreciated his speech.

Shahbaz Sharif, Chief Minister Punjab, Senator Rehman Malik , Khawaja Asif, Minister for Defence, Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning and Development , Pervez Rashid, US Ambassador Richard Olson, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Sikander Hayat Bosan , Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research and others attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Ayaz Sadiq congratulated Chinese ambassador and his government on launching huge compound of Chinese Embassy in Pakistan. Terming Pakistan-China friendship as unique example in the world, Sadiq said government of Pakistan was grateful to China for investing heavily in Pakistan.

"We are grateful to our Chinese friends for extending their support. Pakistan-China friendship is unique example in the world," Ayaz Sadiq said.

The New Chinese Embassy, China's largest ever diplomatic Mission overseas, is the most beautiful spacious building of Islamabad

China maintains large diplomatic missions abroad including Washington, New York and New Delhi. Its mission in New Delhi has over 300 personnel, according to officials. With the launch of new compound of Embassy, Chinese mission in Pakistan becomes the largest one.

Earlier this year, China agreed to construct two nuclear reactors to generate 1100MW electricity which is expected to cost \$6.5 billion in addition to the four medium size reactors. The agreement was signed during Chinese president Xi's two-day visit to Pakistan earlier this year.

On 29 April 2015, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif announced to build new Gwadar city with the Chinese cooperation whose effects will reach entire country, adding further, that China's investment in Pakistan under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project envisages construction of motorways and installation of energy projects.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a landmark project, which will connect Pakistan's deep seaport Gwadar with China's Xinjiang region bordering with Gilgit Balochistan.

"Both the Pakistan and China are discussing a number of mega projects under the rubric of Economic Corridor in several fields like energy, infrastructure and connectivity which would revitalize Pakistan's economy," Nawaz Sharif said last month.

All Day

Pak-Chinese JF-17 Knocks At World Fighter Aircraft Market -- Defence World

Pakistani-Chinese JF-17 Thunder fighter might be the beginning of the end of western dominance of the global fighter aircraft market.

The JF-17's international flight debut at the Paris Air Show 2015 was further enhanced by the absence of US fighters such as the F-16 and F/A-18. In addition the Eurofighter Typhoon, Saab Gripen and BAE Systems Hawk too did not take to the Skies.

The JF-17, flown by Pakistani air force pilots was the only new fighter at the flying displays. It stole the show with its deft flying and the lone announcement for fighter aircraft order at the show.

The Pakistani marketing team announced the sale of the low-cost, lightweight, single-engine, multi-role combat jet JF-17 to an Asian country on Monday. The fighter estimated to be priced at \$20 million apiece is cheaper than any western fighter aircraft and might be just about twice that of the light attack and surveillance aircraft, Embraer Super Tucano which costs an approximate \$10.6 million apiece.

The JF-17 costs a fourth of the American-built F-16s (estimated \$80 million apiece) and a third of Swedish Saab JAS Gripen (estimated \$61 million) and fifth of Eurofighter Typhoon and Dassault Rafale (estimated \$95 million apiece).

Pakistan has ordered 50 of JF-17s to be delivered in the next six months costing anywhere between \$1 billion and \$1.25 billion.

Although the aircraft has not been selling like hotcakes on the international budget fighter market, Yesterday's deal might be the start of sales to other countries.

Pakistan had offered 16 JF-17 jets under a tender for the Bulgarian Air Force in March this year.

All Day

Senate body for increasing allocation for CPEC in PSDP 2015-16 -- APP

ISLAMABAD: Senate special Committee on project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on Wednesday decided to write a letter to the federal government proposing to increase allocation of funds in Public Sector Development Fund (PSDP) 2015-16 for both western and eastern routes of CPEC.

Senator Taj Haider who is also convener of the committee said keeping in view the importance of the project, more allocation was needed to complete it as soon as possible.

He said the purpose of forming this committee was to present various recommendations to address grievances and objections of concerned stakeholders.

Taj Haider said in order to listen to the grievances of the local stakeholders of Gwadar, a meeting would be held in Gwadar during first week of July 2015 in which all concerned stakeholders would be invited to address their concerns.

Senator Usman Kakar said the government was not fully implementing the decision of All Parties Conference (APC) on CPEC as it was depicted in the PSDP where the eastern route has given more priority over the western route.

Senator Kabir Ahmed said Gwadar was the central point of CPEC but it was being neglected and no energy and other development projects were being launched in this area.

He demanded to launch special package for well being of the local people of Gwadar as most of the local people were living under the poverty line.

Senator Chaudhry Tanvir said currently Gwadar was totally dependent upon Iranian electricity and it was not connected to the national grid so the government should link Gwadar with the national grid immediately.

He proposed to construct a railway line from Dalbandin to Gwadar so that this area could be linked with the rest of the country through railway line. Senators Nehal Hashmi, Karim Ahmed Khawaja, Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh, Muhammad Talha Mehmood, Iqbal Zafar Jhagra and Hidayatulla also participated in the meeting.

June 18, 2015

Thu

All Day

300 Pak-China co-developed JF-17 Thunder to be sold -- Web Desk
BEIJING (Web Desk) – Three hundred JF-17 Thunders, co-developed by Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) and Pakistan's Air Force (PAF), are expected to be sold with in next 10 years.

Yang Ying, president of China National Aero-Technology Import & Export Corporation (CATIC), revealed during a press conference jointly held by China and Pakistan, reported People's Daily Online.

Chief project director of JF-17 fighter project of PAF, Marshal Arshad Malik said, "The JF-17 Thunder is cost-effective and its potential is unrivaled among fighter jets at the same level."

To date PAF has established three JF-17 fighter squadrons and plans to equip them with at least 250 JF-17 fighters in the next few years.

China and Pakistan signed a deal to develop the fighter in 1998. The first batch of JF-17 Thunders was delivered to Pakistan in 2007.

All Day

4,000 cops to guard Chinese -- The Nations

LAHORE - The Punjab police department on Saturday announced more than 4000 vacancies of Constable in the Specialised Protection Unit (SPU), a unique and highly-trained force to provide security cover to the foreigners, particularly the Chinese.

"At least 4076 constables will be recruited in the Punjab Police's Specialised Protection Unit (SPU) with the purpose to provide foolproof security to the foreign experts working on various government projects in the province," a police spokesperson confirmed on Saturday.

These vacancies are being advertised in the national dailies during the next couple of days, the spokesperson added.

According to official sources, at least 918 posts will be advertised for Lahore region, 245 for Sheikhpura region, 546 for Rawalpindi, 227 for Sargodha, 170 for Sahiwal, 350 for Multan, 274 for DG Khan, 266 for Bahawalpur and 471 constables will be recruited for Faisalabad police region.

These constables will be recruited in pay scale 5 and five percent quota has been fixed for minorities and 10 percent for retired army personnel.

After proper professional training, these constables would be deployed at development project sites to provide security to the foreign experts.

Hundreds of Chinese nationals are working on various development projects across Punjab.

Since China has pledged over \$40 billion investment, which is being seen by economists as a "milestone in the history of Pak-China relations", more Chinese are expected to arrive in the energy-hungry country to share their expertise.

Therefore, the authorities are establishing a well-equipped and highly-trained special unit to provide protection to the foreign experts, an official explained.

This Specialised Protection Unit (SPU) of the provincial police had been formed to protect foreigners working in the province.

The project was expected to be fully functional by June 30 but financial constraints and bureaucratic mess delayed the progress, official source believe.

The government had decided to form a new unit to ensure foreigners' security in March 2014.

The initiative has been taken after proper working since many foreign experts were reluctant to work on the development projects citing security concerns.

The SPU will provide foolproof security to foreign engineers and technicians working on projects across the province.

According to officials, this is the responsibility of the state to provide best security to win the confidence of foreign companies, encouraging them to invest in Pakistan.

At present, hundreds of police commandoes are deployed at Nandipur Power Plant, Iron Ore Plant Chiniot, Jinnah Barrage near Mianwali and at Quaid-i-Azam Solar Plant in Bahawalpur.

The SPU headquarters are being established at Farooqabad Police Lines.

According to the proposed plan, the SPU will be headed by a police officer of the rank of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) with two SSPs, and four SPs.

Once the recruitment and training is completed for the unit, it will be made independent from the district police.

The SPU officials would be provided Elite Police Force training and their salaries would be equal to those of the EPF personnel.

"SPU staff will not be transferred to other branches," police sources said.

A senior police officer said that the SPU was expected to take over the security of almost all development projects where foreigners are working.

The provincial government had allocated Rs1.2 billion for procurement of automatic weapons, vehicles, wireless sets, night vision goggles and other modern security gadgets for the force to make it operational.

All Day

Chinese desk set up at foreign security cell -- Dawn

KARACHI: The Sindh police on Monday announced setting up of a 'Chinese desk' at its foreign security cell amid growing presence of the neighbouring country's professionals in the province working on more than 100 projects after reinvigorated economic relations between the two countries.

To design a security plan for the hundreds of Chinese professionals and visitors in Sindh, IGP Ghulam Hyder Jamali presided over a meeting at the Central Police Office (CPO) which led to the new plan and appointment of a high-ranking officer to look after that.

"The foreigners' security cell would be strengthened further," said a CPO statement issued after the meeting. "This was decided at a high-level meeting held at the CPO, which reviewed security matters pertaining to Pak-China Economic Corridor projects as well as other projects already going on in Sindh besides the security of Chinese citizens."

The meeting was informed, the statement said, that currently Chinese citizens were busy with their professional duties at 109 projects being carried out in different parts of Sindh.

"The Sindh IG directed the AIG operations that a Chinese desk be established at the AIG operations office with a monitoring room to further strengthen the security of foreigners, especially Chinese," added the statement. "The meeting decided to strengthen further the foreigners' security cell. It was also decided to set up a separate cell for the security of Chinese workers at the Pak-China Economic Corridor projects."

The Sindh IG also issued orders for a committee to execute all decisions taken during the meeting regarding security of foreigners, mainly the Chinese nationals, in the province, added the statement.

"The additional IG informed the meeting that the Karachi police were introducing an emergency alert system for security of Chinese and foreign workers at various ongoing projects in the metropolis," it said.

Published in Dawn, June 23rd, 2015

All Day

Sri Lanka might become the first customer to acquire the JF-17 Thunder fighter jet from Pakistan. -- Defense World

According to Pakistan based 92NewsHD reports, Sri Lanka might order around 18-24 lightweight multi-role jets, which are locally produced in cooperation with its ally China.

The report confirms Pakistan's claim of selling its JF-17 Thunder fighter to an Asian country at the Paris Air Show 2015 earlier this month.

The news report suggests that Sri Lanka might be the first to purchase the JF-17 arose earlier this month when a photo of the office of a Sri Lankan air force commander revealed a scale model of the JF-17.

The JF-17 is developed jointly by the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex and the Chengdu Aircraft Corporation of China is also known as FC-1 Xiaolong in China.

Sri Lanka has seven J-7 fighter jets and nine Y-12 transport aircraft acquired from China and has an additional order for two MA60 transport aircraft.

All Day

Desalination plant of 2 MGD at Gwadar starts functioning -- BR

On the directives, of Chairman NAB, Qamar Zaman Chaudhry, NAB Balochistan took cognisance to expedite the completion of mega project of Desalination Plant of 2 MGD at Karwat (Gwadar). In order to ensure safe and cheap portable water to the 0.25 million people of tehsils, Gwadar and Jevni. The project was pending for a long time. Due to NAB efforts, the mega project of Desalination Plant of 2 MGD at Karwat (Gwadar) has started functioning for the last three months and people of Gwadar and Jevni are being provided safe and cheap portable water to the 0.25 million at their doorsteps.

The project was initiated in 2006. However, the project kept on delaying on one pretext or the other till the NAB Balochistan on the directions of Chairman NAB, Mr Qamar Zaman Chaudhry took the cognisance of the undue delay in the completion of the project. Subsequently upon taking cognisance, an inquiry was authorised against the officials of BDA and the contractors of the project. Relevant record was collected, concerned were examined and ground check was conducted. Finally, the officials and contractors agreed to resume the work.

It is important to mention here that there was no pipe line laid for the supply of water to the city of Gwadar and adjoining areas. Due to NAB's efforts, Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department, Balochistan managed to lay the water supply pipelines in the city. Currently, the PHE Gwadar is ready to manage the supply of water from the plant to the public. The contractors are also bound to operate and maintain the plant for one year after commissioning. The people of Gwadar and Jevni, Balochistan have welcomed Chairman NAB and NAB Balochistan's humanitarian efforts for provision of safe and cheap portable water to the 0.25 million at their doorsteps.

All Day

Economic corridor: Pak, China to establish tech school -- Express Tribune

Pakistan and China will jointly establish 'IIU New Silk Road School of Technology'. This was agreed in a meeting between a Chinese delegation led by educationist Din Hai Tao and International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) Rector Dr Masoom Yasinzaï. The delegation also consisting of Chinese entrepreneurs offered faculty and management support for the school.

The meeting mainly focused on utilisation of the corridor in developing skilled youth in Pakistan through bilateral cooperation. A memorandum of understanding was also signed according to which China would provide cooperation through universities.

The participants discussed ways of developing platforms of vocational training, scholarships, exchange of students and faculty and other opportunities.

A joint committee would soon be formed so as to arrange a conference on 'Pak-China Economic Corridor' in which intellectuals, famous success stories and core leaders of both the countries would participate.

"Pak-China Economic Corridor is a revolutionary step and its materialisation and operationalisation would be a 'win-win' situation for both the countries" Yasinzaï said.

The rector also apprised that more than 700 on campus Chinese students are acquiring education at IIUI.

"Educational institutions should focus on creating human resource relevant to the needs of society. IIUI is working on same vision because knowing the needs of society is like having solution to the problems" he added.

Chinese delegates said that different organisations of international repute in China are ready to give opportunity to Pakistani students to broaden their exposure and skills.

They also endorsed the suggestion of the rector that at least 50 students from Pakistan's different areas be selected and given opportunity to learn in China.

Din Hai Tao invited the IIUI rector to visit China and assured all possible support in expanding mutual cooperation. Delegates were later given souvenirs by the rector.

All Day

China opens new compound in Islamabad, the largest in all Chinese embassies across the world: Ready to jointly plan, construct economic corridor with Pakistan: -- Daily Times

ISLAMABAD: China on Tuesday said it is ready to make joint efforts with Pakistan in planning and constructing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"We share the same dream of achieving economic growth, social progress, people's well-being and national peace and prosperity," Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong told the inauguration ceremony of the new building of the Chinese embassy in Islamabad.

The new compound is the largest one by land area among all Chinese embassies in the world.

The ambassador said that the CPEC, as a significant part of the Belt and Road Initiative, is based on the principles of broad consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits.

"It is a corridor that covers Pakistan and benefits the Pakistani people and combines the complementarities of both countries for win-win cooperation and common development," he said, and added that the corridor will help strengthen

regional connectivity and promote peace, stability and development.

"We are fully confident that the future of China-Pakistan relationship is broad and bright. We'd like to work with Pakistan with unremitting efforts, to translate the grand blueprint formulated by our leaders and our shared dreams into reality in the years to come," he said.

The ambassador said Chinese President Xi Jinping paid a successful state visit to Pakistan this year. The two leaders made the plan for the future direction of China-Pakistan relationship together, he said. "Now, the China-Pakistan substantive cooperation is in full swing and the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor maintains a good momentum," he said, and added that the China-Pakistan relationship is now faced with historical opportunities.

In his remarks about the new compound, the ambassador expressed his thanks to the Pakistani government for providing such a space and termed it as the new reflection of the China-Pakistan friendship.

The New Compound, backed by the grand Margalla mountains in the north, faces Rawal Lake in the south which brings a broad view of a magnificent and diversified landscape. The ambassador informed the audience that the design of the new compound originated from the typical Huizhou architecture style, one of the major traditional Chinese architecture schools.

On the overall layout, the New Compound takes the advantage of the background mountains and stands in harmony with the surroundings, he added. On the visual effect, it is simple and plain with dark blue tiles and white walls. On the space utilization, it is rationally distributed with rhythm.

He said, "On the interior decoration, it is inclusive and full of cultural heritages. Overall, it is gracious yet cordial, grand yet delicate. It can be regarded as the combination of traditional Chinese culture and modern design."

Sun Weidong said that it will serve as a window and platform for all the friends to have a better understanding of the Chinese culture and civilisation. He termed the completion and launching of the compound as testimony to the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan.

He said that the land, premises and ancillary facilities of the original compound of the Chinese Embassy will be returned to the Pakistani government.

He said that on the approval of the Pakistani government, the permanent address of the new compound of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan will be "No. 1, Zhou Enlai Road, Diplomatic Enclave (Extension), Islamabad".

Premier Zhou Enlai, the founder of China-Pakistan friendship, is also the great Chinese leader who has been deeply loved by peoples of two countries. "We feel very proud to have the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan located on the road named after our beloved leader," he added. He said the New Compound was just a piece of blueprint years ago, but after continued efforts, it has now turned into reality, adding, "I think that is also true with the development of China-Pakistan relationship."

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq was chief guest on the occasion who formally inaugurated the new compound.

Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Minister of Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of Defence Khawaja Asif, Minister of Information Pervaiz Rashid, Minister of National Food Security & Research Sikandar Hyat Bosan, Minister of States & Frontier Regions Abdul Quadir Baloch, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi also attended.

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq said the new compound would become a icon of the Pakistan-China friendship. He said that the magnificent state of the art compound of the

June 27, 2015 Continued

Sat

Chinese embassy is reflective of special and exclusive decades' old Sino-Pak deep-rooted relationship. He said it was also a testimony of over-growing multifaceted relationship between the two countries. He said Chinese President Xi's visit to Pakistan and the Sino-Pak economic corridor project have brought their friendship to a new height and opened wide opportunities of the socio-economic development.

12:00 AM - 4:30 AM

Flight to Multan -- Jeddah JED

Pakistan flight 740

Jeddah JED 10:00pm (local time) - Multan MUX 4:30am (local time)

Confirmation number: ILQXQV

June 28, 2015

Sun

All Day

Pak, China agree to expedite work on solar power park -- Daily Pakistan
ISLAMABAD (Web Desk) – Pakistan and China have agreed to gear up work on generating 900 megawatts of electricity in Bahawalpur Solar Power Park.

The understanding came at a meeting between Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif and a Chinese delegation in Lahore today, Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation cited.

In his remarks on the occasion, the chief minister said the solar power park project is part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project. He said the project will be completed by 2016 while 300-megawatt of electricity will be generated from the power park by the end of this year.

All Day

Deepening partnership: Pakistan looks to Russia for satiating energy demand -- Vision Tribune

In an effort to meet the burgeoning demand for electricity and gas, the government has found a new partner – the energy-rich Russia that has vast reserves of oil and natural gas.

In recent years, energy supply has become a major challenge for Pakistan where hours-long outages and gas rationing have been part of the daily life of ordinary people and industrial and commercial concerns.

Though some initiatives have been taken by the present and past governments to clinch major energy deals like the Iran-Pakistan (IP) and Tapi gas pipelines and Central Asia-South Asia 1,000-megawatt power import programme, implementation work on these has not yet begun.

The energy projects agreed as part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), however, have become encouraging and may be executed on a fast track.

Read: Pak-Russia ties: Big room for enhancing trade, says envoy

Now that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is going to Moscow on July 9, Pakistan is likely to sign a \$2-billion energy deal with Russia for laying a liquefied natural gas (LNG) pipeline from Karachi to Lahore, officials say. However, the partnership may spark angry reaction from India.

“We are trying to sign an LNG pipeline accord with Russia in a government-to-government arrangement during the visit of prime minister to Moscow,” Petroleum Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said while talking to The Express Tribune.

Sharif would be in the Russian capital to attend a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and in talks on the sidelines, the two countries are expected to ink the \$2 billion accord.

Indian premier Narendra Modi is also likely to attend the SCO gathering and he may express concern over the Russian investment in Pakistan. He has already reacted against the CPEC agreement.

During the SCO meeting, Pakistan and India are expected to get permanent membership of the regional forum as Russia and China are pleading the cases of the two South Asian states. At present, Pakistan and India have observer status in the SCO.

In addition to financing the pipeline, Russia has also agreed to export LNG in a bid to help ease energy shortages in Pakistan. This issue will also come up for discussion during the talks.

The two sides have already signed an initial deal in the form of a protocol and finalised an agreement during earlier talks in Moscow. Under the partnership, Russia will provide \$2 billion to lay a 1,100km pipeline from Karachi to Lahore for supplying LNG that will be imported from Qatar and other countries. Pakistan will award the contract to Russia without inviting bids.

Read: Defence union: Pakistan, Russia to conduct joint military drills

In the 1970s, Russia had helped to set up a steel mill in Karachi and also supported Oil and Gas Development Company, which is still using old Russian machinery in exploring oil and gas.

Pakistan is currently working on two LNG pipelines as an alternative to the shelved IP gas pipeline project including the Gwadar pipeline and the south pipeline from Karachi to Lahore.

The government has signed a deal with China for the award of the \$3-billion

Gwadar LNG pipeline and terminal project.

Earlier, Pakistan had invited China and Russia to lay the IP gas pipeline but both hesitated because of western sanctions on Iran.

According to officials, a commercial deal will also be inked with a Russian firm following the pact between the two governments.

"The Russian side is very positive about helping Pakistan in tackling the energy crisis," an official said. "It will start LNG exports in 2016."

An LNG terminal has started functioning in Karachi with the first LNG shipment brought by the private sector at the end of March.

At present, the pipeline network has the capacity to transport 320 million cubic feet of LNG per day and the government is striving to build an additional pipeline.

All Day

Free Trade Zone being established at Gwadar -- Radio Pakistan

A Free Trade Zone is being established at Gwadar to attract investment in manufacturing and export of goods.

Land acquisition for the purpose has been completed for setting up of the zone over 9.23 square kilometres, adjacent to the port.

The project is being executed by Gwadar Free Zone Company, which also plans to establish a large Exhibition Centre adjacent to the Port for display of Chinese and Pakistani products.

Meanwhile, Gwadar Port Eastbay Expressway project costing fourteen billion rupees is being initiated under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to resolve the port connectivity with the highway network.

The expressway will connect Gwadar Port with Mekran Coastal Highway, passing along the east bay of Gwadar City.

A rail link along the expressway is also part of the project

All Day

Free Trade Zone being established at Gwadar -- APP

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All Day

Pak, China to join hands to promote research in agri sector -- Daily Times

Pak, China to join hands to promote research in agri sector

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Agriculture Research Council and the China Lanzhou University plan to establish the Ecological Cycle Agriculture Research and Development Centre with an aim to promote research and development in the agriculture sector.

A four-member Lanzhou University delegation led by Science and Technology Department Director Dr Ruijun Long on Monday visited the National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC) where it was briefed in detail about the working of PARC, NARC and their research and development projects.

PARC Chairman Dr Iftikhar Ahmad, members and secretaries of the council, NARC Director General Dr M Azeem, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) Pakistan Country Representative Dr Jesra and other senior officers of the council were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Ruijun said that the Lanzhou University president is scheduled to visit Pakistan in September during which agreements for the development of agriculture and collaboration between the two institutions would be discussed in detail. He said that memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and agreements between the two organisations would also be signed during the visit.

He added that before this visit a renowned professor of the university is also scheduled to visit Pakistan in July. The aim is to enhance and strengthen collaboration between the two institutions in science and technology, he said. His university, he added, has been providing higher education to foreign students, which include students from Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Iftikhar Ahmad stressed the need for implementing the agreements for the benefit of both the organisations. He said that growth of the agriculture sector was important to ensure poverty alleviation. He expressed the hope that the centre would become a hub for promoting research and high learning.

It is pertinent to mention here that both the institutions have had signed an MoU for Biomass Energy Research and Application in 2013, expanding friendship and cooperative educational exchanges.

June 30, 2015 Continued

Tue

Earlier, NARC DG Dr Azeem gave a detailed presentation to the visiting delegation on the working and performance of NARC. He briefed the delegation about the research conducted at the center on various crops and other agriculture yields.

July 1, 2015

Wed

All Day

IIUI, CHINESE ISLAMIC COUNCIL INK MOU FOR TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL -- Pak Observer

Wednesday, July 01, 2015 - Islamabad—International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) and Council of Islamic Chinese Relations of China (CICRC) have penned an MoU for establishing "IIUI New Silk Road School of Technology" at IIUI.

Chinese Council will provide full support for infrastructure, equipment and faculty members for the school, while Chinese faculty would impart technical training to the students of school to cater the needs of human resources for joint Pak-China projects under Pak-China Economic Corridor.

The MoU was signed here at Faisal Masjid campus of IIUI by the IIUI Rector Dr. Masoom Yasinzaï, and Dr. Ding Houfei, President, Council of Islamic Chinese Relations in presence of Vice President Academics (IIUI) Dr. Mohammad Bashir Khan, Director General (IIUI) Gulzar Ahmed Khwaja and Chinese delegates.

According MoU, both sides would jointly hold conference, seminars, lectures and exchange of faculty, students to share the experiences. Both sides agreed that a committee will be formed to ensure execution of the plans set to achieve the goals . It was agreed that exchange of research and cooperation in development of training strategies and programs would be extended by both sides.

Talking on the Mutual cooperation and importance of economic corridor, Dr. Masoom Yasinzaï said that IIUI and Chinese organizations' mutual cooperation in enhancing human resource can be proved as one of the pioneer steps for the success of the economic corridor.

He maintained that this opportunity can help in brining improvements in the education sector and it would also increase people to people contact between both countries.

Dr. Ding Houfei said on the occasion that different organizations of international repute in China are ready to give opportunity to Pakistani students where they can broaden their exposure and skills as well.

Meanwhile, An Iftar dinner was also hosted by Rector IIUI in honor of Council of Islamic Chinese Relations of China, on the sidelines of MoU.

All Day

China offers \$50 billion for hydroelectric projects in Pakistan -- The Economic Times

ISLAMABAD: China's state-run power company, Three Gorges Corporation (CTG), is keen to participate in a financing consortium to fund up to \$50 billion of hydroelectric power projects in Pakistan, a media report said.

This disclosure was made at the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Energy on June 18. The CTG expressed interest in financing projects in Pakistan in conjunction with the International Finance Corporation, a World Bank subsidiary, the Express Tribune reported today.

"The offer comes on top of the \$46 billion in financing for power and transportation infrastructure being provided by the Chinese government and Chinese banks to Pakistan for the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)," the paper reported.

If the offer pans out, it would make China the biggest financier of infrastructure in Pakistan by far.

CTG owns and operates the world's biggest Three Gorges Dam, having a capacity of 22,500 megawatts, which is equal to Pakistan's total installed capacity of 23,500 MW.

Pakistan has a potential of producing up to 60,000 MW of hydroelectric power, of which 40,000 MW is located in a region called the Indus Cascade, which begins in Skardu in Gilgit- Baltistan and runs through to Tarbela, the site of Pakistan's biggest dam, in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

The biggest project the government has already identified and begun preliminary work on is the Diamer Bhasha dam, which would require USD 15 billion to construct and would have a nameplate capacity of 4,500 MW.

Pakistan is trying to end crippling energy crisis and already started several projects to tackle the power outages by the end of 2017.

All Day

Way cleared for launch of Chinese-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) -- The Nations

On Monday 29th June, 50 countries including Pakistan signed the Articles of Agreement (AOA) for the formal launch of Chinese-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) at an impressive ceremony held at Beijing, which determined each member's share in the proposed capital and the Bank's initial Capital. The AIIB will begin with an authorized capital of \$50 billion, eventually to be enhanced to \$100 billion. The signatories apart from Asian and Latin American nations included UK, Germany and Australia who opted to join the new financial institution despite US opposition to its launch. Seven members are expected to sign by the end of the year when the Bank is set to start its operations. The establishment of the Bank conceived by China became a reality when 21 Asian countries formally signed the MOU for setting up of the Bank on 20th October 2014. Pakistan has been actively associated with the member countries in consultations at all levels to draw up Articles for Agreement since the signing of the MOU.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar who represented Pakistan at the signing ceremony, dilating on the significance of the AIIB said, "We believe that the bank will be an important platform to convert the abundant savings available in the region into investment, to help regional economies achieve sustainable and rapid development and thereby contribute to the world economy. Pakistan hopes to draw financial support for communication and energy infrastructure projects including projects for construction of roads, dams and power generation". It is indeed hard to disagree with what he has said.

The AIIB as per IMF objectives to promote international economic cooperation, international trade, exchange rate stability and to meet balance of payments needs of the member states, aims at providing finances to the member countries for the development of necessary infrastructure which is considered a vital ingredient for nudging the process of sustained economic growth in the developing countries. It would provide finances to the member countries on less stringent conditions than the IMF and also create a healthy competition among the lending institutions to the benefit of the borrowing countries. China is inclined to make the lending process hassle free, to ensure that the borrowing countries do not have to jump through hoops to get their money.

The US virtually enjoys a veto in the major decisions and policies of the existing international lending institutions by being a major contributor, especially the IMF. Thus, the policies framed by these agencies are heavily tilted towards serving the interests of the developed nations and geared to strengthening the existing global economic order. They lack recognition of the cultural sensitivities and moorings of the borrowing nations. The US and its allies view the establishment of AIIB as a threat to the existing international financial institutions. They fear that the establishment of AIIB would relax their hold on the economies of the developing countries of Asia and also undercut the international institutions like the World Bank, IMF and ADB by relaxing fiscal discipline and good governance. US reportedly also used its influence with Australia and few other countries of the region to stay away from venture. The US fails to acknowledge the fact that the Chinese President on the eve of signing of MOU in October 2014 stated in unequivocal terms that the new bank would use the best practices of the World Bank and ADB and other existing multilateral development institutions.

The AIIB would surely enhance the international stature of China. The US is also worried about any move by China to shift world attention from the existing lending institutions as both are engaged in a fierce competition for pre-eminence in Asia. Some circles believe that the establishment of AIIB was China's reaction to being continuously relegated to second class status at the existing institutions. China also is supporting another alternative institution, the New Development Bank sponsored by BRICS countries. The idea being that if US and its allies would not make room for China at the table then Beijing could take its own initiative.

The IMF loans have political repercussions as they are given on very stringent conditions that almost dictate the borrowing countries as to the policies initiatives it should take to improve the health of the economy. It is more discernible in Pakistan where the IMF is insisting on enhancement in the prices of electricity and gas, phasing out subsidies and increase in regressive sales tax which the government finds very unpalatable in view of its political fall out because they directly affect the poor masses. Pakistan is currently spending a big chunk of its budget on debt servicing.

The establishment of AIIB is indeed a very imaginative and prudent move on part of China and member countries. China's phenomenal rise as an economic power has generated excessive savings which can be productively employed for the benefit of all the countries of the region. The move also has the potential of building strong economic linkages and creation of a regional economic fraternity contributing to the health of the regional economies as well as the global economy.

Pakistan will greatly benefit from the establishment of AIIB as it desperately needs resources to build necessary infrastructure to revive its economy as well as to kick-start a process of sustained economic development. It also needs enormous resources to tide over the energy crisis in the country and ensure energy safety in the years to come. The entire focus of the Pak-China Economic Corridor initiative under which China would be making an investment of US\$ 46 billion, is also on building the infrastructure, which would not only provide easy access for Chinese

products to the littoral states of the Indian Ocean and beyond but also help in a big way to boost the economy of Pakistan. The decision by Pakistan to join hands with China and other Asian countries in the establishment of AIIB stems from the new narrative evolved by the present government for building economic and political linkages with neighbours and Asian countries. Pakistan's security and economic progress is inextricably linked to the region where it belongs. Therefore the emphasis on finding solutions to the security and economic challenges confronting it, through collective efforts of the countries of the region is a pragmatic and visionary initiative.

All Day

Pakistan, China expand economic dimension of their ties: Dar -- AAJ TV

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar has said that Pakistan and China have greatly expanded the economic dimension of their relationship as a key priority.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a flagship initiative in this regard which would speed up economic cooperation and connectivity, he said in an interview withh CCTV NEWS (China).

"We have several institutional mechanisms in place such as Pakistan-China FTA and the Pakistan Joint Economic Committee as well, which would boost trade and investment in the years to come."

Ishaq Dar said that two countries had upgraded their strategic partnership to an "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership", formalized in the joint statement issued during the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping's to Pakistan.

The political leadership-level interaction had increased, which would of course further deepen this relationship, he remarked.

Highlighting the significance of Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB), the minister said that the bank would provide financing support to developing countries in Asia, including Pakistan, for infrastructure development in order to promote regional connectivity.

"We believe that the bank will be an important platform to convert the abundant savings available in the region into investment to help regional economies to achieve sustainable and rapid development thereby contributing to the world economy," he added.

The minister said that Pakistan had been supporting the initiative right from the initial announcement for the establishment of AIIB.

The bank, he said, would provide additional financing to support the establishment of infrastructure projects, including construction of roads, dams, power projects etc.

He expected that the bank would cooperate with the existing multilateral development banks by providing co-financing for the development of infrastructure projects in the member countries.

However, he said that the bank would also aim to be leaner and faster than the existing institutions and it would provide some healthy competition.

The AIIB, he added, would distinguish itself from other multilateral development banks (MDB) like the World Bank (WB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) because MDBs major focus was on poverty reduction while the AIIB would focus on infrastructure development and regional connectivity.

Ishaq Dar said,"A regional bank provides an excellent framework for decisions about projects and financing, particularly those with cross-border implications at regional level."

Pakistan, he said, had always extended support to China at regional and international fora.

"We believe this is another of China's sincere efforts to help out developing countries that are left out of the race for economic development otherwise due to lack of support from international financial institutions," he added.

He said the banks, which had been previously shouldering responsibilities for lending, were already overburdened and therefore, there had to be some new institution that could come in handy at this critical juncture.

Infrastructure development and poverty alleviation was needed for nations like Pakistan in Asia to ward-off the dangers of extremism and “I think AIIB is a hope for all of us in Asia,” he noted.

Replying to a question about China-Pakistan Friendship Year, Dar said that Pakistan-China friendship was all-weather and time-tested.

“It is an evergreen relationship that has its roots in the hearts and minds of the people of Pakistan and China. It has been the constant endeavour of our government to add more depth and breadth to this all-important relationship,” he added.

As strategic partners, he said, Pakistan and China had always enjoyed excellent cooperation across a diverse range of areas and sectors.

However, he said, “Our two governments have placed a special emphasis on enlarging the economic footprint of this relationship. We believe that the peoples of both countries should enjoy the fruits of this special relationship.”

As a result, he added, both the countries were cooperating on a number of people-centric projects.

The highlight of these projects, of course, was the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which “we regard as a game changer for our countries as well as the region at large,” he said.

Dar said that the Corridor and its related projects would deliver jobs and prosperity to millions of people in both countries.

Replying to another question regarding Chinese President’s visit to Pakistan in April this year, he said this was President Xi Jinping’s first visit after assuming office in March 2013 and the first by a Chinese President since November 2006.

“This visit was the hallmark of “Pakistan–China Year of Friendly Exchanges: 2015” .

The highlight of the visit, he said, was the signing of over 50 agreements/memorandums of understanding relating to key development projects in infrastructure, energy and communication sectors, under the umbrella of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the governmental and private sector.

Important agreements relating to areas of cooperation outside the CPEC were also concluded, which would go a long way in changing the destiny of the people of the two countries, he added.

Ishaq Dar said that the CPEC was being conceived as a lynchpin of plans by both China and Pakistan to deepen their economic cooperation.

Early implementation of the CPEC would be transformational for Pakistan’s economy and dovetail perfectly with China’s strategy of developing its inland and western regions, he added.

He said that China’s interest in the project was also strategically driven by President Xi Jinping’s visionary concept of integrating regions and countries across the globe under the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative.

“It envisages deepening policy coordination amongst countries and regions, extending and improving infrastructure connectivity in all its forms – road, air, sea, rail, telecommunications, energy etc. – across regions, fostering trade and investment flows and, last but not the least, enhancing people to people connectivity. The CPEC fits naturally into this vision of a ‘Road and Belt’ with Gwadar and Karachi serving as its southern nodes and an outlet to the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf,” he added.

The minister said that regional and sub-regional economic integration as a means to bolster growth, investment and trade in countries had a long chequered history.

However, he said, the recent history of regional economic integration had had some unmistakable successes.

In fact, this had been one of the major successful developments after the Second World War, he added.

Ishaq Dar said that the regional integration in Europe brought success in terms of regional growth, economic development, investment and trade and more importantly fostered peace in the region.

“Hence Asia can also benefit by following the same pattern. In this respect, the Corridor can provide an integrating platform for over three billion people in Central, West and South Asia, the Middle East and Africa regions”, he added.

He said that the increase in trade, investment, digitalization and financial flows would bring peace and prosperity to the region through enhancement in the competitiveness of the economies of the countries, contribute to reducing regional disparities and social inequality, and improve life expectancy and quality of life in every country and in the region.

Thus in real terms, he added, it could re-open the economic artery blocked for years as said by my Chinese brother.

“This shall become even more relevant when we look at future forecasts that Asia and Pacific region’s share in world GDP between 2010 and 2050 is expected to rise from nearly from 28 to more than 52 per cent, with China accounting for 20 per cent and India for 16 per cent,” he remarked.

Replying to yet another question, Ishaq Dar said that Pakistan had always been upfront and committed towards the issues dear to China’s core interests matching the consistent support, friendship and cooperation provided by both countries to one an

All Day

Pakistan's economy better than India's: Bloomberg -- Dunya News

LAHORE: – Pakistan’s economy has been declared better than India’s in Bloomberg report published on Friday. Pakistan has been included among the Top 10 emerging economies of the world, reported Dunya News.

According to the report published by Bloomberg, economic reforms and good relations with the international monetary organizations gave boost to Pakistan economy. It said that the success is better than India’s.

Report says that the payment of loans’ issue was resolved after Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif took over the government. It said that the construction industry also improved, leading to better ratings for Pakistan by Moody’s and Standards and Poors.

Bloomberg report says that interest rate is at 42-year lowest in Pakistan. It says that Nawaz Sharif government kept the economy afloat despite protests in the country. Pakistan wrote a new chapter in the history of reforms, privatization and economic progress, it says, and has become the best undiscovered investment opportunity of the world for investors with a 232-billion dollars economy.

Report goes on to say that Karachi Stock Exchange (KSE) saw 16% improvement during the last one year and is among the 10 best performing stock markets of the world. It says that progress has been observed in cement, construction and steel sectors. It said that the biggest of companies are trying to double their volume.

Appreciating the government reforms, the report says that a 27% increase was

seen in the government expenditure on infrastructure, inflation came down and buying power of Pakistanis increased due to better incomes after Nawaz Sharif government took control in 2013. It says that the current government has also focused on rural progress along with the urban due to which suburban centers are growing fast in the country.

The report also acknowledged China's support for Pakistan, saying that China once again proved to be Pakistan's best friend by investing in 45-billion-dollar economic corridor project. Quoting the business circles in Pakistan, the report says that almost all the fields have observed three-time growth which is a clear indicator of economic progress.

All Day

Chinese assure timely completion of Sahiwal coal power plant -- Daily Times

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, in connection with Sahiwal coal power projects, held a videoconference on Monday from Lahore with president of Hauneng Shandong power generation group in China.

Besides President of Hauneng Shandong, other senior officers of the group also participated in the conference and assured completion of 1320-megawatt coal power project in Sahiwal within stipulated period. Talking to the President of Hauneng Shandong power generation group through video conference, the chief minister said that two power plants of 660 megawatt electricity based on coal are being set up in Sahiwal with the cooperation of China and work is being carried out speedily on this project.

He said that the Sahiwal coal power project is of vital importance for overcoming energy shortage and instructions have been issued to concerned federal and provincial institutions to dispose of all matters relating to the implementation of the project speedily. The chief minister said that Pakistan and China are bound together in strong ties of friendship, which are unprecedented. He said that friendship between the two countries is strengthening with the passage of time.

He said that the visit of Chinese president to Pakistan has promoted historic economic cooperation between the two countries and economic package of China is a big gift for Pakistan. He said that the sincere efforts to remove darkness from the country with the cooperation of China are being furthered speedily as energy projects play an important role in the strengthening of industrial sector of the country as well as national economy. He said that all out efforts are being made for completion of energy projects speedily and Sahiwal coal projects are of vital importance in this regard. He said that he is personally monitoring the pace of progress on these projects regularly.

He said that 1320-megawatt coal power project will start producing electricity from 2017. The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over the progress made on this project so far and thanked Hauneng Shandong and Ryui group for their invaluable cooperation. He also invited President of Hauneng Shandong group to visit the site of Sahiwal coal power project. President of Hauneng Shandong power group said that work on Sahiwal coal power project will be continued in accordance with the expectations of Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif and it will be completed within timeline. He said that orders have been given for the purchase of turbines, generators and boilers and all necessary machinery will reach the site of the Sahiwal coal power project before schedule.

Provincial Minister Col.(R) Shuja Khanzada, Inspector General Police, Additional Chief Secretary Energy, Secretary Home, Chairman Punjab Power Development Company, Chairman Punjab Information Technology Board, Secretary Energy, concerned authorities and the head of Chinese team working on Sahiwal coal power project participated in the conference from Lahore while Commissioner Sahiwal RPO, DCO and DPO also attended the conference through the video link. In the conference held through video link various matters regarding Sahiwal coal power projects were considered in detail.

Shahbaz Sharif has said that the entire nation is united for elimination of terrorism and extremism. He said that Pak army has set glorious examples of valor and courage in the war against terrorism. He said that the unprecedented sacrifices of the martyrs will not go waste and Pakistan will become a haven of peace. He expressed these views while talking to assembly members of various districts who met him, here today. Shahbaz Sharif said that the steps taken against terrorism under National Action Plan are yielding positive results and the war against terrorism, extremism and sectarianism is being fought on every front. He said that Pakistan Army has hit terrorists hard through operation Zarb-e-Azb. The chief minister vowed that making Pakistan a safe and peaceful country is the mission of every Pakistani.

He said that terrorists are enemy of the country and the nation and they will be eliminated at all costs. He said that the terrorists will find no place to hide in Pakistan. He said that Pakistan will be made a peaceful country with the power of unity of the nation. Those who met the Chief Minister included MNAs Tahir Iqbal Chaudhry, Mian Alam Dad Laleka, Rana Zahid Hussain, Abid Raza, Advisor Arshad Saeed MPA, former minister Abdul Waheed Arain, Begum Faiza Mushtaq MPA and former MPA Dewan Mushtaq.

July 11, 2015

Sat

All Day

Pak, China working on 120 MW power plant in Muzaffargarh -- The Nations

Muzaffargarh: An energy unit is being executed with the Chinese assistance at a sugar mill, to produce 120 megawatt electricity from coal and sugarcane husk.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong visited the Unit that is likely to be completed by February next year, at a cost of 27 billion rupees. The Envoy was briefed that completion and subsequent commissioning of the project would open windows for other sugar mills in the country, to set up their own power plants. He was informed that surplus electricity from this unit would be added to the national grid, with the help of Multan Electric power company.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chinese Ambassador said that his country would continue to help Pakistan in different fields, including power and agriculture sectors.

All Day

Good tidings: Iran deal brightens IP gas pipeline prospects -- Express Tribune

ISLAMABAD:

Pakistan has welcomed the landmark nuclear deal signed between Iran and global powers in a move that Islamabad hopes will help remove Western sanctions against doing business with Tehran, the biggest obstacle hindering the completion of the multibillion-dollar Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project.

“Pakistan welcomes the important comprehensive nuclear agreement reached between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the P5+1,” said Foreign Office spokesperson Qazi Khalilullah, hours after the historic agreement. The P5+1 refers to the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council – the United States, Britain, France, China, Russia – plus Germany.

As an ally of Western powers, but also a neighbouring country of Iran that sees Tehran as a potential major supplier of cheap energy, Pakistan’s diplomatic stance on the matter has always been a delicate balancing act. “As a neighbouring country, we have also reiterated that reciprocal confidence-building measures relating to Iran’s nuclear programme auger well for peace and security in our region,” Qazi said.

Read: Iran, big powers clinch landmark nuclear deal

Within hours of the announcement of the deal, a discussion was under way in a Senate panel in Islamabad about how the deal would affect economic ties with Iran, specifically the fate of the IP gas pipeline. At a meeting of the Senate Special Committee on Gas Infrastructure Implementation, Petroleum Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi sounded an optimistic note about the project with the expectation of sanctions being lifted against Tehran.

“It is our international commitment that we will connect the gas pipeline with Iran. From the Gwadar side we have already started it. With the [expected] relaxation of sanctions, both [Pakistan and Iran] will conclude work on the gas pipeline,” said Abbasi, responding to questions from senators about why work on the gas pipeline had been halted.

Pakistan faces a massive shortage of natural gas as the gap between demand and supply often exceeds 2,000 million cubic feet per day (mmcf). The IP gas pipeline would supply 750 mmcf at rates cheaper than the liquefied natural gas (LNG) Pakistan would most likely begin importing from Qatar. Work on the badly needed pipeline, which was supposed to have commenced operations by December 2014, was halted under intense US pressure, as well as internal fears within the Pakistani banking system that failure to comply with US and European sanctions would result in the country being cut off from the global financial system.

As a result, Pakistan began an alternative plan, building an extended pipeline that would connect Gwadar to the natural gas pipeline hub at Nawabshah.

This new pipeline, meant to transport imported LNG from Gwadar port to the northern parts of the country, would have the potential to be extended to Iran once the sanctions were lifted. Iran tacitly agreed to this plan, and has not yet pressed any late fees on Pakistan for failing to complete the project on time.

“Pakistan never stopped work on this project but sanctions against Iran remained a major stumbling block in executing the project,” said Abbasi.

Combined, the two projects are expected to have a cost of Rs1 trillion (\$9.9 billion). “We are hopeful to start work on the Gwadar LNG pipeline in September this year from Nawabshah,” Abbasi told The Express Tribune.

At this early stage, it is not yet clear how soon the sanctions would be lifted, a fact

that the minister took note of. "We will have to see the modalities of lifting sanctions against Iran, whether they are lifted in phases or in one go," he said.

GIDC bill

The Senate committee also discussed the gas infrastructure development cess (GIDC). Abbasi told the lawmakers that the government has stopped collecting the GIDC from consumer gas bills for the last three months, as a result of which it has only been able to achieve half its Rs272 billion collection target.

Read: IP gas pipeline: Iran threatens to slap penalties for delays

The committee will take up the GIDC bill after Eid. Lawmakers in the Senate have already criticised the government, urging it to present the bill in the Council of Common Interest (CCI) for consultation with the provinces before its passage. Abbasi told lawmakers that Rs100 billion would be collated annually through this levy and it would be used for gas infrastructure, adding that no province is self-sufficient in gas.

All Day

IP pipeline most feasible of energy projects -- The Nation

ISLAMABAD - Iran Pakistan gas pipeline 'Peace Pipeline' is the most feasible of all the projects and the government should start work on it immediately, as it is cheapest and cleanest alternative to the imported expensive LNG, imported coal and furnace oil, official source told The Nation.

The commissioning of the Iran Pakistan gas pipeline also dubbed as "Peace Pipeline" will end reliance on the, most expensive fuel in power sector, furnace oil and will silence various camps currently lobbying for the import of oil and coal, an expert of the Planning Commission said on the condition of the anonymity. Besides, the pipeline will also reduce the importance of the imported coal which the country was planning to import in desperation to meet acute energy shortage. If clean fuel is easily available why one will consider the import of dirty fuel (coal), which is hard to transport, environmentally hazardous and with fluctuating prices, the expert said.

The US-Iran deal has created a hope for Pakistan to quench its thirst for the cheap energy and the government is required to fully and immediately exploit the situations, emerged of Iran nuclear deal. After the indigenous energy resources, the official said, the Iranian gas pipeline is the second priority. "Half of our natural gas deficit of 1500 mmcf will be filled with the construction of Iran Pakistan gas pipeline which will transport 750 mmcf" the official maintained adding that he doesn't believe on the shortage figure of 2000 mmcf figure as it seems too exaggerated. Natural gas is the cleanest burning fossil fuel and is being used throughout the world to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Compared to coal, natural gas produces far fewer carbon dioxide emissions and sulfur emissions.

Similarly on the LNG side the starting of work on Iran Pakistan gas pipeline will provide an upper hand to Pakistan in its price negotiations of LNG with Qatar or any other country of the world," the official maintained. Now the government should public the prices of LNG, as we will still need LNG import but on Pakistan's terms, the expert maintained adding that Pakistan is a huge market for the gas but we need to avoid long term and expensive agreement for the LNG import.

Pakistan was planning to import 500 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) of LNG from Qatar which will ultimately reach to 2000 mmcf in coming three years, but after the IP commissioning the country will have a shortage of 750 mmcf of gas so we only need to import one-third of the earlier planned import, the expert said.

The federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resource has earlier told the Senate Special committee that Pakistan has never stopped work on Iran Pakistan pipeline and work from the Gwadar side have already started. "Connection of the pipeline with Iran is our international commitment and we have to fulfill it" the minister said adding that Pakistan never stopped work on this project but sanctions against Iran were a major hurdle in its execution.

Work on the pipeline was supposed to have completed by December 2014, was halted under intense US pressure. As an alternative plan, it was decided that a 700 km LNG pipeline from Gwadar would be laid to connect it to the main natural gas pipeline at Nawabshah. A LNG terminal has been proposed at Gwadar. The Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline would also be ultimately extended by 71 kilometers towards the Iranian border for transportation of gas. According to Minister of Petroleum Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, the two projects are expected to have a cost of Rs 1000 billion.

First conceived over 20 years ago, the 1682km pipeline will transport gas from Iran to Pakistan and China is currently financing the construction of a gas pipeline from Nawabshah to Gwadar.

Once that is built, Pakistan has reportedly agreed to finance the project. The pipeline, to be completed in two years, would eventually supply Pakistan with enough gas, 750 mmcf, to fuel 4,500 megawatts of electricity generation, which is country's current electricity shortfall.

Under the IP contract, Pakistan is bound to pay a penalty as it failed to complete the construction of its portion of the pipeline by December 31 2014. But Iran tacitly agreed to the alternative plan, of constructing Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline, and has not yet pressed any late fees on Pakistan. Iran has already completed the 900 km section of the pipeline on its territory.

Now Pakistan needs to accelerate work on the project as earlier due to sanction no international lender was ready to fund the project but now the scenario has totally changed and beside China other countries and institutions will be ready to provide

the money for the early completion of the project, the expert maintained.

All Day

Zunjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has termed Sahiwal Coal Power Project a great example of Pak-China friendship. -- Pakistan Today

He was holding a video conference from Lahore, with Chinese Power Company Huang Sheng Dong President Wang Wen Dong in Beijing on Tuesday.

Both sides discussed progress on the project and watched the videos of construction work. They agreed to take all out measures for speedy completion of the project.

The chief minister said all possible measures are being taken for smooth transportation of coal from Karachi port to the site. He assured to provide every facility to the Chinese company's engineers and other staff of the project.

The Chinese company president of said the project will be completed according to chief minister's vision.

All Day

China-funded LNG project to turn into Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline:

Abbasi -- Pakistan Today

With Iran's nuclear deal finally secured, Pakistan is hoping to be one of its first benefactors by using the China-funded LNG pipeline to complete the much delayed IP gas pipeline project.

According to Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, the solution to Pakistan's energy woes lies in importing more natural gas to adequately meet its energy needs.

"Gas is 50 per cent of Pakistan's total energy needs today," he told Voice of America.

However, Pakistan may not be able to complete the IP gas pipeline project without financial assistance from China as the expected cost to complete it is a hefty amount of \$2 billion.

China is likely to fund 85 per cent of the \$2 billion required to build a liquid natural gas terminal at Gwadar and to install a 700 kilometre-long pipeline to other areas.

The LNG project is expected to start in October this year and will take 30 months to build. "The same pipeline will turn into the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline when the time comes," said the petroleum minister.

"So as soon as we see that the sanctions are lifted or being lifted, there is only [an] 80 kilometre stretch of pipeline that we have to build. And that can be built in about six months," Abbasi explained.

Gwadar is at the heart of China, Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which will connect the port city to western China's autonomous Xinjiang region with a network of highways, railways and pipelines.

The \$46 billion CPEC will connect China to the sea which would drastically reduce shipping times and costs from its mainland to the Middle East and Europe.

Government officials believe that trade with Iran will significantly improve after the sanctions are lifted, with crude oil, petrol and diesel being some of the hot commodities.

Further, the Iranian oil that was previously being smuggled into the country will now be formally brought to the market, they said.

The Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline had long been stalled owing to the imposition of international economic sanctions on Iran in response to its nuclear development programme.

Pakistan's energy crisis has worsened in the past years, calling for drastic measures to improve the crippling energy sector so it can boost the country's frail economy.

Unannounced power outages are common not only in rural but urban areas as well and the recent heatwave, that hit the country's southern parts, made matters worse.

All Day

Over Rs 20,000m allocated for Western alignment of CPEC -- Radio Pakistan

Government has allocated twenty thousand and three hundred million rupees for Western alignment project under China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC).

An official of National Highway Authority (NHA) said in Islamabad that twenty-eight hundred million rupees have been allocated for Gwadar-Turbat-Hoshab section of Gwadar-Ratodero Highway.

He said twenty five hundred million rupees have been earmarked for widening and improvement of Hoshab-Nag-Basima-Surab Highway.

Three thousand million rupees have been approved for Zhob-Mughal Kot section of Kuchlak-Zhob-D.I.Khan.

The official said ten thousand million rupees have also been allocated for land acquisition and construction of western alignment and other CPEC projects.

To a question, the NHA official said that western alignment of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would become operational by December next year.

He said that Balochistan province will be the biggest beneficiary of CPEC.

All Day

China renews pledge to complete CPEC at any cost -- The Nations

ISLAMABAD - China has reaffirmed its total commitment to complete China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) at all costs after Pakistan's political leadership took ownership of multibillion dollars project that would benefit the two brotherly neighbouring countries.

This resolve came from within China's powerful ruling party - Communist Party of China (CPC) - and that too with a greater sense of gratification over the manner Pakistan's political leadership took a consensus decision about CPEC's western alignment.

"It's really gratifying that all the political parties in Pakistan have consensus on this project. CPEC will be built with consensus within 'one belt one road' framework", Chen Fengxiang, CPC's Vice Minister for International Department, has reaffirmed. Chen, who spoke to The Nation in Beijing on July 9, was of the view that the China-Pakistan relations have reached historical level as CPEC will help further cement bilateral ties between the two nations.

China had to secure ownership of CPEC from mainstream political parties in Pakistan for a number of reasons.

There could be many reasons to that, but there are three factors which are chiefly responsible to push Beijing to secure political ownership for the CPEC project.

One of the three reasons is that it wanted to create a political framework which it would use to negotiate with other countries which will become part of the project called 'one belt, one road'.

The 'one belt, one road' project is also part of Chinese 21st century vision of reviving the old Silk Route that would connect 54 countries through land, rail and sea routes. The second factor for securing political backing for the CPEC is to ensure that all political parties are on the same page, and have consensus on the \$40 billion plus project to be completed by 2030.

China had proposed the idea of CPEC to Pakistan in September, 2013 when Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarian (PPPP) was in power with party's co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari, as President of Pakistan.

The proposal was deliberated threadbare by China and Pakistan and both the countries eventually agreed on North-South route connecting all the four provinces through highways with Gwadar port and Kashgar, the western most Chinese city. Apart from PPPP, the ruling party in China has also cultivated good friendly ties with almost all the political religious parties of Pakistan and deepened party to party cooperation on various issues of mutual interest including eradication of terrorism. Yet, the PPP and CPC enjoy unique relations largely for the historic ties between the two political entities of China and Pakistan.

The CPC was gratified on the role of PPP for hosting an All Parties Conference (APC) on the controversial issue of route change that helped evolve a broad based national consensus on developing the western alignment of the CPEC first.

This was followed by another APC convened by the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif which after deep deliberations also agreed to undertake the western alignment.

A high level PPP delegation, led by former deputy speaker of the National Assembly Faisal Karim Kundi, has recently visited China, conveyed to the CPC leadership of the decision about the western alignment.

"Despite differences among the political on other issues, all the political parties in Pakistan are on one page when it comes to China", Faisal Karim Kundi told Vice Minister Chen Fengxiang.

The 4000 km road being constructed between Gwadar and Kashgar as key component of the 'one belt, one road' that would eventually connect as many as 54 countries has been designed by the Chinese government.

Despite major challenges Beijing has opted for the CPEC to be undertaken first because of its feasibility.

Pakistan Army has set up a special security division for the security of Chinese nationals working on the CPEC.

According to National Highway Authority (NHA), the construction work on highway connecting Gwadar port with upcountry on the western alignment is in progress as Frontier Works Organization (FWO) has completed more than 500 kilometers road. Similarly, work on various patches of the western alignment is also in progress including the strip from Burhan motorway intersection to Havallian and upto Thakot. Work on a number of bridges and tunnels is also being executed.

All Day

Gwadar port, CPEC to be completed at all costs: Army Chief -- Dunya News

PANJGUR) – Army Chief General Raheel Sharif said on Saturday that Gwadar port and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will be completed at all costs. General Raheel said that army is well aware of nefarious plans of enemies and will crush such intentions with full force, reported Dunya News.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), roads constructed are a part of CPEC. 502 out of 870 kilometres worth of roads have been constructed.

Admiring Frontier Works Organization's (FWO) work, General Raheel Sharif said that Gwadar port and CPEC will be constructed at all costs adding that Gwadar port will be an important port in the defence of country.

General Sharif said that army is well aware of the nefarious plans made against Gwadar port. The army, he said, will spare no expense and leave no stone unturned to realize the dreams of the country.

He also praised law enforcement agencies in the province saying that their crackdown against terrorists and their activities is commendable.

General Raheel Sharif paid tribute to the people of Balochistan adding that the country thanks the people of province for extending full support for completion of development projects.

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All Day

: Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Monday directed completion of infrastructure projects under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by end of 2017 -- Geo TV

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Monday directed completion of infrastructure projects under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by end of 2017 by mobilizing resources and completing financial and technical formalities.

He was chairing a high level meeting of CPEC to review the progress of infrastructure and energy projects. Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal Secretary Water and Power and Secretary Planning and Development briefed the Prime Minister on various projects.

The Prime Minister was informed that major infrastructure projects of Peshawar-Karachi Motorway including Sukkur, Multan, Gojra, Khanewal and Lahore, Abdul Hakim Sections of Motorway were ready for groundbreaking.

The meeting reviewed the Havelian to Thakot road project and other sections of KKH that were being upgraded. The meeting also reviewed the progress on the Gwadar East Bay Expressway Mughalkot, D.I Khan Road and other road projects in Balochistan.

The Prime Minister said that completion of road projects in Balochistan under CPEC would be a game changer for the region. He directed that all necessary arrangements be completed before the inauguration so the physical work could be started immediately thereafter.

The Prime Minister was informed that work on Attabad tunnel in Gilgit has been completed and is ready for inauguration in last week of August. The Prime Minister would inaugurate the tunnel.

The Prime Minister directed completion of work on new Gwadar International Airport in the shortest possible time.

The PM was briefed about the projects of up-gradation of 10 railway stations on Peshawar-Karachi main railway line. The Prime Minister directed quality up-gradation of railway stations provision of maximum facilities to passengers and to utilize the buildings of railway stations for economic and commercial activities.

All Day

Pakistan and Belarus would sign agreements for agriculture -- Pakistan Observer

Wednesday, July 29, 2015 - Islamabad—Among other engagements, Pakistan and Belarus would sign at least three agreements for agriculture cooperation during the upcoming visit of Prime Minister of Pakistan to Belarus. A four-member high-level delegation of Belarus scientists have had detailed discussions with the scientists of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) to explore the areas of agriculture and livestock cooperation.

Both the countries are having huge potential for cooperation as Pakistan is agricultural country whereas Belarus has also advanced its agriculture sector through the use of scientific technology. The focus of the cooperation could be on promotion of biotechnology, crop productivity, livestock and agriculture machinery. Speaking on the occasion Chairman PARC, Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad highlighted the importance of agriculture sector in the world, saying that there were about 16000 scientists in Belarus for population of just 10 million.

However, the situation is reverse in Pakistan where just 600 scientists were working for its 200 million population. He urged the Belarus delegation to highlight the importance of agriculture sector during the upcoming visit of Prime Minister of Pakistan to Belarus. He said that scientific cooperation would help transfer of knowledge, adding that Pakistan has an opportunity to enhance agriculture cooperation with Belarus and take advantage of latest technology that country has produced.

He said that during the upcoming visit of Pakistan PM, three agreements related to agriculture sector would be signed with Belarus to promote agriculture sector of the country on modern lines.

He said that cooperation with Belarus would also help Pakistan to take full advantage of Pak-China Economic Corridor and establish agricultural sciences parks on the thoroughfare. He also urged the NARC management to set up new institute for bio-technology and nanotechnology to have positive impact on agriculture sector. In his detailed presentation, Belarus delegate Academician Secretary, Department of Biological Sciences of National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Belarus, Mikhail Nikiforov said that Belarus has developed several crop technologies that could be utilized for the betterment of Pakistan agriculture sector.

All Day

Governor Punjab supports promotion of Chinese language in Pakistan -- Dunya News)

LAHORE – Governor Punjab Rafique Rajwana on Wednesday directed to establish centers for the promotion of Chinese language, Dunya News reported.

While talking at Pak-China-Arab thematic conference, governor Punjab lauded the friendship of China and stated that China has always helped Pakistan. He said that authorities are completing the projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridors (CPEC) despite the criticism.

Moreover, Rafique Rajwana assured that Pakistan will develop after implementation of CPEC.

All Day

Govt offers lucrative incentives to foreign investors: Miftah -- Pakistan Observer

Thursday, July 30, 2015 - Islamabad—Zhiren Lu, Managing Director, Zhejiang Dayu Roads & Bridges Engineering Co. Ltd China along with 3-member Chinese delegation visited Board of Investment and met with Minister of State/Chairman, BOI Dr. Miftah Ismail. Chairman, BOI welcomed the Chinese investors to invest in Pakistan in all sectors of the economy especially in hydro power, ports & harbor, bridges and Roads Constructions etc. Chairman, BOI informed that Pakistan is committed to provide an investment friendly regime to investors by offering lucrative fiscal incentives and conducive business environment to foreign investors.

He said that China and Pakistan have entered into a comprehensive plan of Pak – China economic corridor. Pakistan China trade and economic relations have a great scope for expansion. Pakistan and China as strategic partners have been cooperating in various fields of mutual interest. The recent visit of the Chinese President will further cement the existing relations and open new avenues for cooperation. All these strengths offer Chinese investors and business community unlimited business opportunities. M/s. Zhejiang Ring Construction Group was created in 1957, and has a national Premier General Contractor construction, is a construction, installation, decoration, and other specialized facilities for comprehensive enterprise group, a part of the National 500 is a large construction company, the national excellent construction company.

Mr. Zhiren Lu thanked BOI for cooperation and briefing regarding the investment opportunities available in Pakistan. M/s. Zhejiang Ring Construction Group principally engaged in the construction of roads and bridges projects. Mr. Zhiren Lu shows keen interest in construction of roads and bridges projects in Pakistan. Chairman said that BOI being the apex body of the Government of Pakistan for investment promotion and facilitation to foreign investors assure them full support as and when needed. He also assured Zhejiang Ring Construction Group to arrange their meeting with NHA to explore available projects in Pakistan. At the end Dr. Miftah Ismail, MOS/Chairman, BOI thanked the Chinese delegation and appreciated their efforts and intention with regard to boost investment and economic relations between the two countries

All Day

PCJCCI seeks proactive role of Pakistan in SCO -- Pakistan Observer

Lahore—Shah Faisal Afridi, President Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry, while commenting on full membership of Pakistan in Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), has said that it will enable Pakistan to diversify its foreign policy and play a more effective role in stability of the region. Afridi has the appreciated the government efforts on this achievement and expressed the hope that Pakistan's permanent status in the SCO would prove to be milestone in achieving the millennium development goals set for Pakistan.

Mr. Afridi urged upon the government to play that being permanent member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Pakistan should play a proactive role in the formation of an integrated and connected Eurasia. "It's time to work with the "Shanghai Spirit" he asserted and said that SCO could not be undermined in this complex world order as it covers 60 percent of the total Eurasian landmass and nations having world's largest energy resources. Faisal Afridi pointed out that SCO had created a new model of international relations encouraging partnership instead of alliance.

Terming the SCO as "fully in tune with the realities and requirements of the 21st century", he said that SCO had introduced a new model for future of the international relationships. He mentioned that as this is going to be an Asian Century, "the regional and world powers couldn't ignore Pakistan in any kind of framework that places a focus on peace and development within the geographical arena of SCO" added Afridi.

While evaluating Pakistan's quest for full membership, he explained that Pakistan had the requisite credentials — a constructive role in Afghanistan, determination to fight against forces of terrorism, extremism and separatism, a promising and

prospective energy and trade corridor for the region, historical and cultural ties with Central Asian Republics, close strategic and economic ties with China, and growing relations with Russia — that supported Pakistan's claim to full membership of the SCO. As members of the SCO, Pakistan should have to observe the 'Shanghai spirit'.

Afridi said that Pakistan is a natural ally of the SCO, ideally located where it can be a source for regional economic integration within and between SCO member states. Chinese assistance in developing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in Pakistan (CPEC), developing Gwadar Port and Kashgar as a special economic zone, upgrading the Karakorum Highway (KKH) and linking Gwadar with Kashgar and Central Asia via the KKH are steps being taken with the SCO's efforts to create trans-continental overland connectivity, he added.

Afridi further elaborated that the main goals of the SCO bloc are to strengthen mutual confidence and good-neighborly relations among the member states moreover the bloc seeks cooperation among the states in energy, transportation, tourism, environmental protection as well as joint efforts to maintain and ensure peace, security and stability in the region, added Afridi.

He explicated that the six member states of SCO was covering a territory hosting more than one-quarter of the world's population and the forum was not an alliance directed against any other state or region. "Over the last decade, its activities have expanded to include military cooperation, intelligence sharing and counter terrorism drills in order to combat three evil forces: separatism, extremism and terrorism" added Afridi.

He said that the SCO's membership would be in Pakistan's interest. "If Pakistan plays its cards well it would enhance Pakistan's stature in the diplomatic ranking of the region". Pakistan's membership of the SCO would not only provide an opportunity to Pakistan in influencing the regional security architecture to its benefit but it could also be able to acquire an important position in the SCO's 2015 to 2025 vision. He advised that Pakistan should prepare itself well to avail the openings and opportunities offered by the SCO because the SCO has proven its effectiveness in conflict resolution and the conflict prevention mechanism.

All Day

Hashoo Group to expand its five-star hotel in Gwadar -- APP

ISLAMABAD: Chian-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will benefit both the countries. Gwadar, owing to ideal location of its deep Sea Port, is expected to develop into a regional hub, serving the incoming, outgoing commercial traffic, and also facilitating in transit and intra-transit trade from many countries.

Once the connection between Gwadar Port and Kashgar through the Indus and the Karakoram Highway materialises, it will serve Pakistan and China's economic interests as well.

According to press release, Hashoo Group invested over Rs2 billion including construction of 'five-star hotel in the region by the name of Zaver Pearl Continental Gwadar to cater to the needs of its customers who are mostly government officials, foreigners, businessmen, bankers, tourists etc'.

Located on the cliff-top of the Koh-e-Batil in the beautiful surroundings of Arabian Sea and clear beaches, the hotel has 114 bedrooms equipped with modern facilities, 3 restaurants offering variety of cuisines, coffee shop, banquet facilities, health club & SPA, 24 hours business centre, and car rental facilities available for both in-house and walk in clients. The hotel is a gem unmatched with any other facility in the region.

Further, given the scenic attraction of Gwadar with its long stretch of golden sunny beaches, it is soon expected to become a tourist resort for the national and international tourists.

The Makran coastal highway has linked Gwadar with Karachi, which has improved access to the Hotel. Additionally there is also an air link to Gwadar from other cities. The new road network for being built for Pak-China Economic Corridor will give access to this city from Southern Punjab and KPK and this will result in influx of tourist visiting Gwadar.

Keeping in view the recent increase in economic activity in the area and the promising future prospects of the Gwadar, the Hashoo Group is planning expansion of its existing 5-star Hotel initially by adding 40 deluxe rooms by complete phase II of the Hotel for which drawings, foundation and piling work is ready. This will not only provide additional accommodation but will also be instrumental in uplifting the economic situation in the region. Further the Hashoo Group is also planning to add another 300 rooms accommodation by putting up Hotel Apartment Building on the adjacent Hotel Land for which initial studies are underway.

All Day

New era of Pak-China relations starts during current tenure: CM -- BR
LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said on Wednesday that a new era of economic relations between Pakistan and China had started during the current tenure of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

Talking to a delegation from Ji Ning City China led by Secretary Ji Ning Municipal Party Committee Ma Ping Chang, he said Pak-China friendship had been stood strong every hour of trial.

Promotion of cooperation in energy particularly mining sector was discussed during the meeting.

The chief minister said bilateral relations were touching new heights of friendship and cooperation.

Mentioning the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the chief minister said the historic economic package besides investment given by China was a great gift for Pakistan.

He said the historic economic package of 46 billion dollars during the visit of Chinese President to Pakistan was a glorious example of everlasting friendship between both the countries and Pakistani people could never forget this favour.

The CM said the CPEC would not only bring prosperity in Pakistan but the in the whole region.

Shehbaz Sharif said a huge amount of 33 billion dollars had been allocated for energy projects under CPEC.

He said the work on the project under CPEC in Punjab had been started briskly, adding the construction of 1320 megawatt coal power project plant had been started in Sahiwal and this project would start producing electricity in 2017.

Similarly, he said, a 900 megawatt solar project was being set up in Bahawalpur which would be completed in 2016.

He said that Chinese companies were making investment in all these projects, adding the CPEC projects would be completed through round-the-clock work and no hindrance in this regard would be tolerated.

He said that there should be maximum exchange of delegations for the promotion of bilateral relations and the both nations should benefit from the experiences of each other.

Head of Chinese delegation Ma Ping Chang speaking on the occasion expressed his willingness to extend cooperation with the Punjab government.

He said that Chinese consider Lahore as their second home. Acknowledging untiring efforts of Shehbaz Sharif, he appreciated development in Punjab province.

Chairman Shandong RuYi Group Qiu Yafu, Executive President Shandong Group Zhai Meng Giang and senior officials of various companies were included in the delegation while Provincial Minister for Minerals Ch Sher Ali, Secretaries Minerals, Energy and concerned officials were also present.

All Day

Economic relations: MoU to promote Pak-China trade -- The Express Tribune

The Punjab Board of Investment and Trade and the China Overseas Investment Federation on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to utilise their resources to enhance trade between the two countries.

The MoU stated that the two organisations would evolve a plan for generating investment opportunities in infrastructure, agriculture, livestock, renewable energy, mining, information technology and textile sectors of the two countries.

They agreed to arrange trade fairs and exchange visits in this regard.

PBIT chairman Abdul Basit said that under the MoU emerging Chinese enterprises would be invited to invest in the province. He said the PBIT would facilitate such enterprises.

The COIF delegation was headed by its executive president, Marshall Zhenb.

Representatives of several Chinese companies in the infrastructure and energy development, security services, industrial investment and asset management sectors were part of the delegation.

All Day

Need stressed to increase trade with China, Germany -- Pak Observer

Karachi—Patron-in-Chief of Pak China Club and chairman of Al-Karma Towel Industries Mahtab Uddin Chawala has said that trade of Pakistan with Germany and China needs to be further increased. Talking at a dinner hosted at his house in honour of Pakistani ambassador in Germany Syed Hassan Javed and Consul General of China Ma Mayau he said Germany and China have a major role in the trade and commerce of the region; therefore, increasing trade volume with these both important countries is in the interest of Pakistan. Consul General of China Ma Mayau said on the occasion that bilateral trade with China is being increased. He said increasing investment is also amongst our priorities.

Chawala said there are vast opportunities of investment in Pakistan in different sectors like energy and infrastructure and the traders of China and Germany should invest in these lucrative sectors. On the occasion the president of Pak China Club Javed Rashid Asghar Arian said tariffs should be positively adjusted keeping the local industrial situation in Pakistan. He said reduction in tariff is a must for increasing trade relations with Pakistan. Pak China Club senior Vice President Rehan Uddin Chawala said with the exchange of trade delegations with both Germany and China new vistas of trade would be opened.—INP

All Day

Pak, China Sign USD Two Billion Agreements in Field of Energy, Health -- Outlook

Pakistan and China have signed 20 agreements worth USD 2 billion in the field of energy, communication, social services, agriculture, health, education and infrastructure, state media reported today.

The agreements were signed yesterday as the two-day meet of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Karamay- Xinjiang Forum concluded in China.

Associated Press of Pakistan reported that the MoUs were signed in sectors of energy, communication, social services, agriculture, health, education and infrastructure at the Karamay Government Municipal Auditorium.

A consortium of 35 Chinese companies was also formed that will invest in Pakistan, pushing forward the CPEC.

The next meeting of the forum would be held in October this year in Beijing.

Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal proposed cooperation in space technology between Pakistan and China as part of the historic

declaration, saying it will take the bilateral relations to new heights.

He assured the Chinese that Pakistan was committed in implementation of the economic corridor in letter and spirit.

"I give an open invitation to Chinese firms to contact us directly in case of any problem they face in Pakistan; we will eliminate all obstacles in the way of CPEC," he said.

The CPEC was announced when Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan earlier this year. The USD 46 billion ambitious project would link western China with Gawadar seaport on the Arabian Sea in Balochistan province.

All Day

Pakistan, China sign 20 MoUs worth \$2 billion -- Express Tribune

Pakistan and China on Wednesday signed 20 memoranda of understanding (MoU) worth \$2 billion as the two-day historic moot of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Karamay-Xinjiang Forum concluded.

The MoUs were signed in sectors of energy, communication, social services, agriculture, health, education and infrastructure at the Karamay Government Municipal Auditorium.

A consortium of 35 Chinese companies was also formed that will invest in Pakistan pushing forward the CPEC.

Read: MoU to promote Pak-China trade

The participants laid great emphasis on sustainability and decided to make the forum an annual feature. The next meeting of the forum would be held in October this year in Beijing.

In his brief address, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal proposed cooperation in space technology between Pakistan and China as part of the historic declaration, saying it will take the Pak-China relations to new heights.

Iqbal lauded the organisers of the Pak-China forum for holding such an event.

"I assure you on behalf of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and government of Pakistan that we are committed in implementation of the CPEC in letter and spirit.

I give an open invitation to Chinese firms to contact us directly in case of any problem they face in Pakistan; we will eliminate all obstacles in the way of CPEC.

Read: Agreements signed between Pakistan and China

"Sun is rising from the east and the history will not forget what accomplished today from the two days moot of this historic forum. This is sure to bring everlasting prosperity to the region."

All Day

LCCI urges Pak-China businessmen to increase trade -- Daily Times

LAHORE: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) has urged the Pakistani and Chinese businessmen to speed up their efforts to enhance two-way trade volume.

While talking to the Chinese businessmen on Thursday, LCCI Vice President Mahmood Ghaznavi said that businessmen of both the countries should identify new areas for joint ventures.

He said that the Pak-China Economic Corridor (CPEC) would start a new era of trade and economic cooperation, adding that Pakistan's private sector should avail this unique opportunity to the maximum.

The LCCI vice president said that CPEC is an ample proof of unbreakable Pak-China historic friendship. He said that both the countries are associated together in strong ties and their mutual relations are based on solid foundations. He said that economic globalisation and regional integration has provided enormous opportunities for further cooperation between China and Pakistan. "Pakistan is an ideal destination of foreign investment and is a top priority of the Chinese investors," he added. He said that Pakistan had made attractive investment policies that provide a lot of investment opportunities to the Chinese entrepreneurs to come and invest in Pakistan.

Mahmood Ghaznavi said that an obvious increase in frequency of the Chinese delegations to Pakistan makes it apparent that special significance is being given by China to Pakistan to further strengthen the relations.

He said that in context of the ongoing project of CPEC, the need and importance of private-to-private contacts has mounted. "Being the hub of business activities in Punjab, Lahore holds a special significance. Both public and private sector organisations are striving hard to fully exploit the trade and investment potential of Punjab in collaboration with the foreign investors," he added.

The LCCI vice president said that China is first choice of the Pakistani business community for joint ventures. "We hope that the state level cooperation between two countries will bring greater fortune to both of us. China is an important trading partner of Pakistan. It is the second largest importing country after UAE and regarding the top exporting countries of Pakistan, China comes at second place after USA," he added. He said that these stats are bound to improve in a decade or so because once the CPEC project becomes fully functional, a win-win situation would take place for both the countries, adding that in the meantime, we need to interact on regular basis for exploring avenues for trade expansion and opportunities for investments.

The LCCI vice president said that there are ample opportunities of trade for the Chinese businessmen in almost all the sectors or sub-sectors of economy. "Although our Chinese delegates would study the Pakistani market related to their focus areas but Pakistan has got a lot to offer being the closest trading partner of China," he added.

August 15, 2015

Sat

All Day

Navy conducts security exercise to protect Gwadar -- Daily Times
KARACHI – In order to check efficacy of security mechanism in place for the protection of the Gwadar port and associated infrastructure against any terrorist venture, the Pakistan Navy conducted coastal security exercise – Tahaffuz-e-Sahil.

In this exercise, the Special Operations Forces of the Pakistan Navy, marines, ships and aircraft participated. Apart from displaying high degree of professionalism, synergy was achieved amongst various stakeholders including the law enforcement agencies and other relevant organization.

Various scenarios cum contingencies related to asymmetric threats to port/infrastructure were exercised. During debrief of the exercise, Coast Commander Rear Admiral Syed Bashir Ahmad lauded efforts of all participants in making the exercise a success by achieving desired goals.

He emphasised on the need for continuous training and holding of such exercises regularly all along the coastal belt in coordination with all maritime stakeholders.

All Day

‘CPEC a key to region’s prosperity’ -- APP

ISLAMABAD: The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has not only set up the strategic framework for increasing cooperation between China and Pakistan but it would also contribute to development and prosperity of the whole region.

The important projects to be completed under the CEPC initiative includes the Gwadar Port, the second phase of the upgrading project of Karakoram Highway, Motorway project between Karachi and Lahore, Thakot Havelian Motorway, Gwadar Port Expressway, Gwadar International Airport and Karachi-Sukkur Motorway.

Reiterating the commitment and resolve of the Chinese government, Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Jianchao while briefing a delegation of journalists from Pakistan and Afghanistan who recently visited the Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing, said that the one of the purposes of building CPEC is to promote regional development, adding that it is important for the countries of entire region to support the initiative.

The Chinese leadership has been appreciating the ongoing military operation Zarb-e-Azb against terrorists and militants, as the maintenance of peace is vital for development of CPEC.

Commending Pakistan’s Armed Forces role, Liu Jianchao said, “China pays glowing tributes to the sacrifices rendered by the people, government and the armed force of Pakistan in fighting the menace of terrorism.”

He said that some terrorist elements were still present in Pakistan and they could damage the Pakistani government, its people and also CPEC, adding, “We will provide assistance to Pakistan to make sure that no force will be able to stop the development of CPEC.”

A senior Chinese diplomat also said that the CPEC is not limited to a road but it would connect the country with a number of motorways and infrastructure projects.

He said the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping early this year had provided a strategic framework for broadening avenues of cooperation with Pakistan in diverse fields.

The state visit launched a new chapter in the bilateral relations and both the countries should take this opportunity to promote implementation of the projects announced during the visit, he added.

The two sides, during the visit, agreed to increase collaboration in areas of energy, finance, commerce, banking, industry and education.

The two countries agreed to formulate 1 plus 4 structure of cooperation comprising CPEC as the main component with important projects.

According to the economic experts, soon after taking oath of his office, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif announced to initiate a number of projects in a bid to correct the ailing economy of the country.

Of the many projects, power seemed the most crucial sector, a sector that would strengthen other sectors of the economy. These projects have, enthusiastically, been taken on by the strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China, now being referred to as the CPEC.

The CPEC is an under-construction development programme to connect Gwadar Port in southern Pakistan to China's northwestern autonomous region of Xinjiang via highways, railways and pipelines to transport oil and gas.

When the corridor is constructed, it would serve as a primary gateway for trade between China, Middle East and Africa.

The project received a major boost when control of Gwadar was transferred to China's state-owned China Overseas Ports Holding (COPH) in February 2013.

Built by the Chinese workers and opened in 2007, Gwadar is undergoing a major expansion to turn it into a full-fledged deepwater commercial port.

Pakistan and China have signed agreements for constructing an international airport at Gwadar, upgrading a section of the 1,300km Karakorum Highway connecting to Islamabad and laying a fibre-optic cable from the Chinese border to Rawalpindi.

With the development of the corridor, Central Asia, traditionally an economically closed region owing to its geography and lack of infrastructure, would have greater access to the sea and to the global trade network.

On November 2014, the Chinese government announced that it would finance the Chinese companies to build \$45.6 billion worth of energy and infrastructure projects in Pakistan as part of CPEC.

Documents show that China has promised to invest around \$33.8 billion in various energy projects and \$11.8 billion in infrastructure projects, which would be completed by 2017. The deal includes \$622 million for the Gwadar port.

Under the CPEC agreement, \$15.5 billion worth of coal, wind, solar and hydro energy projects would add 10,400MW of energy to the national grid of Pakistan.

Physically, the corridor is a 2,700km highway that stretches from Kashghar to Gwadar through Khunjab. But in essence, these road and rail links would further strengthen the bond of brotherhood, as highlighted by the two governments.

The project is also establishing several economic zones and physical links connecting Pakistan and China. Both the countries believe that this economic corridor would benefit new emerging regional cooperation in South Asia. According to a senior official in the planning commission, the CPEC is strategically important for both countries keeping in view the growing regional trade and investment collaboration.

All Day

Pak-China to coop in space-technology under CPEC -- The Observer

Monday, August 17, 2015 - Islamabad—Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has proposed space-technology cooperation between Pakistan and China under the economic corridor project.

He made the proposal at the China-Pakistan Economic corridor (CPEC) Forum that was held this week at the Chinese city of Karamay in Xinjiang region. On his plea, the proposal was formally included in the historic Karamay's declaration which was later unanimously adopted at the end of Forum's two-day deliberations.

In his brief address at the concluding session, Ahsan Iqbal said bilateral cooperation in the field of space-technology will take the Pak-China relations to new heights. He emphasized that both the countries should launch joint space mission program comprising their astronauts as "this is the strength of the CPEC to increase more connectivity between the two friendly countries. It will shape up the future destiny of both the nations through communication linkages," the Minister added.

Chairman Senate Defence Committee Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Senator Hasil Bizenjo, Senator Afrasiab Khattak, Senator Nuzhat Saddiq, Senator Nawabzada Saifullah Magsi, Minister for Planning and Development Balochistan Hamid Khan Achakzai, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Masood Khalid and other high-ranking officials witnessed the signing ceremony.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong also attended the Forum and termed the meeting as highly successful in promoting understanding among the relevant stake-holders for implementing CPEC- a fate-changing project and to further deepening the Sino-Pak strategic partnership, particularly in the field of energy and communication.

DG FWO Major General Muhammad Afzal, Engineer-in-Chief FWO Khalid Asghar, Quartermaster General Major General Javed Mehmood Bukhari, DG NLC Major General Muhstaq Ahmed Faisal were also present on the occasion. It was decided that forum will work as a permanent platform and meet annually to review the project in a broader prospect, ensuring its implementation in letter and spirit.

Just before the passage of the Karamay's declaration senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed and from Chinese side member NPC standing committee Madam Baige Zaho, vice chairman NPC foreign affairs committee gave a detailed presentation on the achievements made during the two-day forum, participated by over 300 officials, business and public figures.

They recalled that the ancient Silk Road is the shared cultural heritage and historical wealth of countries along the Road that embodies the spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and mutual benefit. The CPEC consists of an integral part of the broad consensus reached between respective leaders during Chinese President Xi Jinping's landmark visit to Pakistan in April 2015.

The declaration stressed the principle of "Jointly building through consultation to meet the interests of all stake-holders. Concerted efforts should be made to achieve major goals in policy coordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, and financial integration aiming at promoting the common development of both countries and even the entire region.

Both sides called for strengthening capacity-building, promoting scientific research and innovation and consolidating people-to-people exchanges. They will vigorously promote communication and mutual learning in education, culture, tourism, media and sports fields.

"We attach great importance to a wide participation of the community and the public, particularly women and the youth, aiming at promoting mutual understanding and consolidating public opinion, so that pass on the torch of China-Pakistan friendship from generation to generation," the declaration added.—INP

All Day

China eases terms for Pak banks to open branches -- The News

ISLAMABAD: Beijing has agreed to slash down requirement from \$50 billion to \$15 billion for opening up of Pakistani bank branches in China under revised Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Pakistan.

"Yes, China has reduced its requirement for opening up Pakistani bank branches from \$50 billion assets to \$15 billion and now Habib Bank Limited becomes eligible to open its branch after this relaxation," the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) high-ups informed the Senate standing committee on finance here on Tuesday.

They said that it was expected that National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) would be able to meet this requirement paving the way for opening up its branches in China as well. The NBP had opened up 21 international branches in 19 different countries but its international operation had been facing losses because of Bangladeshi scam of Rs18.5 billion and \$80 million bad debt to Al Tuwairqi Group that could not succeed in running its business because of lack of availability of gas.

All Day

Chinese company to build cement plant -- APP

Under the agreement, the Chinese company will set up a cement plant in the Salt Range with an investment of \$350 million.

Under the agreement, the Chinese company will set up a cement plant in the Salt Range with an investment of \$350 million.

LAHORE: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Punjab government and Chinese cement company, Yantai Baoqiao Jinhong (YBJ), over establishing a modern cement plant in the Salt Range.

Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif was the chief guest at the signing ceremony. Under the agreement, the Chinese company will set up a cement plant in the Salt Range with an investment of \$350 million. Secretary Minerals Arshad Mahmood and YBJ Chairman Li Baolu signed the document. Sharif said that this will stimulate Chinese investment.

Sharif said the Punjab government welcomes investment by Chinese companies in the cement industry. He said that all facilities are being provided to promote foreign investment and Punjab government will extend maximum cooperation in the establishment of the cement plant. Sharif further noted that this agreement will result in transfer of technology to Pakistan.

"The Punjab government wishes to benefit from Chinese technology in other sectors as well," said Sharif. "A number of Chinese companies are already investing in Punjab due to which economic cooperation and friendly relations between the two countries have strengthened."

Sharif said that China is investing billions of dollars in Pakistan under historic investment agreements. He said that mega projects are being established in energy, infrastructure, industry and other sectors under the China-Pak Economic Cooperation (CPEC).

The Chief Minister said that since the visit of Chinese President to Pakistan, a new era of economic cooperation between Pakistan and China has taken off.

Li Baolu said that his company wants to set up a state of the art cement plant in Punjab which will be environment-friendly and based on modern technology.

All Day

CPEC- a window of opportunity for Pakistan -- Express Tribune

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a window of opportunity for Islamabad to boost its economy, noted speakers attending an international seminar on Tuesday.

A day-long seminar on the "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Economic, Political

and Security Perspective” was organised by the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies and chaired by Pakistan Council of China Executive Director Dr Fazalur Rahman.

Terming the project an uplift package from the Chinese government to boost Pakistan's economy, the executive director said, “China is much committed to launching this project and it is now up to the main stakeholders in Pakistan including the federation, provinces, civilians and military establishment to undertake sincere initiatives in order to make it a success.”

He acknowledged that confusion still persisted pertaining to the economic corridor and no one from the government had bothered to clear the air.

Former foreign minister Inamul Haq said the CPEC was a historic initiative and Pakistan needed to attract investors to invest along the long route of the corridor, which would create jobs and business opportunities for the locals.

“Most of the \$45-billion investment announced under the CPEC is in the energy sector, but there is no major project on the agenda for repairing the dwindling transmission lines,” he pointed out, saying these lines were the main cause of power crisis as 25% of the total installed energy capacity was wasted.

Haq voiced concern over the security challenges associated with the project as the chief minister of Balochistan had sought Rs2 billion for raising a special force, comprising 1,100 personnel, to safeguard the Gwadar Safe City project.

“Those who are against Chinese investment are working at the behest of foreign elements and must rather work for attracting investment to Pakistan in the same quantum as China wants to make,” he stressed.

National Defence University Assistant Professor Humayun Khan said the CPEC was a comprehensive package of competitive economic initiatives from China and the energy projects initiated would kick-start an industrial boom in Pakistan.

Shahzada Zulfiqar, a researcher and journalist, said there were widespread reservations in Balochistan about the project. “Baloch people have always been deprived of their due rights. Now, since the project has been initiated, and there is a lack of skilled workers in Gwadar, the Baloch fear that outsiders will come and fill the gap, leading to demographic changes which could be damaging for them,” he added.

All Day

J-10 fighter jets: Pakistan may be China's first customer -- Express Tribune

A military expert revealed on Tuesday that Pakistan may be the first buyer of China's J-10 fighter jet which was initially set to be sold to Iran after the lifting of UN sanctions.

Fu Qianshao, an aviation equipment expert with the People's Liberation Army Air Force, said that Pakistan may overtake Tehran in becoming the first overseas buyer of the multi-role aircraft, which Chinese experts claim is comparable to the latest version of the US' F-16 Fighting Falcon.

Citing Japanese website The Diplomat, the report said Pakistan had signed a deal for the purchase of 36 J-10 jets in 2009.

The report further stated that Pakistan, which jointly produces the J-17 Thunder fighter aircraft, had been showing interest to acquire the J-10 jets, while adding that China was wooing Iran to buy 150 J-10s.

“Once the sanctions against Iran are completely lifted, the country will definitely renovate its civilian and military aircraft fleets. The J-10 is a good option for the Iranians because it can fulfill all operations they want to conduct,” said Wang Yanan, Deputy Editor-in-chief of Aerospace Knowledge Magazine.

Fu added, "The J-10 is able to confront any of the third-generation fighter jets operated by neighbouring countries because it features supreme maneuverability, strong firepower and cutting-edge avionic equipment."

All Day

Pakistan, China to cooperate in space as part of Karamay declaration -- APP

PESHAWAR: The Chinese government has agreed to a proposal by the Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, initiating the collaboration between Pakistan and China in space technology as part of the Karamay declaration under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

At the Pakistan-China forum meeting held in Karamay-Xinjiang last week, Ahsan Iqbal, proposed space technology collaboration between China and Pakistan, an official of the forum told APP.

His proposal was approved and made a part of the Karamay-Xinjiang Declaration. The declaration was later approved unanimously after the two-day meeting.

At the concluding session, Ahsan Iqbal said that bilateral collaboration on space technology would take Pakistan-China relations to new heights. He stressed upon a joint launch of space missions which would consist of astronauts from both countries.

He said "CPEC will increase connectivity between the two friendly countries. It will shape up the future destiny of both the nations through communication linkages".

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Sun Weidong, was also a part of the CPEC forum. He labelled the meetings as successful in increasing understanding among the related stakeholders for implementing CPEC. He also pointed out the field of energy and communication as a major part of the CPEC.

Over 300 officials, businesspersons and public figures were a part of the two-day forum.

Another decision made at the forum was to make these meetings a permanent platform that will meet every year to examine the project and present collaboration on broader aspects. The forum will also be used to ensure the project's true objective of promoting Pakistan-China relations.

All Day

2,281 acre land acquired for free trade zone in Gwadar -- The Nation
GWADAR: Authorities acquired at least 2,281 acre land for a free trade zone and the work is to be started within two to three months.

Gwadar Development Authority Chairman Dostain Khan Jamaldini said that the Expressway project will be started this year. At least Rs 14 billion have been reserved for the project, he added.

He also said that Gwadar International Airport's construction is going to start this year. Jamaldin further said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) includes the potable water project in Gwadar.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a development mega project which aims to connect the Gwadar Port in southwestern Pakistan to China's northwestern autonomous region of Xinjiang, via a network of highways, railways and pipelines to transport oil and gas.

The economic corridor is considered central to China-Pakistan relations and will run about 3,000 km from Gwadar to Kashgar. Overall construction costs are estimated at over \$46 billion, with the entire project expected to be completed in several years.

All Day

'Pakistan's economy has all ingredients to grow like China's' -- BR
Korean Ambassador to Pakistan Song Jong Hwan on Wednesday said that Pakistan has all the required ingredients to grow like China. In a meeting at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), he said in 1980, China was exactly like Pakistan and today it has become the economic giant of the world. "I am sure that 10 years down the line, Pakistan would be a shining star on the world economic horizon," the diplomat said.

He was hopeful that the volume of trade between Pakistan and South Korea was bound to increase as both the governments are taking measures to get the desired results. He called for a proper sector-specific strategy to identify the challenges and problems coming in the way of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Korea.

While identifying numerous areas for mutual cooperation, he said there was a need for expertise-sharing as both the countries have a lot to learn from each other and he urged the Lahore Chamber to arrange a business delegation to South Korea so that Pakistani businessmen could have firsthand knowledge about opportunities there.

Lahore Chamber President Ijaz A. Mumtaz said, "Korea is an important trading partner of Pakistan. South Korea is the second biggest export destination of Pakistan in East Asia after China. It comes at 14th place among the top importing countries and at 16th place among the top exporting countries for Pakistan. The total volume of trade between Pakistan and Korea was around dollar 1.26 billion in 2013 but in the following year, it came down to almost dollar 1 billion."

It was mainly because of the substantial decrease in imports from Korea in last two years. He said that the imports dropped from dollar 859 million to dollar 658 million. Likewise, Pakistan's exports also fell from dollar 397 million to dollar 378 million in the same period. He said although the worth of bilateral trade was still above one billion dollar but there was a plenty of margin to improve it. It seriously calls for making joint efforts.

"The way different Korean companies are gaining success in Pakistan that day is not far away when Korea will outclass other countries in terms of foreign direct investment. We are ready to facilitate new Korean companies to study the market conditions in Pakistan", he added. He said Korea had already declared Pakistan as a priority destination for investment and business in recent meetings with business community. He said that the success stories of leading Korean business groups in Pakistan like Daewoo, Samsung, LG and Hyundai etc can serve as a strong reference to other Korean companies to invest here.

He said the forums like KOTRA Karachi could also play pivotal role in searching new business opportunities and building economic partnership between Korea and Pakistan in various fields. He said considering the size of Korean economy which was one of the trillion economies of the world and also ranked among the twenty largest economies, Pakistan can benefit by way of developing trade and economic relations with Korea.

"The quickest way to achieve the desired objective is to highlight the need of diversifying product lines of both countries through mobilising business forums, exchanging business delegations and participating in each other's exhibitions. For that purpose, market surveys and latest trends prevailing in both the countries must be gathered and shared with the representatives of private sectors," he added.

"A lot of development work is going on with respect to the Pak-China Economic Corridor. This project will cause to take place a lot of changes in political and economic scenario of Pakistan. Korea should forecast the newer opportunities which really promise good fortunes to foreign investors," he said.

All Day

PM says Pak-China nuclear cooperation will help country meet energy shortfall -- APP

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Thursday noting the excellent cooperation between Pakistan and China in peaceful use of nuclear energy said it would help the country meet its energy shortfall.

Inaugurating the concrete pouring ceremony of the Nuclear Power Plant-II, the Prime Minister said he was pleased to note the pace of progress as he had performed the ground breaking of Kanupp-2 and Kanupp-3 in Nov 2013.

He said the event was significant as it showed the close collaboration between Pakistan and China in all areas, particularly in the field of peaceful use of nuclear energy.

He said it was during his previous government that Pakistan and China initiated cooperation in peaceful use of nuclear power through the construction of Chashma Nuclear-I.

He said it was the continuity of this cooperation that has led to addition of more nuclear power plants in the country with the Chinese cooperation.

He said under the China National Nuclear Corporation Chashma III and IV would start producing 630 MW more electricity by next year. He said Kanupp was successfully generating electricity over the past 43 years and contributing to national economy.

Prime Minister said he was grateful to China's Atomic Energy Authority, Export Import Bank of China and China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) for its support to Pakistan.

He said Pakistan's economic indicators were positive, investors confidence has been restored, country's image has been improved internationally and more people were getting employment as several new projects were being completed.

Prime Minister Sharif said Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) was performing its assigned duty of keeping a close watch on the nuclear power plants in the country and ensuring safe operation of nuclear facilities, according to the international standards.

The prime minister said apart from his government's efforts to end loadshedding, equal importance was being given to eliminate terrorism from the country. He paid tributes to late Col Shuja, the home minister of Punjab, who embraced martyrdom in a terrorist attack in Attock.

All Day

Work on TAPI pipeline to begin in December -- Express Tribune
ISLAMABAD:

Federal Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has announced that heads of Pakistan, Afghanistan, India and Turkmenistan will inaugurate a multibillion-dollar transnational gas pipeline project in December this year.

The project, called Tapi pipeline, would be inaugurated on December 25 and would be completed in the next three to four years, said Abbasi while speaking at a press conference along with State Minister of Petroleum Mir Jam Kamal Khan here on Thursday.

He said Afghanistan would be the net beneficiary as it would earn \$500 to \$600 million in royalty on the shipment of gas through its territory.

The pipeline will run along a highway built in Afghanistan and a special security system will be installed to raise alarm before any incident to ensure the security of infrastructure.

Read: Pakistan, Turkmenistan to give big push to TAPI project

"It is believed that \$25 billion will be spent on the upstream and downstream sections of the pipeline," the minister said.

Upstream development will cost around \$15 billion whereas the downstream section will cost \$10 billion. Work on both will start simultaneously.

In the last meeting of the Tapi steering committee in Ashgabat, the stakeholders decided that a state-owned company of Turkmenistan would lead a consortium to oversee coordination in the construction, financing, ownership and operation of the 1,800km-long pipeline.

According to the agreement, Pakistan, India and Afghanistan will have 5% obligatory shares in the project, while the Turkmen company, being the lead financier, will have a 51% stake. The remaining 34% will be available to other partner countries.

"We will receive 1.32 billion cubic feet of gas per day, which accounts for 35% of our total production," Abbasi said, adding the government had collected Rs85 billion in gas infrastructure development cess, which would be spent on the pipeline.

Emphasising the importance of meeting energy needs, the minister said Pakistan would not only complete the Tapi pipeline, but work on the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline and more liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals in Karachi and Gwadar was also under consideration.

China is also constructing a gas pipeline in Pakistan while negotiations are under way with Russia for laying another pipeline at a cost of \$2.5 billion.

If the Tapi project was completed on time, the stakeholders would seriously consider building another pipeline from Turkmenistan, the minister said.

Replying to a query, he revealed that a Qatari delegation would arrive on August 24 to talk about LNG supply in a government-to-government arrangement.

Read: Consortium leader to be selected in September

A tender was floated for spot purchase of LNG, but no response was received and the only solution was LNG import through a long-term contract with Qatar, he stressed.

Speaking about prices, the minister said prices for LNG, IP and Tapi gas were at the same level when seen in the context of current crude oil prices.

IP pipeline

Abbasi voiced hope that the stalled IP pipeline project could be implemented now as sanctions against Iran were being lifted. In this regard, an LNG pipeline is being laid in Gwadar.

In reply to a question, he said oil price hedging was possible but local oil rates would go up. "People come to us for oil price hedging, but it may lead to a rise in local oil prices."

The price of diesel and petrol in Pakistan was cheaper by Rs35 per litre compared to prices in India, the minister said.

Gas prices

Abbasi announced that the government had decided to notify 5% to 6% increase in consumer gas prices, which would come into effect from September 1. However, the price increase would not be passed on to domestic consumers.

All Day

Pak-China trade: Importance of negotiating the FTA -- Express Tribune

KARACHI: Pakistan and China enjoy an all-weather friendship that has tested tribulations of geo-political and economic challenges.

Pakistan was one of the three countries that recognised Peoples Republic of China and both established embassies in their capitals in 1951.

On the trade front, Pakistan accorded the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to China in 1963 through a bilateral trade agreement which provided a level playing field to Chinese products imported in Pakistan. Since then, both countries have closely collaborated to deepen economic and trade relations.

Trade agreements

Bilateral trade links were further boosted during the visit of Pakistan's then president to China in November 2002 when both countries agreed to sign a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) that provided tariff preference to a limited number of products. The process moved forward when both sides signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on the occasion of the Chinese President's visit to Islamabad in July 2007.

The FTA with China envisaged the gradual liberalisation of tariff on goods in various phases. In the first phase, which was from 2007 to 2011, both sides agreed on the elimination of tariff on 30% of the products. The second phase envisages liberalisation of tariff up to 90% of the goods from both sides.

The tariff concessions committed by Pakistan in the first phase of the FTA predominantly contained raw materials and intermediary goods. In return, China eliminated tariff on finished goods.

Read: Pakistan losing Chinese market after Beijing's trade deals

The government envisaged an economic integration model where Pakistan would import raw materials, components and intermediaries to boost domestic manufacturing and subsequently export these goods to China under the FTA at preferential tariffs.

In 2008, an incentive package for Chinese investors was included in the FTA to facilitate Chinese FDI in China specific investment zones in Pakistan.

To further enhance the width of the FTA, both sides also concluded a trade in services agreement where market access was agreed in a number of sectors by both sides.

The market access provided by China under the services agreement at that time was much more than China's WTO commitment as well as bilateral commitments with any other country.

Thus, Pakistan and China have laid a framework for trade integration that include elimination of tariff on goods, market access on services and promotion of investments.

The tariff liberalisation in the first phase has already been concluded in 2012 and now both sides have commenced negotiations for the second phase.

Reportedly, the negotiations are not progressing at a pace where both sides could see conclusion of these talks soon.

Concerns of local industry

One of the major impediments has been the concerns of the domestic industry in Pakistan that feels threatened from the competition of Chinese products.

The public sector is also apprehensive as elimination of custom duties would lead to substantial revenue losses as Pakistan heavily relies on taxation on international trade for revenue generation. According to the latest figures, 40% of the Pakistan's total revenue is from taxes on import of goods.

This obviously has created major challenges for the Pakistan's negotiating team to move forward with the negotiations. There are media reports that Pakistan has requested China to reconsider the tariff liberalisation done in the first phase instead of moving forward in the second phase of the FTA.

China is one of the most populous countries in the world and, according to IMF statistics, the world's largest economy in terms of purchasing power parity. China is also the world's fastest growing economy with a growth average of 10% in the last 30 years. China is also world fastest growing consumer market as well as second biggest importer in the world.

In 2014 China imported goods worth \$2 trillion globally in which the share of Pakistan was just 0.2%. Similarly China's global imports of service in 2014 were \$400 billion against Pakistan global exports of \$5.5 billion where the services destined for china were quite negligible.

Read: Pak-China relations: Army chief vows to protect CPEC

Importance of FTA

Pakistan and China are natural trading partners. The territories comprising the present state of Pakistan were once part of the historic silk route connecting China with the West where merchants traded in various commodities such as spices, silk and porcelain. The China and Pakistan Economic Trade Corridor also relies on these opportunities to revive the ancient silk route to facilitate China's connectivity with the West.

Economists have empirically proved that there are more welfare gains in preferential trade agreements for countries that are natural trading partners.

FTAs create opportunities especially for countries such as Pakistan that lack competitiveness to enhance their exports in the markets of larger economies through trade diversion created by tariff preferences in the FTAs.

Such opportunities also make countries attractive for foreign direct investments where investors take advantage of market access openings for setting up manufacturing units for export to lucrative markets like China under the FTA.

The way forward for Pakistan is to bring the FTA framework which commenced in 2004 to its logical conclusion by completing the liberalisation of tariffs. There would always be losses and gains in the process but to capitalise on the opportunity that Chinese market provides, the price would be worth paying.

The writer is a civil servant with 20 years of experience on issues related to Pakistan's trade and development

All Day

China to set up body to monitor Pak projects -- The Nation

LAHORE: Chinese Deputy Prime Minister Zhang Gaoli on Tuesday expressed willingness to set up a high-level committee for the supervision of development projects underway in Pakistan with Chinese investment. He was talking to Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif at the Great Hall of the People, Beijing.

Gaoli said that he would personally monitor the projects. He said the proposed committee would include senior officials of financial institutions and various Chinese government departments.

He said that development projects were underway in several countries with Chinese cooperation. "However, China's cooperation with Pakistan is unprecedented. China is extending full cooperation to Pakistan in energy, transport, infrastructure and health sectors. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will link Pakistan to economies of China and 60 other countries," the Chinese deputy PM said.

Sharif said that the government and people of Pakistan would come up to the expectations of the Chinese leadership with regard to the implementation of the economic package. "The recent visit of the Chinese president to Pakistan has taken Pakistan-China friendship to new heights," he said.

Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Masood Khalid, Prime Minister's Special Representative Zafar Mehmood, Adviser to CM on Health Khawaja Salman Rafiq and Lahore Transport Company Chairman Khawaja Ahmad Hassaan were also present on the occasion.

The chief minister also held a meeting with the Exim Bank of China President Li Ruogu. It was agreed that funds be expeditiously provided to the Chinese companies investing in Pakistan. The chief minister expressed the confidence that there would be no shortage of resources for Chinese investors. "No compromise will be made on the standard, transparency and speedy completion of the projects. Work is being speedily completed on the coal-based power projects being set up in Sahiwal with the cooperation of China," he said.

Iqbal said that the special development package for Pakistan reflected Chinese government's confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

Earlier, a delegation of Shandong province of China, led by its Deputy Governor Xia Zing, met Shahbaz Sharif in Beijing and offered to declare Shandong and the Punjab twin provinces.

Talking to the deputy governor, Shahbaz Sharif said that people of the Punjab could learn a lot from Shandong's development experience.

All Day

Gigantic road projects to benefit masses: PM -- APP

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has said that unprecedented infrastructure building activity under the National Highway Authority Road Portfolio would greatly benefit people from all the four provinces.

Chairing a high-level meeting wherein he was given detailed briefing on the NHA Road Portfolio projects, the premier said that these projects, including the CPEC will cover all provinces and the whole country would benefit from the fruits of this gigantic structural development activity across the length and breadth of the country linking Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir to Karachi and Gwadar.

The PM was informed that an investment of \$1 billion from private sector in the road infrastructure projects would be achieved by the end of September 2015 and the overall communication network construction activity would contribute about 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent in the GDP.

He was further briefed that there would be an addition of 1,272km in the existing Motorways network with the completion of under construction and proposed projects.

The PM issued directions to complete all projects by December 2017, other than those projects which were scheduled for earlier completion. He further directed to prepare comprehensive plans for extending Pakistan's road infrastructure for connectivity with Central Asia in the first phase and later expanding road links to South Asia.

He also directed the NHA to prepare informative packages highlighting the road construction activity and the linkages created for the areas which were previously not connected to the Highway and Motorway networks. The prime minister appreciated the pace and quality of the work of NHA and directed to maintain the international standards in the quality of road construction. The 3,000-km corridor running from Pakistan's southern Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea to China's western Xinjiang region, was launched in April during President Xi Jinping's visit to Islamabad despite India's strong objections.

All Day

11 CPEC economic zones to be set up in Baluchistan -- The Nations

Islamabad: Federal Secretary of Board of Investment, Iftikhar Hussain Babar has said; eleven economic zones;out of total thirty-three of China-Pak Economic Corridor,eleven economic zones; (CPEC) will be setup in Baluchistan.

This, he said while talking to traders at Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries in Quetta. He assured Baluchistan's traders that the federal government will extend cooperation to attract foreign investment in the province. Babar said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor would help in resolving unemployment issue as it would open new vistas of development in the region.

The China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an ongoing development megaproject which aims to connect Gwadar Port in southwestern Pakistan to China's northwestern autonomous region of Xinjiang, via a network of highways, railways and pipelines to transport oil and gas.

The economic corridor is considered central to China–Pakistan relations and will run about 3,000 km from Gwadar to Kashgar. Overall construction costs are estimated at over \$46 billion, with the entire project expected to be completed in several years. The Corridor is an extension of China's proposed 21st century Silk Road initiative.

All Day

Economic corridor: China to extend assistance at 1.6 percent interest rate -- BR

China would extend assistance to Pakistan at 1.6 percent interest rate for infrastructure projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), it is learnt. Member, Infrastructure and Regional Connectivity of Planning Commission Malik Ahmad Khan confirmed that China would extend assistance to Pakistan at 1.6 percent interest for infrastructure projects under CPEC. "We wanted China to reduce this rate from 1.6 percent to 1 percent. And the Finance Division is making efforts in this regard," he added.

Under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Projects (CPEC), China has promised to invest around \$11.8 billion in infrastructure projects and \$33.8 billion in various energy projects which will be completed by 2017 at the latest. According to sources, the corridor is a 2,700-kilometre highway that would stretch from Kashghar to Gwadar through Khunjrab. The CPEC will integrate the economies of the two friendly countries; it envisages several economic zones.

The sources said the first phase involves development of Gwadar Port which received a major boost when control of Gwadar Port was transferred to China's state-owned China Overseas Ports Holding in February 2013. The construction of an international airport is also envisaged under the first phase of the CPEC. Senior official sources revealed that during meetings of the Joint Working Groups (JWG) in Beijing on August 24 and 25, China asked the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government to expedite its work on the Gwadar International Airport.

China has converted Rs 23 billion loans for Gwadar International Airport into a grant and extended an interest-free loan of Rs 13.5 billion for the construction of Gwadar East Bay Expressway. Member, Infrastructure and Regional Connectivity of Planning Commission confirmed that China has agreed to convert loans for the Gwadar International Airport into a grant and to extend an interest-free loan for the Gwadar East Bay Expressway; but added that the decision is not firm yet.

Sources added that it was also decided during the JWG meetings that the two major infrastructure projects would be completed by December 2017 - projects that are regarded as the catalyst that would enhance investment and development in Gwadar. The new Gwadar airport will be a modern airport of international standard and cater to the requirements of a bustling industrial commercial city. It will become a major hub for international flights operating in the region, sources said. The federal government has already completed the tendering process for East Bay Expressway and new Gwadar airport projects but the pace has been slow due to the required legal formalities. Since now China has taken up the responsibility for financing, things are expected to move at a much faster pace, sources revealed.

Pakistan and China have signed agreements for upgrading 1,300-kilometre Karakorum Highway connecting to Islamabad and laying a fibre-optic cable from the Chinese border to Rawalpindi. Sources said the Chinese government is dealing with Pakistan's military on a fibre-optic project and the two have already held a series of meetings. A meeting between the concerned military officers and the Prime Minister on this project is expected soon, sources added.

According to documents, the Eximbank China has agreed to provide the government a concessional loan at an interest rate of 2 % per annum for Cross Boarder Optic Fiber Project. The draft loan agreement has been cleared by the Finance Division. Pakistan will greatly benefit in terms of enhanced security and revenue from the state of the art optic fiber project between Pakistan and China for which a prominent Chinese telecom firm "Huawei" has been assigned the task. The optic fiber will be laid between Rawalpindi and Khunjrab, a distance of 820 Kilometers.

Malik Ahmed Khan said that there is no delay in Cross Boarder Optic Fiber Project and work on the project is continuing. Major infrastructure projects envisaged under the CPEC are Karakorum Highway up to Islamabad, Karachi-Lahore motorway, new Gwadar Airport, Gwadar Port with Kashghar through motorway and Motorway

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Thu

from Lahore to Karachi, etc.

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Sat

All Day

Land for Gwadar Railway Station acquired: Saad Rafique -- Radio Pakistan

Railways Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique says land for Gwadar Railway Station has been acquired.

He was speaking at a meeting of Senate's Standing Committee on Railways in Islamabad, which was chaired by Sardar Fateh Muhammad Hassani.

Khawaja Saad Rafique said linking Gwadar with Quetta through rail will open new vistas of development in the province.

He told the meeting that Railways' land will be got vacated in the light of Supreme Court's orders.

All Day

Link to Gwadar Port: government to acquire 412 acres of land for railway container yard -- BR

Federal government would acquire 412 acres of land for railway container yard and construct railway line (25 kms) from sea port to Coastal Highway to Gwadar Port. According to documents available with Business Recorder, the land would be acquired for container yard measuring 1,900 X 600 meters and railway line of 25 kilometres from Gwadar Port to Gwadar railway container yard onward up to 25 kms at a point outside Gwadar limits, on Gwadar-Turbat-Hushab-Besima-Mastung rail link.

The proposed container yard will have capacity to handle about 500 railway bogie type freight wagons including marshalling of freight trains. The scope of work also includes establishment/construction of railway rest house of 3,400 square feet including allied facilities, erection of boundary stones for demarcation of acquired land and provision of logistic facilities for the required site engineer and staff.

Owing to increasing trend in land prices in Gwadar area, there is an immediate requirement for the acquisition of land for railway container yard, station other operational facilities and railway line from sea port up to coastal highway at Gwadar. The land will be kept reserved for developing of future rail link to Gwadar Port. The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) has proved this project with cost Rs 1.33 billion on August 31, 201. The original PC-1 of the project was revised and its cost increased from Rs 449.94 million to Rs 1.33 billion.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) govt has allocated Rs 882 million in the development budget 2015-16 for this purpose. The project would be completed in two years. The original PC-1 of the project envisaging acquisition of 453 acres of land for railway container yard/station and double track line from container yard to deep sea port was approved by the CDWP in its meeting held on 25-02-2006 at the cost of Rs 450 million.

The cost of land was based on the rates furnished by the consultant at that time. Afterwards, Joint demarcation was carried out by the Pakistan Railways and Revenue Officials for the container yard and right of way up to 25 Km outside Gwadar Limit, for an area of 373 acres. The Secretary Board of Revenue, Government of Balochistan, Quetta was approached to intimate the cost of 373 acres of land, which was furnished as Rs 465 million. The approved amount of Rs 450 million was accordingly paid to Secretary (Revenue), Board of Revenue, Quetta during the year 2005-06 & 2006-07 against the demand of Rs 465 million. Gazette Notification under Section-4 of Land Acquisition Act was issued during October 2006.

Later on, a corrigendum dated 17-12-2007 was issued by EDO/Gwadar, through which the cost of land was increased to Rs 943.520 million and the area of land reduced from 373 acres to 285 acres, ie, restricting only to container yard. EDO (Revenue), Gwadar vide his letter No 434-38 dated 28-4-2008 informed that initial cost of the land amounting to Rs 450 million, furnished by Secretary Board of Revenue, Government of Balochistan is not valid, as the same was tentative and was estimated without due process. This necessitated revision of the PC-1. Now the revised cost is based on the recent mutations/sale deeds, including the cost of structures and trees etc. Commissioner, Makran Division at Turbat vide his letter No 169397/RB dated 25 June, 2010 has also provided copies of mutation showing the rates of land in the vicinity of container yard.

All Day

China leases 800 ha land at Gwadar port -- IHS Online

China has leased 809 ha of land at Gwadar port in Pakistan for 43 years to build the port's first free economic zone (FEZ).

Chinese media reported that Gwadar Port Authority has acquired 607 ha of land in June, and another 202 ha will be acquired soon. All requisitioned land is from Pakistan Navy and container depots in Baluchistan.

"Another 500 acres [202 ha] of land will be leased out to China very soon to complete their requirement for the construction of the first FEZ at Gwadar, so the total land of 2,500 acres [1,011 ha] will be provided to their companies," Pakistani government's top economic officials told local media.

The construction of infrastructure for the FEZ and economic processing zones will cost USD35 million, according to the port authority.

In April 2015 China won the right to operate Pakistan's Gwadar port for a period of 40 years, which will give China access to other Gulf countries.

Beijing and Islamabad decided to invest USD46.4 billion under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor initiative, USD786 million of which would be used for different development projects at Gwadar.

Gwadar, located at the mouth of the Gulf and just outside the Strait of Hormuz, is the gateway for about 20% of the world's oil.

All Day

'Pakistan to get 5,600 megawatts electricity through five projects under CPEC' -- BR

"Pakistan will get around 5,600MW of electricity through five major projects under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by the year 2017-18. Chinese companies are already working on these energy projects with full enthusiasm. The total cost of these projects has been estimated around US 10 billion dollars, being provided by the Chinese banks. Some of the cost will be supported by the companies themselves, which enjoy the complete support of the Chinese top leadership." This was stated by Pakistan's Special Envoy on CPEC Zafaruddin Mahmood in an interview with INP here on Tuesday.

These projects will be functional as Independent Power Plants (IPPs) under the power purchase agreement and there will be no liabilities on the Government of Pakistan as far as their construction is concerned. The Government of Pakistan will purchase the electricity as per relevant IPPs rules and regulations.

These projects are: Port Qasim 1320MW in Karachi, Hubco 1320MW in Balochistan, two units of coal based power plants at Thar each of 320MW, (two more units will be added in the second phase) 1000MW Quaid-e-Azam solar Park project at Bhawalpur, Sahiwal 1320MW Coal-fired project. Besides this, work is also in progress on Suki Kinari hydel power project of 800MW in KPK that will be completed by 2019-2020.

Zafaruddin Mahmood further said that the two sides are also working closely for construction of infrastructure development projects under CPEC. He hoped that work on KKH-phase-II, Karachi-Lahore Motorway (Multan-Sukkar section), Gwadar international airport and Gwadar East Bay Expressway will be started before the end of the year and completion is expected by the end of 2017. The Chinese government is providing mixed loans facility (including grant assistance, interest-free and concessional loans) to undertake these projects.

Another important area of bilateral co-operation under the CPEC is the development of special industrial zones. To this effect, a pilot project at Gwadar is being started. The project will include a commercial complex (hotel, exhibition hall, apartments, and shopping mall), fish and marble processing factories and a captive power plant. China Overseas Port Holding Company is investing for the project and the construction is expected to be started by the end this year.

Efforts are being made to make the pilot project operational by 2017. The special envoy said that the two sides remain in touch at various levels to ensure the implementation of CPEC in its true spirit. The CPEC, he said is major development in further consolidating Sino-Pak socio-economic partnership meeting the aspirations of their people.

All Day

‘Pakistan poised to rank among top 25 economies by 2025’ -- Dawn

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal said on Wednesday that Pakistan possessed the attributes of an advancing nation, and was well-positioned to rank among the world’s top 25 economies by 2025.

“The signs of a failing country cannot be attributed to Pakistan now that there is a clear vision, an independent judiciary, free media, and a growing civil society with a strategic economic roadmap standing on strong, democratic foundations,” he said, while addressing a national conference titled ‘Building Knowledge Based Economy in Pakistan’.

He said that his optimism was supported by the improving law and order situation, sustainable economic growth, and a favourable investment environment.

“At least the direction is right,” Iqbal said.

The conference was organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) alongside the Hanns Seidel Foundation.

Iqbal said that the ministry’s ‘Vision 2025’ emphasizes human resource development, regional connectivity, knowledge economy, inclusive growth, and shared prosperity.

He said that human resource development is at the top of the government’s priorities, and that education is being targeted through increased funding for higher education.

Iqbal also proposed a United States (US)-Pakistan knowledge corridor, which would allow Pakistan to benefit from the high quality science and technology education available in US universities.

“It is unfortunate that despite being a strategic partner, Pakistan was not given preferential treatment in terms of its students availing higher education opportunities in US universities,” he said.

Speakers at a subsequent panel at the conference discussed the reasons behind the stable economic growth enjoyed by countries such as Japan, South Korea, and Germany, despite the countries’ devastation due to war.

The panel highlighted how, in the 1950s when the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of South Korea was less than Pakistan’s, their literacy rate was 62 per cent – something Pakistan has yet to achieve.

Senator Farhatullah Babar said that one major issue in Pakistan was the inconsistent policymaking by successive governments.

Dr. Usman Mustafa, from the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), said that the economy revolves around agriculture in its first phase, however, after the industrial revolution wealth became associated with manufacturing and commerce. He said that in the current era, wealth is linked with the ‘ownership of knowledge’ needed to produce goods and services.

“Not only are we talking about producing at low costs with better quality, there is now an increased demand for information,” Mustafa said.

The speakers, most of whom were economists, called for higher investments in research and development (R&D).

However, Dr. Tariq Bashir, from the Pakistan Council of Science and Technology, blamed both the government and stakeholders for not investing in knowledge generation, and said that the private sector should establish R&D centres for specific sectors to improve the competitive standing of exports.

Azhar Majeed, from the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) said that the textile sector is facing severe challenges, and has remained stagnant for five years.

"But one of the most severe issues we face, apart from the energy crisis, is \$1.5 billion stuck with the Federal Board of Revenue for refunds," he said, adding, "Which industry would be willing to invest in R&D in such conditions?"

All Day

China acquires 809 hectares of land in Gwadar -- The Nations

LONDON: China has acquired 809 hectares of land on lease for 43 years in Gwadar.

According to UK defence magazine, IHS, China has acquired 809 hectares (1999 acres) land from Pakistan on lease for 43 years for construction of first Free Economic Processing Zone (EPZ) in Gwadar port.

As per the Port Authority, construction of basic infrastructure and EPZ will cost over Rs 3.65 billion. Citing a Chinese journal, the IHS wrote that Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) acquired 607 hectares of land in June and 202 hectares of land will soon be acquired. All the land has been acquired from Pakistan Navy and container depot Balochistan.

Referring to a statement given by the top economic managers of Pakistan to local media, the journal said more 500 acres of land will be leased out to China for construction of first free EPZ. This way, 2500 acres of land will be given to Chinese companies on lease. China attained the rights for carrying out work on Gwadar port for 40 years in April this year. This port will provide China access to Gulf States.

All Day

Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline, LNG terminal: High-level Chinese delegation arrives -- BR

A high-level Chinese delegation has reached Islamabad to deliberate upon construction of 700 kilometres Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal at Gwadar Port. Senior officials of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources told Business Recorder here on Wednesday that a delegation of China Petroleum Pipelines Bureau (CPP) had come to finalise the construction of Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline.

The officials said the CPP would construct an LNG terminal at Gwadar Port with a capacity to handle 600 Million Cubic Feet per day of the commodity as well as laying the 700 kilometres pipeline which at a later stage, would be added by another 70 kilometres to transport gas from Iran under Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project.

"A top level delegation of the Petroleum Ministry from September 2 to 7 visited China to discuss the matters related to Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline and LNG terminal in Gwadar. Both the teams decided to expedite work on the projects," the officials maintained. "CPP will submit proposals by the end of ongoing month to Inter State Gas System (ISGS), after that both the companies will negotiate the terms and conditions of the contract and in March 2016, formal work on the laying of pipeline as well as LNG terminal will start and by the end of 2017, the project will be completed," a senior official who attended the meeting told this correspondent.

"The project will cost estimated two billions dollars of which 85 percent of the expenditures will be invested by CPP and rest by Pakistan," the official added. Gwadar is also the starting point of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project which was formally inaugurated during the presidential visit. The CPEC will conclude in China's province Xinjiang which is already an energy hub from where imported gas from Central Asia is channelled to China's industrial heartland.

Sources also said that Economic Co Ordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet in the next meeting is likely to consider a summary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources to approve construction of second LNG terminal at Port Qasim

with a capacity to handle 500MMCFD of the commodity. "We are expecting that on October 6 Pakistan and Qatar will sign a long-term LNG Sales Purchase Agreement (SPA) of 400MMCFD on government to government basis," the officials added.

When the officials were asked why the government failed in inking final agreement with Qatargas to import the commodity on government to government basis, they said Port Qasim Authority (PQA) had failed in satisfying and clarifying the Qatargas officials on the depth of LNG channel. Officials said besides LNG channel depth the PQA was demanding \$1.2 million port fee from each LNG ship which is highest in the world. They said the channel's depth should be 14 meters but PQA had a 13-meter deep channel.

The PQA authorities quoted \$1.2 million for each cargo ship of LNG which is too high as compared to international standards as in Nigeria it costs \$0.75 million, in Qatar 0.125 million and in India 0.12 million. Sources said besides PQA's failure in developing the required channel depth for LNG cargos, the deal is also not been finalised, as the Ministry of Water and Power failed to persuade furnace oil-based Independent Power Plants (IPPs) to open letters of credit (LCs) and establish a payment mechanism for the commodity suppliers.

The Petroleum Ministry's responsibility was to negotiate rates and terms for LNG import and provide gas to Ministry of Water and Power for replacing furnace oil in power production. Sources also said that as per plan of the government, power sector had to use the imported LNG but private power plants did not open any Letter of Credit (LC) accounts as the power sector also linked to purchase of LNG to certain conditions.

September 12, 2015

Sat

All Day

Exports from Gwadar Port start: Kamran Michael -- Pakistan Today
Minister for Ports and Shipping Kamran Michael has said that exports from Gwadar Deep Sea Port have started.

Talking to media persons here, he said Gwadar Port has become a sign of development of Pakistan.

He said China would be given 2,281 acres of land in Gwadar on lease for establishing trade and economic zone.

Michael said Chinese companies will invest in trade and industrial sector in Gwadar.

September 14, 2015

Mon

All Day

**Pakistan, China sign 43-year lease for Gwadar Special Economic Zone --
The Nations**

Beijing: Pakistan has rented 2,300 acres to China for developing the first special economic zone in the deep sea port of Gwadar, CCTV reported today.

China has provided financial and technical support in the construction of the Gwadar port since March, 2002 at Pakistan's request. The infrastructure construction was completed in February. The SEZ and the port, is part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor that aims to connect Gwadar to China's Xinjiang via a transportation network. It will improve economic cooperation between the two countries.

The Pakistani government has granted the SEZ priority access to resources and preferential tax policies for investors.

All Day

Pak-China military relations will grow to unprecedented heights: COAS -- Geo News

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif visited Bahadur Ranges (Attock) and witnessed the closing ceremony of the Pak-China Special Forces joint exercise 'Warrior-III'.

According to an ISPR press release, Special Forces of Pakistan Army and Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) conducted a seven week long exercise with focus on counter-terrorism operations.

A senior level Chinese military delegation under General Li Fayi represented PLA on the closing ceremony.

Addressing troops, COAS congratulated all participants of exercise for displaying high level professional skills. He underscored that special relationship between Pak-China Armies which has transformed overtime will grow to unprecedented heights. "Both, China and Pak, will continue to work towards total elimination of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations."

COAS specially commended troops of SSG for their outstanding performance in Operation Zarb-e-Azb. He vowed to continue operations with the same momentum till the achievement of a Terror Free Pakistan.

All Day

PM opens Pak-China Friendship Tunnel -- The Nations

GILGIT - The federal government says it will focus on Gilgit Baltistan's prosperity and provide all possible resources for completion of development projects in the remote northern province.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday alleged that funds were not spent transparently in GB in the past otherwise the situation would have been different today.

Addressing Gilgit Baltistan Legislative Assembly (GBLA), he emphasised that each rupee should be spent with honesty.

"There should be no corruption in public spending."

He directed the chief minister to ensure transparency in the ongoing projects, adding that completion of these development projects will change destiny of the people of the area.

The PM expressed satisfaction that natural beauty of this land, striking peaks of glacier and exorbitant forest attracted hundreds of thousands of tourists this year. He said there was lot more tourism potential which needs to be explored.

He said security force will be deployed on the Karakorum highway from Gilgit to Mansehra to ensure peaceful and secure environment that would help promote tourism.

He said Pakistan-China Economic Corridor project envisages construction of road from Khunjrab to Gwadar, while a rail service will also be started.

Earlier, the prime minister inaugurated Attabad Tunnel on Karakorum Highway and realignment of the highway parts of which were submerged due to landsliding in January 2010.

The 24-km Attabad Tunnel, also named Pak-China Friendship Tunnel, in Hunza will benefit thousands of local commuters and help boost China trade.

As part of Karakorum Highway realignment, at least five other tunnels having accumulative length of over seven kilometres, 16 kilometres road section and two bridges – each one kilometre long— have been constructed in collaboration with China at a cost of \$275 million.

All Day

Govt urged to take private sector on board on CPEC matters -- The Nations

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry Wednesday organized a seminar on "China-Pak Economic Corridor – Private Sector" here at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Experts from various sectors of economy spoke on the occasion and threw light on the importance of private sector's role for the success of this game changing project. They were of the view that government should take private sector on board on China-Pak Economic Corridor related matters as business community is keen to play its greatest role for economic uplift of the country.

LCCI President Ijaz A. Mumtaz, Senior Vice President Mian Nauman Kabir, Chinese Consul General Yu Boren, Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan, Convener LCCI Standing Committee on Pak China Business Promotion Siddiq-ur-Rehman Rana, Former Vice Chancellor-UET & Chairman Punjab Curriculum Textbook Board Lt. Gen. ® Muhammad Akram Khan, Project Director – CPEC, Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform Maj Gen. ® Dr. Zahir Shah and former Finance Minister Dr. Salman Shah were the key speakers.

Experts said that China-Pak Economic Corridor would start a new era of progress and prosperity in the country therefore it should be handled through public-private partnership that would enable private sector avail this unique opportunity.

Former Finance Minister Dr. Salman Shah said that Pakistan is bound to become economically strong and independent with never ending chain of investments from China. It will only be possible if the respective private sector representatives play their due role much proactively.

LCCI President Ijaz A. Mumtaz said that objective of holding this seminar is to apprise the members about the trade & investment opportunities expected to occur right from the beginning and till the completion of this most vital economic corridor. He said that it will not be wrong to say that the economic benefits of this project are hard to estimate. China has already promised to invest more than 46 billion dollars in this connection. This project has the potential to work as a big push theory of Economics.

He said that although both the governments are closely collaborating in this project but at the same time, the private sectors of Pakistan and China are going to have a bigger role to play in this mega project.

Chinese Consul General Yu Boren said that China-Pak Economic Corridor is an overall cooperation platform with a focus on the long-term development of bilateral cooperation in various fields.

All Day

Govt pursuing IPGPP under alternative strategy: Senate told -- BR

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Friday informed the Senate that the government is pursuing the Iran Pakistan Gas Pipeline Project (IPGPP) under the Alternative Strategy approved by ECC of the Cabinet.

In Question Hours, he said that under the strategy, the government would complete around 700 kilometer pipeline to Gwadar deep seaport and Nawabshah.

He said Energy Terminal would be constructed at the site of Gwadar deep seaport. While the remaining 80 kilometers pipeline from Gwadar would take 4 to 6 months for construction soon after lifting of the international sanctions on Iran.

The Minister expressed the hope that construction of pipeline to Gwadar would be completed by December 2017.

Shahid Khaqan Abbasi further informed the house that Pakistan has signed Framework Agreement with China on April, 20 2015 in this regard. Chinese nominated company is expected to submit shortly following which EPC contract negotiations would start. Award of the contract was expected by December, he added.

He said as per the ECC decision, Iranian gas would be supplied to power sector through Sui companies.

To another question he said Pakistan was not liable to pay any penalty on this account as Iran had also not yet completed its segment of the pipeline.

Further elaborating, the minister said, that there were reports that around 250 kilometer pipeline on Iranian side was still pending.

Meanwhile Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Resources Jam Kamal informed the Senate that the first five shipments of LNG were imported by PSO from the State of Qatar for the Gas companies and fertilizer sector customers.

He said the prices of petrol and diesel had decreased about 14% in International (Arab Gulf) market while in the country; the prices of same products were also reduced by 4 percent.

He said it was the responsibility of the OGRA to determine the price petroleum products.

He said exploration blocks were awarded to exploration and production companies for initial period of three years on the basis of firm work commitment.

He said that the companies were also required to fulfill their financial obligations during the period including rental, social welfare, training fund, marine research fee and production bonus.

The companies were also bound to give jobs to the locals, the minister said.

All Day

PAK, CHINA AGREE TO SPEED UP TALKS ON CPFTA-II --

Pakistan Observer

PAK, CHINA AGREE TO SPEED UP TALKS ON CPFTA-II

Islamabad—Pakistan and China, Thursday, agreed to expedite negotiations on China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement-II (CPFTA-II) for early conclusion. Both the countries have also agreed to remove discrepancies in the trade data available with the two sides and decided put electronic data sharing systems in place on both sides before the end of this year which would help to deal with under-invoicing and mis-declaration

According to Ministry of Commerce, both sides came to this agreement in maiden meeting between Commerce Ministers of the two countries held in Beijing. This was decided in a meeting between Pakistani Minister for Commerce, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan and Chinese Minister for Commerce, Gao Hucheng in Beijing. This was the first meeting between the Ministers of Commerce of the two countries since negotiations on CPFTA-II started.

The Ministers decided that the Tariff Reduction Modality (TRM) for the second phase of CPFTA would be finalized soon. Pakistan reiterated stance that the second phase of CPFTA should be based on the principle of 'less than equal reciprocity in favor of Pakistan'. This principle entails that China would give tariff concessions to Pakistan which it has given to its other FTA trading partners while Pakistan may be allowed an adequate time period for reasonable reduction of tariffs keeping in view the prevalent conditions of Pakistani domestic industry.

All Day

SEZs on pattern of China can usher in industrial revolution: PCJCCI chief -- BR

President of Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) Shah Faisal Afridi on Friday said special economic zones on the pattern of China can bring industrial revolution in Pakistan.

While talking to a trade delegation from the Qingdao Commerce Bureau, China, here on Friday, Afridi said, "Pakistan is in a dire need of establishing the maximum number of special economic zones to tackle economic challenges being faced by the country since decades. The proposed SEZs on the pattern of China will strengthen the industrial base besides protecting the national economy from global financial recessions, thus enabling the government to use its resources at the targeted industrial areas."

He also said measures should be taken for creation of the zones on the Chinese style. "For attracting foreign direct investment, Pakistan must improve its internal security situation and promote cultural flexibility for assimilation of foreign investors," he added.

A latest World Bank report on these zones said, "As per estimates, there are approximately 3,000 zones in 135 countries today, accounting for over 68 million direct jobs and over US 500 billion dollars of direct trade-related value added within zones." He acknowledged that the Haier Ruba Special Economic Zone had faced challenging situation related to power, energy, law and order but still it is one and the only zone of its type in the country giving fruitful returns to the economy. He also admitted that the delegation had come with concrete proposals with reference to these zones.

Zhang Li, delegation chief said on the occasion that Haier was the first joint venture project of China and the expansion and development of Haier Ruba SEZ is on top priority list of Chinese government.

Zhang Li mentioned that SEZs play an instrumental role in the integration of China to the global economy and in its economic development. She informed that in China SEZs contribute to 20 percent of the total FDI. The delegates also visited the Haier Ruba Zone where they were informed that currently Haier-Ruba SEZ was covering wide variety of industrial sectors including electric appliances, power and energy, textile, furniture sector, software and technology and food processing. The Chinese delegation was assisted by the PCJCCI in arranging meetings with Punjab Industrial Estates Development and Management Company.

The delegation also visited Quaid-e-Azam Apparel Park that is working under the auspices of the management. The delegation which headed by Zhang Li, Deputy Director General of Qingdao Commerce Bureau, also included Sun Guoliang, vice general manager, Qingdao Huatong state-owned Capital Operation (Group) Co Ltd, Wang Da, President Qingdao Laoshan Mineral Water Co Ltd, Yuan Dezhao, Division Director Qingdao City Construction Investment Group Ltd.

All Day

Shehbaz asks Chinese firm to expedite solar power project -- Pakistan Today

Punjab Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Sunday the people of Pakistan and their future generations would never forget the historic economic package of China for them.

The chief minister made these remarks during his meeting with Yu Yong, the president of a prominent Chinese company in energy sector, where progress of the Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park project, Bahawalpur, under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) came under discussion.

Sharif said China was playing a commendable role in development of the various sectors of Pakistan and the people of Pakistan highly valued the cooperation and friendship of China.

He asked the Chinese company to further accelerate the work on the solar power project, and said under the CPEC, an investment of Rs 33 billion was being made only in the energy projects.

Sharif said China had proved to be a true friend of Pakistan by helping it overcome the energy crisis. He said the CPEC projects were an invaluable gift by the Chinese president and the government.

He said a solar project of 100-megawatt with Chinese investment under the CPEC would be completed next month while several projects would be producing energy till 2017.

The chief minister said a number of Chinese companies were working in Pakistan and Pak-China friendship had turned into strong economic cooperation. He said the economic package of billions of dollars given by China to Pakistan augured well for a bright economic future of the country.

Sharif said the people of the whole region including Pakistan would benefit from the CPEC projects and millions of new job opportunities would be created. He said no compromise would be made on the standard and transparency of the projects.

Yu Yong, on the occasion, said the chief minister had ensured transparency, speed and a high standard in the implementation of the projects which was highly commendable. He said the people of Punjab were fully benefiting from the practical measures and the development projects executed by the chief minister.

All Day

French think tank head favours Pak-France nuclear cooperation -- The Nations

ISLAMABAD - Director of the premier French think-tank Institute for International and Strategic Affairs has supported France's civil nuclear cooperation with Pakistan, on the pattern of the US-Indian civil nuclear agreement.

Dr Pascal Boniface, an eminent French intellectual, said that Pakistan as a country of 200 million people with nuclear weapons has a pivotal role to play in the most strategic part of the world'.

Delivering a guest lecture on 'France, Europe & Changing Global Scenario' at the Pakistan-China Institute, Dr Boniface criticised the Iraq War since it was 'destabilising for the Arab World', and he welcomed the Iran Nuclear deal terming it as a rare defeat for the powerful pro-Israeli lobby in the United States.

Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman of the Senate Defence Committee, who is recently-elected as Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, was also present on the occasion, while the lecture was attended by the Ambassador of France, HE Mrs Martine Dorance, and Belgium Ambassador HE Verheyden, as well as a number of heads of think-tanks, university professors and scholars of international relations, former Foreign Secretary Riaz Khokhar and former head of ISI, Lt Gen (r) Asad Durrani. Ambassador Masood Khan, Chairman, Institute of Strategic Studies chaired the session.

Senator Mushahid praised the French role in world affairs, whose architect was the great French statesman, late President General Charles de Gaulle. He said that countries like France and China, together with Pakistan, would be key players in the emerging multipolar world. Lt Gen (r) Asad Durrani said that in today's world, there are two forces with a truly global outreach – the United States and Al Qaeda', with a capability to strike anywhere in the world.

The participants acknowledged that France, the largest country in the EU, and with nuclear energy providing the bulk of its power needs, is leading the world in civil nuclear energy technology for peaceful purposes.

Nathalie Dupont, Counsellor Political Affairs, Press and Communication, also shared her views with the participants regarding the need for strengthening bilateral relations, especially at the academic, and diplomatic level. The lecture was followed by an interesting and animated discussion among the distinguished audience.

All Day

Pakistan, China in pact to keep JF-17 tech away from US, India -- The News

BEIJING: China and Pakistan have a pact to keep the technology of their jointly-developed JF-17 Thunder multi-role combat aircraft away from the United States and India because of its superiority to America's F-16 fighter jet, claims the Beijing-based Sina Military Network.

The Block II variation of the JF-17, known as the FC-1 Xiaolong by China, recently entered into service for the "Minhas" No2 squadron of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF). The new and improved configuration of the lightweight fighter jet is said to include improved avionics and better software, as well as a fixed air-to-air refueling probe.

Minhas is the third PAF squadron to be upgraded to the JF-17, which is expected to replace the F-7P, a Chinese-made fighter that can be equipped with C-802A anti-ship missiles.

The JF-17 features an aerodynamic shape similar to the US Navy's F/A-18 and is powered by a high fuel efficiency Russian RD-93 afterburning turbofan. The aircraft's flight performance is said to be far superior to that of second-generation fighters, with its climb rate, maneuvering speed and acceleration making up for a relatively low top speed of Mach 1.6.

While the RD-93 is not regarded as advanced given it was originally developed for the Soviet MiG-29 fighter, the engine is considered stable and reliable, with PAF Air Commodore Khalid Mahmood, head of the JF-17 sales and marketing team, adding that they have never experienced any problems with it after more than 7,000 hours of use.

Chinese engineers are reportedly continuing to look for ways to lighten the weight and streamline the aircraft. One new advancement is pairing an RD-93 with a so-called divergent supersonic air intake, which is said to be lighter, easier to maintain, and minimises the JF-17's already low radar signals.

Recent photos of the JF-17 show the jet carrying two CM-400AKG high-speed air-to-surface missiles. Mahmood notes that the aircraft features flexible weapons stations that enable the JF-17 to be equipped with any weapon purchased on the open market.

Though the JF-17 can carry up to four SD-10 radar-guided air-to-air missiles, Mahmood states that the preference of the PAF is to use the space and weight for additional fuel tanks. The standard configuration of the JF-17 is therefore currently two SD-10s and two to three 1,000-litre external fuel tanks in addition to the 800-litre tank in the abdomen of the aircraft, he added.

According to the Sina Military report, expert comparisons between the JF-17 and the US F-16 have the Chinese-Pakistani aircraft dominating, adding that it is akin to a featherweight knocking out a heavyweight. The US has tried to get its hands on the JF-17 to analyse why that is the case but has been turned down by Pakistan because of a deal with China to never share the jet's technology with the US or India, the report added.

All Day

Shahbaz orders monitoring of rivers -- The Nations

Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has directed the federal and provincial departments concerned to remain alert in the wake of possible floods due to expected rain during the next few days.

This direction was made during a video conference with the Cabinet Committee on Flood and the administration of different districts at the Civil Secretariat here on Sunday. The CM also ordered round-the-clock monitoring of rivers. He said precautionary arrangements should be completed in the districts threatened by expected flood. He also directed the district administration to ensure immediate evacuation of the population in case of floods.

He said there should be proper arrangements for food, medicines and fodder for livestock in affected districts and the relevant departments should work with mutual coordination. He said the situation caused by rain should be closely watched and protective spurs and embankments should be strengthened. He directed the police to closely work with the administration and take indiscriminate action against the elements involved in illegal breaches.

The CM asked the Cabinet Committee on Flood to ensure immediate implementation of the decisions to cope with the possible flood situation and warned that no laxity would be tolerated in this regard. He said the arrangements should be effective and comprehensive in all respects and boats, dewatering sets and necessary equipment should be functional. He further directed that advance preparation should be made with regards to the possible flood in floodwater channels of Gujranwala division. He stressed the need for effective coordination between the federal and provincial departments concerned to ensure flood arrangements in this regard.

Assigning responsibilities to the ministers and secretaries in the districts to be affected in case of possible floods, the chief minister directed them to review the arrangements and preparations in the districts allocated to them. He said that timely provision of machinery and equipment should be ensured in case of any emergency and the control room should function round-the-clock.

During the video conference, the secretary irrigation gave a briefing on water situation in rivers while the PDMA director general informed about the arrangements and availability of necessary equipment. The Meteorological Department director general briefed on weather situation during the next few days.

The provincial ministers, the chief secretary and officers concerned from the Civil Secretariat, commissioners and district coordination officers of different districts attended the meeting from their respective areas through video link.

energy projects: Yu Yong, the president of a prominent Chinese company in energy sector, met Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here on Sunday.

During the meeting, pace of progress on the solar project at Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park Bahawalpur under the CPEC was discussed. Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif said China was a very reliable and sincere friend of Pakistan. He said China was playing a commendable role in the development of various sectors in the country and the people of Pakistan highly value the cooperation and friendship of China. He said China had proved to be a true friend of Pakistan by helping in energy crisis issue. He said the CPEC projects were an invaluable gift to Pakistan by the Chinese government. Shehbaz Sharif said the people of Pakistan and their future generations would never forget the historic economic package of China. He said under the CPEC, investment of 33 billion dollars was being made only in energy projects. He said a solar project of 100MW with Chinese investment under the CPEC would be completed next month while several other projects of energy production would be completed till 2017. He said a number of Chinese companies were working in Pakistan and the Pak-China friendship had turned into a strong economic cooperation. He said the economic package of billions of dollars given by China to Pakistan augurs well for a bright economic future of the country. He said every effort would be made for early completion of the projects being executed under the CPEC. Shehbaz Sharif said the people of whole region including Pakistan would get benefit from the CPEC projects. He said millions of new job opportunities would be created with the launching of various projects in Pakistan with the investment of China. He said implementation of Chinese economic package would usher in an era of progress and prosperity in the country. He said no compromise would be made on the standard and transparency of the projects. He asked the Chinese company to further accelerate the work on the power plant of solar project. President of the Chinese energy company Yu Yong said Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif had ensured transparency, speed and a high standard in the implementation of projects, which was highly commendable. He said the people of Punjab were getting benefits from the practical measures and the development projects executed by the Punjab chief minister.

All Day

China converts \$230m loan for Gwadar airport into grant -- The News
ISLAMABAD: In a major development, China has converted the \$230 million loan for the construction of the Gwadar airport into grants, which is scheduled to be completed by December 2017, The News has learnt.

Beijing has also converted \$140 million loan for the construction of Eastbay Expressway Project for Gwadar city as interest-free and will get back only the principal loan amount from Islamabad.

"Out of the overall cost of \$3.8 billion for infrastructure projects including Gwadar airport, construction of the Lahore-Karachi motorway section from Multan to Sukkur and other projects, the interest payment on Chinese loan was slashed down from over 3 percent to just 1.6 percent," official sources in the Economic Affairs Division confirmed while talking to 'The News' after holding a review meeting on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects with Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal in the chair here on Tuesday.

After conversion of loan into grants, the authorities concerned have stopped the bidding process for the New Gwadar International Airport as now only the Chinese companies will be awarded construction of this important airport. Beijing will select the company. It is expected that China will designate MOFCOM for undertaking the construction of the New Gwadar International Airport.

In case of possibility of cost escalation, the Chinese side will be requested to increase the size of resource envelop to complete this project within the stipulated time-frame.

When contacted, Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman Dostain Khan Jamaldini said that they had leased out 2,281 acres of land to the Chinese company responsible for operating this port.

"We have completed all required legal documents while handing over of land will take place by next month," he concluded.

On contact, Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said that China had brought down its loan cost in a major way in order to accelerate the progress of CPEC. Some loans were converted into grants, some were converted into interest-free so the cost of the overall basket was slashed down to benefit Pakistan, he added.

Official documents available with 'The News' reveal that under the CPEC initiative, Beijing and Islamabad had decided to spend \$786 million on different important physical projects of Gwadar.

The Gwadar Coal Power Project will be constructed at an estimated cost of \$360 million in order to produce electricity of 300MW. So, the overall investment on Gwadar will be more than \$1 billion under the CPEC, including one coal power project of 300MW. The construction of infrastructure for Free Economic Zone and Economic Processing Zones port related industries will cost \$35 million.

The construction of breakwaters will cost \$130 million. The dredging of berthing areas and channels will cost \$27 million under the CPEC over the next couple of years. The necessary facilities for a fresh water treatment plant at Gwadar will cost \$114 million under the CPEC over the next few years.

One state-of-the-art hospital having 300 bed facilities will be constructed at Gwadar at estimated cost of \$100 million. Both the sides also decided to establish a technical and vocational institute at Gwadar at an estimated cost of \$10 million.

All Day

**Gwadar-Nawabshah: Work on portion to end by December 2017 --
Express Tribune**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi reiterated that construction of Gwadar-Nawabshah gas pipeline, which forms the most significant part of Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project, would start within six months and is to be completed by December 2017.

"The 700km pipeline is to be built by a reputable Chinese company," said Abbasi during an interview with the Iranian News Agency. "Sanctions are still in place and investors are worried about their re-imposition due to legal issues. We are, however, working on it."

"As soon as the sanctions are lifted, construction of Iran-Gwadar portion of the pipeline would resume. The design is ready and we just need to order the equipment."

Abbasi further stated that the project is not an 'alternative strategy' and rather one of the main government strategies to facilitate natural gas (including LNG) imports to meet the rising demand. Other relevant projects include the TAPI (Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India) pipeline project.

"We have requested a meeting with Iranian oil minister to inform him about the latest IP developments. We also look forward to Iran's cooperation in the post-sanction era."

With regards to the price of Iranian natural gas, he disclosed that the basic price has been agreed upon, under the IP contract, but the final will be mutually decided in light of the market realities, one year before the first gas flow.

"This 42-inch pipeline is dedicated to Pakistan alone and there is no room for other countries to join or rejoin the project. It doesn't have the capacity to cater to any other country. If India or China seeks Iranian gas, new parallel pipelines will need to be built."

As for the TAPI pipeline project, he added that the government of Turkmenistan had taken charge of building the pipeline. "Afghanistan is a part of TAPI pipeline route and security issues of this country have always been a concern. The cost of this pipeline is yet another issue," he remarked.

All Day

Central-Asia-South Asia Energy and Trade Corridor Launches -- Kaleej Times

The new Central-Asia-South Asia energy and trade corridor entails three main components. The first two of these are the Turkmenistan-Pakistan-Afghanistan-India, or TAPI gas pipeline, the Central Asia-South Asia-1000 (CASA-1000) electrical energy grid. Plans also include boosting trade in the region by opening all countries involved for mutual business, as well as to drastically lower tariffs, and to make transportation more cost-effective, M. Aftab writes for Khaleej Times.

The newly launched corridor is also being set up to expand the utilization of oil and gas pipelines within the area as well as to and from the region. They will link the UAE-Middle East-Saudi Arabia via the shortest route – through the Pakistani Gwadar Port of Gwadar.

The republics of Centra Asia are located to the west and north of Pakistan and China. They possess a huge untapped amount of energy reserves with potential to satisfy demand in Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, South Asia as well as Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

The Central Asian republics have also agreed to enter the much larger \$46 billion CPEC project (China Pakistan Economic Corridor), which will travel from Shanghai to the west as well as south to the Gwadar Port.

All Day

Sahiwal coal power project will be functional by 2017: CM -- APP

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif on Tuesday paid a surprise visit to 1320MW coal power project in Qadirabad, Sahiwal and reviewed the pace of progress of this important and big project of power generation.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said that two coal-based energy projects of 660 megawatts each are being set up in Sahiwal and it is an important project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. He said that the project will start energy generation during 2017.

The chief minister directed the authorities concerned for speedy completion of the project to achieve the best results. He said that Sahiwal Coal Power Project will play an important role in removing darkness from the country with the help of China.

Shahbaz said that this project comprising two power plants of 620 megawatts each is another splendid example of Pak-China friendship and will further strengthen economic and trade relations between the two countries. He said that Sahiwal Coal Power Project is of vital national importance and work is being carried out expeditiously on this 1,320 megawatts project.

The Punjab government and the Chinese company will complete this project till 2017 through collective efforts, he maintained. He said that most modern super critical power plants are being installed in Sahiwal, which are environment-friendly and meet the environmental standards. He said that every moment is precious and there is no room for delay in the implementation of the project.

The CM said that he is personally monitoring this project regularly and had come to the site of project for this reason. He said that this power plant is the biggest and first ever project of power generation with coal in Pakistan and Chinese companies have made investment in this project.

He said that China's huge investment in Pakistan is not merely an investment but a splendid gift for Pakistan, which Pakistani people can never forget. The chief minister said that Sahiwal Coal Power Project is the first drop of rain with regard to CPEC and will result in generation of much-needed electricity and elimination of darkness.

The historic economic package of China is a reflection of the confidence of Chinese president in Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the deep love for 20 million people of Pakistan, he remarked.

He said that the efforts for overcoming energy crisis with the cooperation of China will result in removing darkness from the country, promotion of industrial activities, generation of job opportunities, besides poverty alleviation. He said that the journey of progress and prosperity of Pakistan started with the cooperation of China will be continued and Pakistan will achieve its goal.

The chief minister was informed during a briefing that the machinery of coal power project has started reaching Karachi Port and steps are being taken for its speedy transportation to the site of the project. He was further told that work is in progress expeditiously on the project and it will be completed within stipulated period.

All Day

Pak-China ties to attain new heights: Enovy -- The Nations

ISLAMABAD - Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong said yesterday that bilateral relations between China and Pakistan would attain new heights to their mutual benefits.

Ambassador Weidong made these remarks while addressing a reception he hosted at the Embassy to celebrate the 66th anniversary of the founding of People's Republic of China.

President of Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain graced the reception as chief guest. More than 900 people from different walks of life including ambassadors of various countries, political leaders and senior civil and military officials attended the reception.

Ambassador Sun Weidong said that during Chinese President Xi Jinping's historic visit to Pakistan earlier this year has given new impetus to the bilateral relations to the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership as the China-Pakistan relations have entered into a new stage of grand and vigorous development.

He said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has entered into implementation from early planning, adding that the CPEC is a long-term ongoing cooperative process requiring unremitting efforts from both sides, and will bring benefits to the people of our two countries and also help promote the regional development.

"This year is the Year of China-Pakistan Friendly Exchanges," the ambassador said, adding that Chinese Consulate General in Lahore is to be officially inaugurated while direct flights by Air China between Beijing and Islamabad will soon commence.

He continued that more facilitation will be offered to the visa application of the Pakistanis who participate in the CPEC projects and hoped that these measures will surely promote the interaction between peoples of two countries and further deepen our mutual understanding and friendship.

He emphasized that the two brotherly countries should make joint efforts to further promote the China-Pakistan friendship, realize our common dreams, and achieve the goal of the Community of China-Pakistan Shared Destiny at an early date.

Ambassador Sun Weidong also spoke about the great progress made in the development of China over the past 66 years, stressing that the Chinese economy has entered into the new phase and China continues to deepen reforms and expand opening-up.

He was confident that China is able and confident to maintain steady and relatively rapid development of its economy.

The Chinese Ambassador thanked the President Mamnoon Hussain for attending the reception.

Earlier upon arrival, President Mamnoon Hussain was warmly received by the Chinese ambassador and his wife along with other staff of the Chinese embassy. A Chinese girl clad in traditional dress presented bouquet to the President.

The ceremony commenced with playing of national anthems of Pakistan and China. On the occasion, the President cut the cake to celebrate the 66th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

President Mamnoon Hussain extended his warm felicitations and best wishes to the Government and people of China on their National Day.

Later, the President witnessed an art performance and appreciated the skills of the performing Chinese artists.

All Day

PARC, LZU CHINA SIGN MOU FOR AGRI RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION -- Pakistan Observer

Islamabad—Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Chairman Dr. Nadeem Amjad chaired a high level meeting with Chinese Delegation from Lanzhou University-China and PARC senior scientists at National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) to strengthen collaboration in agricultural research and development. On this occasion, Professor Dr. Wang Cheng, President of Lanzhou University (LZU) China said China playing its role in constructing the world economy. He said Pakistan and China are 24 hour friends not only at political level but this friendship is recognized and appreciated among the people of the both countries. Pakistan and China has always been enjoying long history of collaboration that is being strengthened with passage of time that's why Pakistan is an important pillar of China's "One Belt-One Road" initiative. He said PARC and LZU have long history of bilateral collaboration in agricultural research and development.

He said MoU between PARC-LZU and establishment of PARC-LZU Ecological Agriculture Centre at NARC will not only be source to strengthen this collaboration but also help to upscale this ongoing collaboration from organizational level to national and regional level through research and technological development by sharing the knowledge, expertise, scientific material and information. On this occasion Dr. M. Azeem Khan, Director General of NARC briefed about NARC which is the largest agricultural centre in Pakistan. Dr. Abdul Ghafoor gave a overview of on-going Pak-China Projects. Dr. M. Ehsan Akhtar, Senior Registrar, PARC Institute of Advanced Studies in Agriculture (PIASA) gave presentation about PIASA.

Prof. Ruijan Long, Director Research of LZU gave a detail overview about Lanzhou University-China. He said the LZU was ranked 74 of best university in Asia and 26 in China and 453 of best global university.

All Day

SCO membership – a potential trump card for Pakistan -- The Express Tribune

ISLAMABAD: The process of granting Pakistan full membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) got under way in Ufa during Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit in July this year and the country is expected to win the status in January 2016.

This will provide Pakistan an opportunity to play its cards strongly with conventional development partners like the United States and multilateral donors including the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and Asian Development Bank. There is a common perception that the US uses these multilateral forums for political gains globally.

The SCO summit in Ufa, Russia once again outlined its status as an important and effective multilateral forum that discusses actual problems of international policy, economy, regional stability and security. These four elements have been very important in stimulating investment.

Read: Pakistan set to join SCO security bloc

The influence of this forum is consistently growing. After Iran enters it and the number of observer countries and dialogue partners increases, the SCO will definitely transform itself from being a regional "hub club" to a powerful cooperation forum that deals with economy and security issues on a wide geographical area from eastern Europe to Southeast Asia.

The permanent SCO membership for Pakistan will ensure greater access to resources and energy import projects within the grouping's framework. It would not have to wait for long, just the start of the membership process will give Pakistan a trump card in dialogue with traditional donors, particularly the US, who always tries to use its economic support as a pressure tactic.

Look at the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project. In this case, Pakistan has faced mounting pressure to shelve the scheme and move towards liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports from Qatar. Even the US Agency for International Development (USAID) has engaged a consultant to assist Pakistan in inking a commercial deal for LNG supply with Qatar.

Economic cooperation

Pakistan's membership of the SCO will significantly strengthen the country's position in the region and the world over and will have a positive impact on several major issues pertaining to military and technical cooperation between Russia and Pakistan and on huge communication projects with China.

With plans under way to connect the Silk Road Economic Belt with the Eurasian Economic Union, the role of Pakistan in regional economy and infrastructure projects will definitely increase because the Kashgar-Gwadar project between Islamabad and Beijing is part of the Silk Road belt.

Federal Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan, in a recent meeting of SCO commerce ministers in China, offered them to use Pakistan's ports once the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was completed to get access to trade routes through the Arabian Sea.

He said Pakistan's trade strategy focused on developing linkages with neighbours, leveraging the country's geographical location and capitalising on regional connectivity initiatives. Cross-border land trade is especially important for landlocked countries and Pakistan and SCO members will benefit substantially from greater integration through energy, commerce and transit trade.

Read: Opposition ticks off PM Modi for Ufa rendezvous

He added CPEC was a landmark initiative under the umbrella of "One Belt One Road" and it envisaged connectivity and expansion of trade and investment through a network of roads, rail, fibre optic cables and energy pipelines. This was the vision that Pakistan and China were following to enhance trade by connecting the region, he said.

Word of caution

However, experts caution that things could get complicated if Pakistan tries to use the SCO forum to resolve its issues without paying attention to the interests of other member states. SCO definitely has the potential of mediating and resolving varying problems, but such attempts could prove counterproductive.

However, western countries, though critical about the SCO, have a growing understanding that the grouping has already consolidated its place as one of the key forums of international cooperation and it is almost impossible to ignore it. Pakistan could also use it effectively by looking at multiple options in order to deepen economic cooperation because economic development is the best remedy to the threat of terrorism.

The writer is a staff correspondent.

All Day

China to construct \$2.5 billion Gwadar -- The News

ISLAMABAD: In a positive bid to cope with the burgeoning energy crisis, the process to award the contract of \$2.5 billion to China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau (CPPB) for erecting LNG terminal at Gwadar and laying down 711 kilometres long and 42 inches diameter pipeline from Gwadar to Nawabshah will be completed in November this year.

Both the components of the project will come on stream in December 2017. To this effect, the technical bid here on Wednesday opened as per the tender toing the spirit of PPRA Rules.

"The Chinese state owned company — CPPB — has under the government-to-government arrangement deposited its technical and commercial bids for the \$2.5 billion project, and we have examined and screened all the documents relating to the technical bid. However, the commercial bid will be opened in November once the evaluation of the technical bid gets completed," Mubeen Saulat, Managing Director of Inter-State Gas System (ISGS), told media persons after the technical bid was opened.

However, the international consultant will also minutely examine the documents of the bids. The said Chinese company will not only construct the LNG terminal with a capacity to handle 500 million cubic feet gas per day with modern floating re-gasification and storage unit (FRSU), but also lay down 711 kilometres pipeline from Gwadar to Nawabshah with a capacity to carry 1.5 billion cubic feet gas per day.

"Both the components of the project will cost \$2.5 billion," Saulat said, adding that the said Chinese company will provide 85 percent investment and the government of Pakistan will provide 15 percent. The Chinese company will manage the loan from China Exim Bank and Pakistan will pay off the loan in 20 years' time from the revenue of the project.

To a question, he said once the international sanctions on Iran are lifted, then this Nawabshah-Gwadar pipeline will be extended backward by 70 kilometres in six to eight months time from Gwadar to MP 250, a point at the Pak-Iran border, for the import of Iranian gas.

And then the whole pipeline of 781 kilometres will be branded as the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline.

From Iran, Pakistan will initially get 750 million cubic feet gas per day which will be increased up to 1 billion cubic feet gas per day. However, through LNG terminal, system will get 500 mmcgd gas per day which means that the gas pipeline will be carrying 1.5 bcfd gas in toto. Saulat claims that the project is a part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiatives and it will be included in the early harvest projects.

According to Saulat, the Chinese company will be bound to get 30 percent component of the total project completed through Pakistani companies which are to be approved by the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC).

Pakistan's security agencies will be providing security to both LNG terminal and the pipeline. However, for the inside of Chinese officials and workers camp, Chinese security agencies will be responsible for the security.

All Day

PM lauds China role for promoting peace in region -- APP

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan appreciated China's "proactive role" for promoting peace and prosperity in Afghanistan and the region.

Addressing the 70th session of the UN General Assembly, the Prime Minister also welcomed China's vision of "One Belt, One Road".

“The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, announced during President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan earlier this year will spur regional economic integration and bring prosperity to the entire region and beyond,” Nawaz Sharif added.

He termed it an inspiring model of South-South cooperation and said it needed to be emulated.

Pakistan is building an ambitious trade corridor to link China's Xinjiang province with its Gwadar Port, providing a linkage to China with the Middle East, Central Asia and South Asia.

All Day

China to gift 1MW solar power project for Pak parliament -- The News
ISLAMABAD: Acting Speaker National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi said that Pakistani and Chinese political leadership are determined to further strengthen the all-weather and time-tested Pak-China friendship and also let it be known to the world.

He said this while chairing a high level meeting with Chinese delegation regarding Green Parliament Project at Parliament House on Thursday.

The Acting Speaker said establishment of 1-MW Solar Power Generation system by the Chinese Government is the first major project under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that reflects the continuation of Chinese resolve in supporting Pakistan in its socio-economic development.

He said that this project would add a new chapter to the existing cordial relations between Pakistan and China. He praised the commitment and untiring efforts of China in this regard and said that Parliament of Pakistan would hold the distinction of being the first Parliament in the world to go green. He stressed the need for replicating the model in other government buildings to address the prevalent energy constraint.

The Acting Speaker felicitated China on its National Day and expressed his wishes of continuous prosperity and development of China.

The Chinese delegates said that China attaches great importance to the maintenance of an extremely close and supportive relationship with Pakistan.

They said that China-Pak Friendship is all weather and the solar power generation system for the Parliament of Pakistan would be a gift from China that will be a state-of-the-art development to be completed within shortest possible period and Chinese Embassy will take every measure to ensure the high quality of this project. The meeting was attended by senior officials from both countries including First and Second Commercial Secretaries from Chinese Embassy and Additional Secretary Economic Affairs Divisions and officers of National Assembly Secretariat from Pakistan.

October 4, 2015

Sun

All Day

Pak-China joint air exercise Shaheen IV Concludes -- The News

ISLAMABAD: A Joint Air exercise Shaheen IV between Pakistan Air force and PLA Air force, concluded on Saturday at Yinchuan Airbase, China. Air Vice Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Deputy Chief of Air Staff (Operations) Pakistan Air Force and Lt Gen Zheng Qun Liang Deputy Commander PLA Air Force were also present in the closing ceremony of the exercise. According to PAF press release issued here, the exercise was aimed at enhancing bilateral relationship and defence cooperation between both friendly neighbouring countries. It was the fourth exercise of Shaheen series which commenced on 12th September, 2015. It was for the first time that three different types of front line fighter aircraft from various Squadrons of PAF participated in the exercise.

All Day

CPEC will create new job opportunities for youth: President -- Radio Pakistan

Mamnoon Hussain says development projects do not belong to any particular party or group but will serve entire country.

radio

President Mamnoon Hussain has urged all strata of society to reject any obstacle in the way of completion of mega development projects launched by the present government.

He was addressing the members of parliament of Balochistan in Quetta on Tuesday.

He said these projects do not belong to any particular group or party but will serve the entire country.

Referring to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the president said this will generate economic activity in the country and create hundreds of thousands of new job opportunities for the youth.

He said the CPEC project envisages several projects of motorways and energy as well as development of port and international airport at Gwadar.

Referring to Zarb-e-Azb operation, the President said the operation against terrorists is heading towards conclusion while Karachi operation is also showing positive results.

President Mamnoon Hussain also held a meeting with Governor Balochistan Muhammad Khan Achakzai at Governor House in Quetta on Tuesday.

They discussed matters pertaining to development of the province with particular focus on the development of Gwadar port.

Earlier, on his arrival, President on a two day visit to Quetta, the President was received by provincial Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch, provincial ministers and other government officials.

During the two day visit, the president will meet various delegations including parliamentarians and journalists in Quetta.

All Day

Linking Pakistan with Central Asia is govt's priority: PM -- The News
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif announced on Wednesday that linking Pakistan with Central Asian Republics (CARs) through a quality road network is the government's top priority.

"Gwadar is being upgraded as a modern sea port to provide access to the landlocked CARs," PM Nawaz told Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) president designate Jin Liqun, during a meeting at the PM House in Islamabad.

Read: Winds of change: G-B CM hails prime minister's speech at UN

The prime minister claimed that the government has invested a lot of resources in energy and infrastructure projects with the help of the Chinese government.

Further, PM Nawaz highlighted the government's economic policies and informed the AIIB president that the country's economists are committed and focused to providing a conducive economic environment to the private sector. "The economy of Pakistan is turning around and we have good economic growth rate," he added.

Liqun thanked the prime minister for Pakistan's support in establishing the AIIB. "The bank is specifically established to assist the Asian countries and they are also among its major shareholders," the AIIB president designate said.

Read: Workable solution: PM urges India to end proxy war in Pakistan

"AIIB will assist Pakistan in infrastructure projects and other economically productive projects in a cost efficient and effective manner," Liqun added.

All Day

Second phase of FTA with China: MoC urged to cut 'fair' trade deal -- Bremen, Germany

Pakistan's industrial stakeholders have reportedly urged the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) to negotiate "Fair Trade Agreement" instead of under-negotiated Free Trade Agreement-II (FTA-II), allowing import of raw materials not finished products, well informed sources told Business Recorder. This was the crux of the recent consultative meetings between the Commerce Ministry's team and industry representatives held in Islamabad. The second phase of China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) will be held on October 14, 2015 in Beijing.

The FTA inked between the two countries on November 24, 2006 is currently undergoing a review to finalise phase-II. In the phase-I Pakistan had offered market access to China namely on machinery, organic and inorganic chemicals, fruits & vegetables, medicines and other raw material for various industries including engineering sector, intermediate goods for engineering etc. In phase-II, both parties are aiming to eliminate tariff on no less than 90% of the products both in terms of tariff lines and trade volumes.

In view of mixed reaction to phase-I of the FTA, Ministry of Commerce is working to address the concerns of Pakistan's industry and trade on this agreement. During the review of phase-I, the discrepancy in reported figures between the two countries has been a major source of concern for the policymakers and the trade and industry representatives. For example, in its report on Pak-China FTA, Pakistan Business Council (PBC) has quoted figures of exports from China to Pakistan at \$11.019 billion in 2013. However during the same period, Pakistan recorded imports of only \$6.626 billion. This has created an 'unaccounted for' gap of \$4.393 billion. Similarly, recorded exports of Pakistan to China are \$2.652 billion while during the same period i.e. 2013, China recorded imports of \$3.196 billion giving a gap of \$544 million. One of the reasons for such discrepancies in trade figures is massive under invoicing and smuggling of goods from China.

Commerce Minister Engineer Khurram Dastgir, who is searching for "bright" officials for the Ministry, is seriously concerned about unaccounted for gap of about \$5 billion. He recently met with his Chinese counterpart and urged him to resolve this issue. During the 4th meeting of negotiation of 2nd phase of CPFTA held in Beijing from 31st March to 1st April, 2015 Pakistan shared its concerns regarding insufficient utilisation of concessions given by China to Pakistan and competition faced by the local industries due to cheap imports from China. It was agreed that the tariff reduction modalities of 2nd phase would be designed in a way that all the genuine concerns of the two countries are adequately accommodated.

During the review sessions, which the MoC has conducted, common concern shared by the domestic industry has been massive hemorrhage because of unfair advantage that Chinese goods have in Pakistan against the local industry. Support of Chinese government for its own industry through financial and non-financial measures, huge economies of scale that Chinese industry enjoys and lack of implementation of tariffs and import procedures at Pakistani borders are some of the major contributing factors that are disadvantaging Pakistani industry. Pakistan's economy is uncompetitive vis-à-vis China due to lack of essential infrastructure, such as gas, electricity and exorbitant cost of other services.

The industry representatives raised serious concerns over allowing further reduction in tariff at a time when Pakistan has been unable to enjoy any increase in exports that can specifically be linked to FTA with China. On the other hand, many industries in Pakistan such as steel, ceramics, paper and paperboard, footwear, electric and electronic goods suffered badly into face of cheap Chinese imports. Footwear, tiles and ceramics, electric and electronics goods have virtually perished. Analysts argue that Pakistan steel industry is strong enough to meet the local market demand but due to low cost of value added steel from China along with an increase in tariff of raw-materials used by our local manufacturers has placed them at a disadvantageous position. Similarly, tile industry in Pakistan is meeting the demand of local market but lower declared values of imports along with lower import tariff and under-invoicing is causing massive hemorrhage to the local

industry. In case of paper and paperboard industry, imports from China have increased by 563% in last five years (2010-14). This has virtually crippled the local industry. Due to a huge surge in imports, many units in this industry have closed down while those still operational are struggling for survival.

The minister has been giving a patient hearing to all sectors and the negotiations are planned to continue through next week, giving the Pakistani side insight and material to negotiate a better deal this time.

Emerging theme behind reducing sensitive list during discussion on second phase of Pak-China FTA is to allow import of those products of different sectors that are not being manufactured locally. However, potential of such products to be produced locally in future is also being discussed. It has been realised that by allowing these products to be imported at a lower or no tariff, the future opportunity for producing locally will be lost. Emerging theme seems to be to allow import of raw-materials in FTA while placing finished/ semi finished product in 'no concession list'.

Industry is eagerly looking forward to a favourable outcome of these negotiations, as the future of manufacturing in Pakistan will depend on the success of Pakistan's negotiating team. In essence, the negotiating team from Pakistan and the industry are looking for "Fair Trade Agreement" instead of 'Free Trade Agreement' so that country's interest may be protected in term of gains of trade.

Pakistan's major exports to China are cotton yarn/fabric, rice, raw hides & skins, crude vegetable material, chemical material, fish and fish preparations and crude mineral etc. While major imports from China are machinery (all sorts) and parts, fertiliser manufactured, chemical element, yarn and thread of synthetic fiber, iron and steels, chemical material and product, vegetable and synthetic textile fiber, road vehicles and their parts, non-ferrous metals, tyres and tubes of rubber etc. Pakistan secured market access on products of immediate export interest like cotton fabrics, blended fabrics, synthetic yarn and fabrics, knit fabrics, home textiles, minerals, sports goods, cutlery, surgical goods, kinnow, mangoes, industrial alcohol, etc.

During the first three years of implementation of phase-I, both sides reduced tariffs on almost 36% tariff lines to zero duty. The phase II was supposed to start from the sixth year of the entry into force of the agreement and by the end of 2nd phase both sides would have to reduce tariffs on 90% tariff lines to zero percent duty. The FTA covers more than 7000 tariff lines at HS Code 8 digit level.

According to sources, review of the first Phase of CPFTA has revealed that Pakistan could not utilise the concessions granted by China. Pakistan could only export in 253 tariff lines, where avg. export value was \$500 or more, which is around 3.3% of the total tariff lines (7550) on which China granted concessions to Pakistan. Pakistan mainly exported raw materials and Intermediate products such as cotton yarn, woven fabric, Grey fabric etc. Value-added products were missing. Some of the value-added products like garments are included in the concessionary regime.

All Day

Pakistan, China Finalize 8-Sub Construction Plan -- Defense News

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan has finalized its long-negotiated submarine deal with China, with four to be built in China and four in Pakistan. Analysts believe the submarines will go a long way toward maintaining a credible conventional deterrent against India, and also largely secure the sea-based arm of Pakistan's nuclear triad.

Minister for Defence Production Tanveer Hussain announced the news last week while opening a new exhibition center at the Defence Export Promotion Organization.

Construction is to be undertaken simultaneously in both countries, but Hussain did not say when construction would commence or what type had been selected.

Most analysts believe the subs will be the air independent propulsion (AIP) equipped variant of the S-20, which is an export development of China's Type-039A/Type-041 class diesel-electric submarines.

Though Chinese submarine technology is reported to have improved considerably, Tom Waldwyn, research analyst in the Defence and Military Analysis Programme at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, said, "the capabilities of Chinese submarines are not something which can be easily determined as it benefits countries on both sides to keep this a secret.

"The export version of the Type 039A, the S20, is believed to be AIP optional and should the Pakistanis opt for this capability it would give them greater operational flexibility through increased endurance. Other than being AIP optional, it is currently unclear what other differences there would be between a Chinese Navy Type 039A and an export version," he said.

All Day

Pak embassy stalls in China pull big crowd -- BR

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistan embassy in Beijing set up stands at the seventh international charity sale held in the city's National Stadium yesterday to support and pay tributes to teachers in rural areas of Yunnan province of China. The charity sales attracted 97 embassies and representative offices of international organizations, as well as domestic and foreign enterprises, and individuals to participate, said a statement issued here.

The fair was hosted by Qian Wei, wife of China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi. This year's theme was to pay a "Tribute to Rural Teachers in Yunnan Province" of China. Qian Wei in her inaugural speech said that the funds raised this year would go to school teachers in Jinping and Malipo counties of Yunnan province, "so as to encourage the teachers to make more contribution to the cause of education." She also hoped that the funds raised would also brighten the future of the children of these counties.

At the Pakistani stands, handicrafts, jewellery, ornaments, home decoration, clothes, as well as, on-the-spot henna hand printing and traditional Pakistani cuisine was available to the delight of visitors.

The shoppers visited stalls to purchase from the variety of displayed items—crafts and food. The Pakistan stalls also attracted the crowd at the fair. The booths were artistically decorated and depicted traditional Pakistani culture.

These were also visited by Foreign Minister Wang Yi, his wife Qian Wei, Ambassador Masood Khalid and his wife Sonia Masood Khalid. Ambassador Khalid also showed the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi the Pakistani booths. Sharing his views on the day, Ambassador Khalid commended the idea saying that the charity over the years had rendered public welfare in poverty stricken areas and was indeed a noble cause to support teachers in far flung rural areas and thereby help improve the provision of education.

Launched by Le Aimei, Chinese honorary ambassador for poverty alleviation and wife of State Councilor Yang Jiechi, it was first held in 2009 to raise funds for needy people through charity sales.

PAK DELEGATION TO CHINA GETS BRIEFING

An eight-member women delegation led by eminent PML-N leader Fouzia Memon visited the Sichuan Provincial Federation of Trade Union. The delegation, which is visiting various parts of China as part of the Pak-China people-to-people exchange programme, was in Chengdu on special invitation from the Chinese government. The delegation was also feted by Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA). Women from all walks of life are part of the delegation including politicians, entrepreneurs, working women.

On the occasion, Fozia Memon addressed the audience. Ji Xiaoling from Sichuan Provincial Federation of Trade Union introduced the work of Sichuan, saying that the trade union has done a lot to improve women and children's status. She said that Sichuan is building an all-round system to guarantee the gender equality. In terms of legislative means, the government carries out laws regulating women's welfare and provides legal aid from grass-root villages to the provincial level. In terms of public facilities, she requested for all public places to be equipped with separate room for breast-feed and encourage the whole society to help the pregnant women. In terms of aids, they provide the women with free re-education, financial aid as well as psychological help.

In the party, Luo Yubin, President of SIFA, said that China and Pakistan are time-on partners. They sincerely welcomed the delegation and hopes our communication and cooperation will flourish in the future.

All Day

PAK-CHINA STRATEGIC PARTNER TO BENEFIT PEOPLE Salim Ahmed Wednesday, October 14, 2015 - Lahore—The University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid met with the Chinese Consulate General at Embassy of the Peop -- Pak Observer

The University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid met with the Chinese Consulate General at Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Lahore. He said, China would strengthen good-neighborly friendship with neighboring countries, and would strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation so that China's development could benefit more neighboring countries.

Pakistan as China's strategic partner, would benefit most from China's development. Language was an important bridge to promote friendly exchanges and pragmatic cooperation between China and Pakistan. The establishment of Chinese Education Association would help mobilize Chinese language teaching resources. He said that we would establish Chinese Language Centre and provide teaching staff at UET, Lahore.

Prof. Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid said that establishment of Chinese Education Association was one of remarkable achievements over the past year in cultural exchanges, and he expected it would help promote bilateral relations to higher levels in the New Year.

Thermal Power Project China and Pakistan enjoy an all-weather friendship and all round cooperation. The growth momentum of the China-Pakistan Strategic Cooperative Partnership has become more and more powerful.

Our two Governments have reached important consensus on planning and development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The Chinese government encourages credible and competent companies to invest in Pakistan, and requests them to complete their projects on schedule, with high quality, quantity and safety.

China is introducing advanced technique and management experience to Pakistan. Thermal Power Project is based on a world leading technology called supercritical coal-fired power generation technology. The Chinese equipment has advantages of high efficiency, high quality and low power heat consumption.

All Day

‘Pakistan connected China to the rest of the world’ -- Express Tribune

KARACHI: Pakistan helped connect China to the rest of the world by operating the first international flight from Karachi to Beijing, said former federal minister Dr Javed Jabbar.

Before that, China did not have international flights, said Jabbar during a lecture on ‘Pak-India Relation: Issues and Prospects’ on Thursday at Karachi University. In the year 1971, Pakistan facilitated America’s secret link to China, claimed Jabbar. This allowed the then communist state to get United Nations’(UN) membership, he said.

Hostile relations

Pakistan is termed as a security state, but in Jabbar’s opinion, it is the most insecure state. “At the time of its creation, Pakistan was the most insecure state of the region,” said Jabbar. Its two neighbouring countries, India and Afghanistan, were not willing to accept its existence, he said.

“The Indian leadership in 1947 claimed that Pakistan will not survive more than six months,” he recalled. On the other hand, Afghanistan opposed the membership of Pakistan in UN, he said. “When one of your neighbours is making statements against your survival and the other is not ready to accept your existence, naturally you will seek some form of security.” This is why Pakistan felt the need to seek military aid from United States of America, he added.

Understanding 1971

“People use the example of 1971 to point out that it signifies the failure of the Two-Nation Theory,” said Jabbar. However, they need to realise that Bangladesh did not join India, he claimed. “Now it’s two nations and three states.”

When asked who should be held responsible for the 1971 events leading to the break-up of the country, Jabbar said that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was adamant to rule and his ‘aggressive’ behaviour escalated the violence. But his stance was legitimate, he claimed.

Soviet invasion

Speaking on the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, Jabbar said that till today, Pakistan continues to suffer from its effects. Due to the invasion, 15 million refugees came to Pakistan, claimed Jabbar. “More than two million continue to reside here.” He said that no such example could be seen in rest of the world.

“Afghans have complete freedom to buy land, use transport, health and education facilities in Pakistan,” he said. A few years later Afghans will become our brothers in blood, he said.

All Day

Pakistan leveraging US and China's interest in the region -- The Express Tribune

Another important strategic objective was to support the landlocked Central-Asian republics and Afghanistan connect with the sea ports of South Asia. PHOTO: FILE
Another important strategic objective was to support the landlocked Central-Asian republics and Afghanistan connect with the sea ports of South Asia. PHOTO: FILE
ISLAMABAD: The consensus of the US and China on the economic and trade integration in this region has created optimism among policy circles in Pakistan to upgrade its dwindling infrastructure in order to leverage the strategic location for trade and transit.

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would bring much-needed investment and would connect mainland China with the Gwadar port via a 3,000-km road and railway link in Pakistan. China has two important strategic reasons to commit to this initiative.

China's interest

China is looking to develop an alternative maritime link with Asia and Europe to reduce its reliance on its present maritime link through straits of Malacca in the South-China Sea.

'Pak-China have survived the test of time'

This route would also considerably reduce time for goods to reach the European markets and the east coast of the US.

China is also looking to develop its western region which is economically less developed. The connectivity through Pakistan would make export-related manufacturing goods, which is the mainstay of the Chinese economy, financially viable for the Chinese industry.

US working on similar lines

The US is also embarking on an ambitious initiative through multilateral donor agencies for funding infrastructure projects and facilitating the creation of regional trade blocs with the policy objectives of creating economic opportunities to bring stability in the region.

An uncertain future

The US policy surfaced in 2011 through the policy vision called the 'New Silk Road' where US was envisaging political and economic stability in Afghanistan, after its troops withdraw from the region.

Another important strategic objective was to support the landlocked Central-Asian republics and Afghanistan connect with the sea ports of South Asia so as to provide them options other than relying on Russia for trade.

US companies show interest in Pakistan

The Chinese policy is advocated through the policy vision of 'One Belt One Road' where connectivity to Gwadar port is an important component. The vision envisages China's road connectivity through Central Asia, West Asia, Middle East and Europe. China will also develop maritime linkages of Chinese sea ports with Africa through Suez Canal.

Competing for influence

The analysts believe that other than trade and energy security needs, an important motivating factor for China has been its exclusion from the Trans-Pacific Trade Agreement (TPP) which is seen as a US-led initiative to deepen its economic integration in the Asia Pacific region. According to recent media reports, the TPP

negotiators have reached a consensus in implement the free trade agreement which would create one of the biggest free trade areas in the world and would constitute 40% of the world's GDP and one third of global trade.

Progress: CPEC hailed as key to the future

Whether 'One Belt One Road' was in response to America's push for TPP or vice versa, some experts see it as a new great game.

However, the recent public statement made by US policymakers saying that the New Silk Road should not be seen as a competition to China's 'One Belt One Road', but rather as a partnership initiative, should comfort policymakers in Pakistan, since the country enjoys close relationships with US and China.

It is important for Pakistan to facilitate these upcoming initiatives and for which the most important factor is ensuring security.

US keen to invest in economic corridor projects

Pakistan government's commitment to ensure security for the development of CPEC clearly reflects the clarity of vision to leverage these opportunities.

On the regulatory framework, it is important for Pakistan to improve its trade facilitation measures in order to compete with regional ports.

Recently, the transit business from Pakistan has shifted to the ports of Iran due to increase in transit costs for Afghan traders. The Chabahar port in Iran, located 70km north of Gwadar, is the main competitor.

CPEC- a window of opportunity for Pakistan

Iran and China have also contributed to the development of Chabahar port that now caters to substantial volumes of Afghan transit trade that were previously coming from Pakistan. A recent study by the Asian Development Bank on trade facilitation on Border Customs Posts (BCPs) at Chaman and Torkham which are included in the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) trade corridors does not portray an encouraging picture as Chaman and Torkham land border stations were below the regional border stations on goods clearance time. Pakistan has recently acceded to the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement. Pakistan has also acceded to the United Nations transit convention (TIR convention). These two international instruments provide benchmarks for trade and transit facilitation.

The timely implementation of these conventions would improve Pakistan's trade and transit facilitation and improve its competitiveness, which would help realise the policy vision of Pakistan as 'hub for trade and transit in the region.'

The writer is a development professional with over 20 years of experience with public and development sector

All Day

'Pakistan, China committed to safeguarding common regional interests'
-- BR

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Sun Weidong has said that China and Pakistan were committed to safeguard their common interest in the region.

Talking to APP after a seminar titled "Strategic Stability in South Asia and East Asia: constructive role played by China", the Chinese Ambassador said that regional peace was key to economic and social development on the South Asia. "We have decided to uplift our strategic and economic co-operation and our bilateral relations will reach new heights".

"This year is Pak-China friendship year and mutual exchange of delegations of students, think-tanks, cultural troupe will further strengthen between the two countries," he added.

He said that China was ready to cooperate with SAARC to safeguard common interests. He said that China and Pakistan were committed to bring peace process back to Afghanistan.

He said promoting peace and stability in neighbouring countries including South Asia was core of China's foreign policy, adding peaceful South Asia was in the interest of China".

He said that China treated every country equally on basis of mutual trust and confidence irrespective of its size. He said that co-operation between China and South Asia was also important to cope with various challenges and alleviating poverty from the region having 3 billion populations.

Ambassador Sun Weidong said that China was the biggest investor in Pakistan and it wanted to further deepen its relations with South Asian countries.

For financial assistance and local development in the regional countries, he said China had set up Asian Investment Bank. "We have to work together for common security challenges and disputes should be resolved through dialogue to overcome wider challenges", he added.

He said China advocated joint efforts to help promote regional development goals.

Ambassador Sha Zukang, President, China Arms Control and Disarmament Association (CACDA) in his address said that China was a main force and pillar for peace and stability in South Asia. He said that China was working for peace and stability of the world.

In his address, he gave historical background of China relations with neighbouring countries like Russia, North and South Korea and Japan. He said that Pakistan was all weather friend of China not an ally.

Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI)

Masood Khan said China was a great and steadfast friend of Pakistan. Both the countries had passed through difficult times and seen many transitions, but our friendship remained constant, he added. "Strong ties with China are the keystone of Pakistan's foreign policy", he said. He said China was working with its neighbours to promote peaceful development by investing in infrastructure, energy and industrial development. Its momentous decisions were shaping the strategic and economic landscape of the Asia Pacific region, he added. "Its overriding doctrine is peace, not war; defence not offence; co-operation not confrontation. China upholds the principle of security for all".

He said Pakistan had propounded a Strategic Restraint Regime in South Asia comprising nuclear restraint, conventional balance, and conflict resolution. As a responsible nuclear weapon state, Pakistan supports the objectives of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, he said.

Masood Khan said China had always played a constructive role in South Asia. Pakistan and China had a great partnership in the United Nations and other multilateral forums. Pakistan and China also work together to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention and Chemical Weapons Convention regimes, he added.

All Day

AIR CHINA TO LAUNCH FLIGHT OPERATION IN ISLAMABAD FROM OCT 26 -- Pak Observer

Luxury planes with luxurious services

National flag carrier of China, Air China which has been operating in Karachi (from Karachi to Beijing) for last 22 years is now all set to stop over in Islamabad and take passengers from here too. On October 26, the Air China's new "Air Bus" will be arriving in the airs of Islamabad to take passengers on way to Karachi and then Beijing. This will be the second time the Air China plane will be landing in Islamabad this year as earlier in April, China's President Mr Xi Jinping also visited Pakistan by Air China flight.

For Islamabad, initially, three flights are schedules: Monday, Wednesday and Friday and later with the growth of business activities and exchange of workers contractors and businessmen owing to momentum of work on the China Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) more flights may be scheduled. This was announced by the General Manager of Air Chin Islamabad station, Mr Hu Hi Tao at the formal launch of the Air China operations from Islamabad. General Manger Air China Karachi Station Hao Yu Dong was also there to extend full moral support to his Islamabad's counterpart.

Defence Minister Khawaja M Asif, Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Marvi Memon and a friend of Pakistan Ambassador of China Sun Weidong were also there to witness a new chapter of enhanced business activities between the two countries. Khawaja Asif referring to the CPEC termed the Air China's decision to start flights from Islamabad a good pragmatic step. I can foresee a large number of passengers travelling between the two countries in the days to come as the work on economic corridor picks up momentum, he said. China is Pakistan's trusted friend and both the countries have stood the test of time in all odds and unpredictable conditions.

Air China, the national flag carrier of the People's Republic of China keeping the strong friendly ties between the two countries in mind has initiated the major step and I on behalf of the government assured the company full support. We shall facilitate you in all possible ways in making your endeavours successful, said Defence Minister. "We are embarking on a journey of economic development with the start of Pakistan China corridor, he concluded. Ambassador Weidong also appreciated Air China for including Islamabad in its flight route. Air China is a world-class service and meets all the standards of top international flights. I sincerely wish them best of luck and hope Air China's operations will result in increased bilateral investment and enhance trade and travel, said Chinese envoy.

Speaking on the occasion, Air China, GM Islamabad Hu Hi Tao said new airplanes Air Bus 330-200 is being introduced instead of old narrow Air Bus 320. The new airplanes have 30 business seats and 207 Economy with total 360 seats. About Air China, he told it operates all over the world and is a competitor among the top-ranking airlines of the world. Later talking to Pakistan Observer, a representative of the Air China said in the past we had agreement with PIA to take our passengers from Islamabad to Karachi but now we shall cater to them ourselves. He however did not rule out any future agreement with the Pakistan's national flag carrier Pakistan International Airlines.

All Day

Ground-breaking of LNG pipeline project: Putin likely to visit in February -- BR

Pakistan and Russia have not yet decided many important financial components of the \$2 billion government-to-government deal signed on 16 October to lay an LNG pipeline from Karachi to Lahore including tolling fee and capacity charge, informed sources told Business Recorder. According to a senior official of the Petroleum Ministry associated with handling of the project, the two countries will finalise all the remaining issues within the next few months.

He added the pipeline would be laid on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. The Russian company would transfer it to Pakistan after 25 years. As per agreement, Pakistan will provide 15 percent equity, whereas 85 percent funding will be provided by the Russian firm.

The official said that Pakistan has formally invited Russian President Vladimir Putin to visit Pakistan for the groundbreaking ceremony and the Russian energy minister has confirmed Putin's visit. "Putin is likely to visit Pakistan in February 2016 to perform the groundbreaking of the pipeline project, for which Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had handed over the framework to the Russian President in Ufa earlier this year," the official added.

The financing for the LNG pipeline comes as a prelude to Russia's offer to sell LNG to Pakistan. Russia is the second-largest producer of natural gas in the world, and is seeking to diversify its export markets after its "annexation" of Crimea last year and the ongoing insurgency in Ukraine.

According to a senior official of the Inter State Gas Systems (ISGS), the government is seeking to sign the commercial agreement in the next three to four months, adding that a bid document was being prepared by ISGS which would be handed over to the Russian firm. Russian firm RT Global Resources will lay the 1,100-km-long pipeline with a capacity of 12.4 Billion Cubic Metres (bcm) per annum to supply the commodity from LNG termini in Karachi to Sui-Northern Gas Pipelines Limited's (SNGPL) network in Lahore.

Pakistan is also working on a similar model with China, under which a Chinese firm would lay Gwadar to Nawabshah 700kilometers long LNG pipeline and build LNG termini with a capacity to handle 12.4 Bcm of imported gas at a cost of \$2.5 billion. The Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline would also be utilised to transport gas under the Iran-Pakistan Pipeline project, after adding 70km pipeline to connect it with the Iranian side of already laid pipeline.

The pipeline will be built in two phases; the first phase of the project will be completed by December 2017 and the second phase in 2018, with a total investment of \$2 billion. The North-South gas pipeline project would be built by Russian company RT Global Resources - a part of Russian state corporation Rostec.

The government of Pakistan constructed the first LNG terminal at Port Qasim Karachi with a capacity to handle up to 600 Million Cubic Feet per Day (MMCFD) of LNG, while another terminal will be completed by 2017 with a capacity to handle 500 MMCFD of LNG. The objective of these termini is to deal with the severe gas shortage in the country. Total gas demand in Pakistan stands at 8 BCFD against total demand of 4 BCFD. The government is managing the gas supply to different sectors through a gas load-management plan, according to which in winter gas supply to industrial, fertiliser and CNG outlets remains suspended in Punjab, while in Sindh 3 days-a-week gas is being supplied to industrial and CNG outlets.

All Day

Pakistan To Get \$178 Mn ADB Assistance On Easy Installments - See more at: <http://www.geo.tv/latest/99872-pakistan-to-get-178-mn-adb-assistance-on-easy> -- Geo Tv

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will extend financial assistance of 178 million dollars to Pakistan on easy installments for 20 years.

The agreement in this regard was signed between Secretary Finance and Country Director ADB here on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, Finance Secretary Salim Sethi said the amount will be spent on the construction of Gojra-Shorkot motorway.

He said the motorway's 62 kilometer section is part of the Pak-China Economic Corridor.

Salim Sethi said the construction of Gojra-Shorkot motorway will cut by half the travel duration of Islamabad-Toba Tek Singh and Lahore-Toba Tek Singh. - See more at: <http://www.geo.tv/latest/99872-pakistan-to-get-178-mn-adb-assistance-on-easy-installments#sthash.autFaVJr.dpuf>

All Day

Pakistan, Russia sign Karachi-Lahore pipeline deal -- Daily Times

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has awarded Russia with a \$2 billion contract to build a 1,100-kilometer pipeline from Lahore to Karachi, aptly named the North-South pipeline.

The contract with Russia is another step forward for Pakistan's energy needs, economy and real estate.

Earlier in the year, the nation hosted the Chinese president and signed more than a dozen agreements securing an additional \$1.6 billion for the \$46 billion, 3,000km China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Such deals have already benefited the local real estate immensely. Properties in the port city of Gwadar, one of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor terminal cities, have doubled since the project's inception in 2013.

Lamudi.pk Country Director Saad Arshed said, "Property prices in certain areas of Gwadar such as Singhar, Ganz and Mouza Shabi have already gone up. In addition, the searches for Gwadar, ever since the launch of this project, have increased massively by around 200 times on Lamudi's portal, pointing the rising interest of Pakistanis in this future investment goldmine."

While it is not clear through which cities the Russian pipeline would extend, experts at Lamudi Pakistan predict that the project would have similar positive effects on the cities between Lahore and Karachi as the Chinese pipeline has had on Gwadar.

All Day

Rs 228.93 billion budgeted: only Rs 22.14 billion released for 90 energy projects so far -- BR

The federal government has so far released only Rs 22.14 billion for 90 energy projects against a budgeted allocation of Rs 228.93 billion for financial year 2015-16. According to latest data released by the ministry of planning, development and reforms, the government has so far released only Rs 20 billion for two projects out of 63 projects of power sector.

As many as Rs 10 billion for each 1,200 MW LNG-based power plant Balloki and 1,200 MW LNG-based power plant Haveli Bahadurshah, has been released out of the budgeted allocation of Rs 22.5 for each project. The government has so far not released funds for mega projects including Neelum Jhelum hydro power project (969 MW) (China, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, IDB and Opec), for construction of Diamer-Bhasha Dam project (4,500 MW), Dasu hydro power project stage-I (2,160 MW) (District Kohistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhawa), Tarbela fourth extension hydro power project (1,410 MW), refurbishment and upgradation of generation units of Mangla

power station (310 MW), pre-feasibility - installation of 300 MW coal-fired power plant at Gwadar and for many other projects of power distribution enhancement.

The government has released Rs 2.14 billion for nine energy projects out of total 30 projects relating to water sector out of budgeted allocation of Rs 16.64 billion for financial year 2015-16. According to data, a total of Rs 260 million has been released for construction of small storage dams in different districts of KP, Rs 200 million for Darwat dam, Jamshoro Sindh, Rs 40 million for Gomal Zam dam (17 MW) (South Waziristan), Rs 400 million for Nai Gaj Dam, Dadu Sindh, Rs 200 for raising of Mangla dam project and Rs 10 million for Chiniot Dam project, etc.

The government has not yet released funds for construction of 100 delay action dams in Balochistan (Package-II, 26 small dams) (multiple districts), construction of Mujahid Dam Rawalpindi, construction of Mangi Dam, Quetta, Ghabir Dam, Chakwal Punjab, Kurram Tangi Dam, North Waziristan, Mohmand Dam project Charsadda, construction of Basool Dam, Tehsil Ormara, district Gwadar, construction of a small dam in district Mansehra, Papin Dam, Rawalpindi and for construction of small dams in Tehsil Khaliqabad, etc.

All Day

WB report : CPEC helps increase investment in Pakistan -- Daily Times
ISLAMABAD: The investment in Pakistan is expected to increase to 15.4% of GDP by 2017 as a result of operationalisation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects related to energy and infrastructure development, says a World Bank (WB) report.

While the government, under the leadership the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, has doubled its efforts to attract maximum foreign direct investment (FDI) following the signing of CPEC projects, the reports says that many countries, including European Union, Canada, the United States and Australia, have shown interest in investing in Pakistan's economy.

CPEC is a landmark project, which would connect Pakistan's deep sea Gwadar port with China's Xinjiang region, emerging as new business and trade hub following the launch Silk Road by China.

The economic corridor, with a total investment of \$46 billion, is a glaring example of the close friendship between the Pakistan and China. The 2,100-kilometre corridor would include special economic zones, a railways system and a model city, airport as well as a free port at Gwadar.

All Day

AIOU establishes Chinese Language Center -- Pakistan Today

The Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) will soon set up a Chinese Language and Culture Centre with the academic support of Open University of Beijing.

A three-member Beijing University's delegation will visit Islamabad within next few weeks to undertake feasibility study for formally launching the Chinese language classes at the University's main campus, said Vice Chancellor Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while addressing a lecture-series seminar on rising China.

Project Director AIOU Eng. Dr. Attaullah Shah was the key-speaker at the seminar who briefed the participants about his recent visit to China's Fujian province. During his 20-day stay there he had the opportunity to represent Pakistan at international conference on Planning and Development of Cities and Towns in China. Engr. Hafiz Ehsan, newly elected Chairman Institution of Engineers of Pakistan (IEP)

Rawalpindi-Islamabad Center was the chief guest on the occasion.

Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said the AIOU being the Mega University in public sector wished to positively respond to China Economic Corridor project (CPEC) by further bringing the people of two countries closer each other through language and culture support. "We need to take benefit of towering Sino-Pak ties through maximum academic exchange programs."

The CEPC, he said has provided them an opportunity to further consolidate their people-to-people contacts. The Educational Institutions, he said need to play their role in this connection and to create awareness about its fate-changing impact on country's socio-economic development.

Currently, the AIOU has bilateral cooperation with three major Chinese Universities. The two sides have identified many areas of bilateral interest for promoting educational pursuits in academic, technical and scientific fields.

Dr. Shahid Siddiqui further said Pakistani people and the intelligentsia are proud of their friendship with China that is now emerging as Number one economic power. "We can learn a lot from Chinese development model to realize the dream of prosperous Pakistan.

Dr. Attaullah Shah gave detailed presentation on China's fast and impressive development in various sectors.

All Day

MPs body recommends CPEC western route as dual carriage way -- The Nations

ISLAMABAD - The Parliamentary Committee on CPEC Monday unanimously recommended to the government that the western route should be built as a dual carriage way at the outset and, eventually, there should be a motor way linking Gwadar with the rest of the country along the western route.

The decision came in a meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which met here under the chairmanship of Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed.

Members of the committee were given a comprehensive briefing by the Chairman NHA Shahid Tarar and DG FWO, Major General Mohammad Afzal.

The focus of the briefing was on infrastructure projects under the CPEC with particular priority to the western route as already decided by the All Parties Conference held in Islamabad on May 28, 2015.

The Chairman NHA and DG FWO told the committee that the western route which starts from Gwadar and goes to Kashgar in China via Balochistan, KPK and Punjab was being built on priority basis and most of its sectors would be completed by December 2016.

After detailed discussion, the committee unanimously recommended to the federal government that the western route should be built as a dual carriage way at the outset and, eventually, there should be a motor way linking Gwadar with the rest of the country along the western route as after operationalisation of Gwadar Port, traffic on the western route will increase substantially.

It may be added here that the CPEC is a 15-year project between Pakistan and China spanning 2015-2030, while the western route is among the Early Harvest Projects which have to be completed by 2018. Senator Mushahid Hussain said that the Parliamentary Committee on CPEC would preserve, promote and protect the rights and interests of the smaller provinces, particularly less-developed and remote areas of Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

Senator Mushahid said that CPEC is a long-term national project, which is above politics, province, party or any government, as it has a 15-year life span from 2015-2030.

The Parliamentary Committee was also briefed by the Secretary, Ministry of Water & Power, Younas Dhaga, on the Suki Kinari power project as well as coal deposits in the provinces of Balochistan and KPK, while the Additional Secretary, Planning & Development briefed the committee on the development of agricultural sector under the CPEC.

The Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on CPEC informed the Committee that in November, the Committee would be given a briefing by the Minister for Water & Power on the energy projects under the CPEC and the Committee would pay a site visit to Gwadar as well as the western route to monitor progress of the construction and related development there.

All Day

Govt-to-introduce-ferry-service-to-iran -- The News

KARACHI: The Federal Minister for Ports & Shipping, Senator Kamran Michael, while chairing a meeting here on Thursday, said that two passenger ferries have been shortlisted for operations between Karachi and Chahbahar (Iran) and Karachi and Ormara/Gwadar.

He further said that the ferry service will reduce the cost of journey for the Zaireen and would be a safe and secure alternative to travel by road.

The minister said that the ferry, with a capacity for around 250 to 400 passengers and with a speed of 28-30 knots per hour, would reach Chahbahar (Iran) in 14 hours. The minister announced that this ferry service will operate under the name of Makran Ferry Service Company Limited.

The meeting, which was held at the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation head office in Karachi, was attended by government stakeholders, including the Secretary of Ports & Shipping, the Commander Karachi (Pak Navy), the DG of Ports & Shipping, the Chairman of PNSC, the Chairman of KPT, the Chairman of PQA as well as officials from Immigration, FIA, Customs, Anti-Narcotics and entrepreneurs from the private sector.

The minister stated that this subject ferry service additionally will provide cargo service between Karachi and Gwadar. This will improve the overall shipping industry of Pakistan. Suggestions and recommendations were put across and the meeting concluded with an announcement of formation of the Makran Ferry Service Company Limited subject to policy approval.

- See more at: <http://www.thenews.com.pk/print/70466-govt-to-introduce-ferry-service-to-iran#sthash.px0DoZ4G.dpuf>

October 31, 2015

Sat

All Day

Gwadar, Chabahar seaports to operate as 'sister ports': PM --

HELLENIC SHIPPING NEWS WORLDWIDE

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said the Chabahar and Gwadar seaports would work as 'sister ports' and their operational activity would complement each other. The Prime Minister expressed these views while talking to Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani, Secretary Supreme National Security Council of Iran here at the PM House.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan and Iran are brotherly countries and share deep historic and cultural ties. He mentioned that Pakistan had rendered invaluable sacrifices in war against terrorism and Operation Zarb-e-Azb was yielding very positive and fruitful results.

Iranian National Security Secretary Ali said terrorism has no boundaries and it is a common enemy of both the countries. He said a stable Afghanistan is in the best interest of both Iran and Pakistan. The two sides expressed grief and sorrow with each other over the tragic incidence of Mina, Saudi Arabia where the citizens of both countries lost their lives.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

All Day

Gwadar to be made weapon-free city -- Pak News Service

Gwadar will be made a weapon-free city and special measures will be taken for the security of CQUETTA / GWADAR: Gwadar will be made a weapon-free city and special measures will be taken for the security of Chinese investors, engineers and experts working on different projects in the port city.

This was decided at a meeting attended by security officials from both Pakistan and China in Gwadar on Friday.

The meeting was attended by Major General Azhar Naveed, provincial Home Secretary Akbar Hussain Durrani, Brigadier Shahzad Iftikhar Bhatti, Brigadier Saqib, Director General of the Gwadar Development Authority Dr Sajjad Hussain, Deputy Director General of China's Ministry of Public Security Q.U. Jainging and senior officials of China's foreign ministry Ms Lili and Zhang Maoming.

Security of Gwadar and its surrounding areas has already been handed over to the Pakistan Army. Army troops have established checkpoints at all entry points of Gwadar town.

Senior officials briefed Chinese officials about measures taken for ensuring security of the port city and its surrounding areas. They said that under the plan Gwadar would be made a weapon-free city where special arrangements would be made for the maintenance of peace.

The meeting was informed that special measures were being taken for the protection of Chinese nationals working on different projects in the city.

Development of the social sectors also came under discussion during the meeting and the participants gave various suggestions in this regard. It was decided that maximum facilities would be provided to local people and measures would be taken for improving their standard of living.

The meeting was informed that residence cards would be issued to local people of Gwadar and people coming to the city from other areas would have to register at entry points. Record of outsiders would be maintained.

Commissioner of Makran Division Bashir Ahmed Bangulzai, Deputy Commissioner of Gwadar Abdul Hameed Abro, Gwadar SSP Tariq Khilji and officials of the Gwadar Port Overseas Holding Company also attended the meeting.

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All Day

Pakistan To Deploy 10,000 Army Personnel For Safety Of CPEC Workers - See m
<http://www.geo.tv/latest/7187-pakistan-to-deploy-10000-army-personnel-for-saf>
-- Geo News

ISLAMABAD: In order to ensure security of projects under \$46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Islamabad is going to apprise Beijing authorities that special security force of 10,000 personnel will be in place and become operational till December this year, The News has learnt.

The 5th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) under CPEC between Pakistan and China is scheduled to meet in Karachi from November 9 to 13, 2015 to review implementation on early harvest programme (EHP), scheduled to be completed in first phase till December 2017.

There are 5 major agenda items and one of them is ensuring security of CPEC projects for which Pakistan Army has taken responsibility by placing one Major General as head of the special force to ensure foolproof security. Partially, the security force is in place but for whole Pakistan starting from Gwadar to Karakoram Highway (KKH), it will become operational within next couple of months.

"Pakistan is going to request in the upcoming JCC with Chinese authorities to include establishing of transmission lines along with energy projects and it is yet to see how the Beijing is going to give its response," the agenda of upcoming JCC available with The News disclosed on Sunday.

Islamabad will also request Beijing for inclusion of Dera Ismail Khan to Sohrab road as dual carriageway under CPEC during the upcoming meeting which will help government resolve controversy over construction of western route in accordance with the desires of certain political forces belonging to KP.

In the upcoming JCC meeting, Pakistan and Chinese delegates will also visit Gwadar during which handing over of over 2,000 acres of land will be given to Free Zone and China's public sector company COPHCL. Both sides will also sign Master Plan for Gwadar port and ground breaking ceremony for construction of state-of-the-art School in the area. Both sides will also sign framework agreement on water supply project at Gwadar and inclusion of solid waste disposal and sanitation project at Gwadar.

Pakistan and China will also evolve consensus on inclusion of LNG terminal/transmission line project in Gwadar priority category, Gwadar coal power project, social sector projects (vocational and hospital grant status update), making Gwadar port operational and its update plan and Master Plan for Free Zone.

On energy side, the coming JCC will deliberate on Sahiwal power project, Port Qasim power project, Engro Thar Coal project, Hubco power project, SK Hydro project, transmission lines (if possible), adjustment of projects in the priority category and new projects if both sides evolve consensus on any initiative.

For transport sector, the coming JCC will deliberate upon Thakt-Havelian road, Multan-Sukkur motorway section, Gwadar Eastbay Expressway, New Gwadar International Airport, finalisation of Monographic Study on Transport Planning, consensus on CPEC long term plan, minutes of Transport Infrastructure JWG meeting - 13 Aug 2015 and new projects including Basima-Gwadar and dualisation of road DI Khan to Surab. Both sides will discuss long term plan under CPEC in details during the upcoming JCC meeting.

Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal told on Sunday, that special security force in consultation with Ministry of Interior would be in place till coming December/January in order to ensure security of CPEC projects.

He said that Chinese had agreed to increase power generation from Thar Coal and other projects. "We will ensure checklist to ensure completion of Early Harvest Projects under energy and infrastructure projects till December 2017," he added.

November 2, 2015 Continued

Mon

He said the dualisation of DI Khan to Surab road was part of next agenda of JCC between the two countries that demonstrated sincerity of the incumbent regime to complete western route on priority basis - See more at:
<http://www.geo.tv/latest/7187-pakistan-to-deploy-10000-army-personnel-for-safety-of-cpec-workers#sthash.CQyz5IIN.dpuf>

All Day

Transnational gas pipeline project to be launched next month -- Daily Times

Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Wednesday said that the groundbreaking ceremony of the long-awaited transnational gas pipeline, dubbed as Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) project would be held next month.

Highlighting the TAPI project as one of attractive opportunities for investment in the country's oil and gas sector here at the Pakistan Investment Conference organised by the Board of Investment, he said that the pipeline, which would carry around 3.2 billion cubic feet (BCF) gas, would be laid in four years.

He said that the government was working on all fronts to meet the country's growing energy needs, and it had adopted policies in this regard with attractive incentives, including high return, for investors. He said that Pakistan's upstream sector also had many opportunities for service provider companies and investors could consider participating in ventures in select high growth areas such as drilling and seismic acquisition.

He said that numerous projects were being pursued in the oil and gas sector with special focus on exploration and production fronts and all these offered handsome investment opportunities like investing in infrastructure development or service provision. He said Pakistan had natural gas shortage of over 2 BCF per day and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources was working on a multi-pronged strategy to overcome this shortfall.

He said that Pakistan would encourage investors to help maximize its local production by exploring indigenous hydrocarbon resources. Over two dozen exploration and production companies were engaged in the upstream sector, including several international ones, which were receiving good returns on their investment. The upstream sector included two majority government-owned companies - Oil and Gas Development Company Ltd (OGDCL) and the Pakistan Petroleum Ltd (PPL).

There were many joint venture opportunities for international and domestic E&P companies in existing blocks with these companies. He said that special incentives were offered for tight gas, offshore discoveries and for exceeding certain production target thresholds. He said that there were vast opportunities for investment in shale gas sector as the country, according to a survey, was rich in shale gas resources.

The companies could to investment in exploring shale gas resources. Among other opportunities for investment, the minister said three LNG-based power plants were being constructed to add around 3600mw to national grid as part of efforts to overcome power shortfall. He said the first LNG (liquefied natural gas) regasification terminal became operational this March in record time while a second LNG terminal was planned at Gwadar with support from China.

He said that the project would include a pipeline linking the terminal at Gwadar to Nawabshah. Investment opportunities existed for the setting up of additional LNG terminals. There were also opportunities for companies and investors to participate in the supply of LNG to Pakistan. He said that more LNG terminals would be constructed to import more natural gas to Pakistan.

Replying to a question, the minister said that Pakistan had almost completed its work to import gas through Pak-Iran gas pipelines and once sanctions were lifted on latter, work would start again on the ambitious project.

All Day

chinese-company-to-set-up-petrochemical-refining-complexes-at-gaddani -- The News

ISLAMABAD: In an enormously positive development, China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) has made up its mind to establish state-of-the-art oil refining and petrochemical complexes including petroleum related equipment manufacturing facilities at the cost of \$1.47 billion in Balochistan and to this effect, Pakistan authorities have proposed Gaddani as one of the potential sites for the said projects. The Chinese companies under the umbrella of CNPC will execute the projects.

The said initiatives will be in addition to the huge oil city that is being founded at Gwadar port. The high powered CNPC delegation headed by Wang Shihong, that is on a visit to Pakistan (November 2-4), unveiled the plan to set up oil refining and petrochemical complexes including petroleum related equipment manufacturing facilities other than the Gwadar port in a meeting held on November 3 with top officials' team headed by Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. Pakistan has proposed Gaddani in Balochistan province as one of the potential sites for the said projects, a senior official told The News.

The said meeting was factually the follow up event of the recent visit of Yan Lijin from National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of the Peoples of Republic of China who had met Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and other dignitaries with regard to setting up industrial parks including petrochemical complexes.

The petrochemical integrated complex along with urea project is likely to cost \$770 million. In addition CPNC will also install land based LNG receiving terminal at a cost of \$700 million. Moreover, CNPC will also revamp and upgrade Pak-Arab Refinery Plant.

The said industrial parks, the official said, will be very important projects under CPEC framework and could become the part of the regional production and supply hub of quality products, the upbeat official said adding,

"This will go a long way in developing Pakistan and improve the living standard of its people and help assist participation of Pakistan people and the government in the development of 'One Belt, One Road' project." And on top of that it would result in great benefits not only for Pakistan but the entire region at large.

In the meeting, Pakistan also offered CNPC mutually beneficial opportunities available in the exploration and production sector and invited CNPC to take part in exploration and production activities of the oil and gas in Pakistan either independently or through joint venture with state owned exploration and production companies such as OGDCL and Pakistan Petroleum Limited.

- See more at: <http://www.thenews.com.pk/print/71532-chinese-company-to-set-up-petrochemical-refining-complexes-at-gaddani#sthash.IRWmwfiB.dpuf>

All Day

Gwadar to connect with Middle East, Central Asia -- Daily Times

QUETTA - Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong has said that Gwadar is going to become an economic belt which would be connected with Middle East and Central Asia bringing a great boost in economy of the region.

He was addressing a gathering of businessmen, tribal elders, politicians and media persons here on Thursday evening which was organised by Balochistan Economic Forum. "This year handling of capacity of Gwadar Port has been increased due to joint efforts of Pakistan and China. It is going to become economic hub of the region which would be connected with Middle East and Central Asia," he said.

He said that Chinese companies have been working in different sectors in Pakistan including energy, fuel, establishing power generation plants, science, technology, agriculture and defense. "Chinese companies have been shifting Chinese technology to Pakistan which would provide great benefit to Pakistan's national economy," the ambassador said.

He said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would connect Pakistan with China and other parts of the world via road link. "The CPEC will also link Gwadar and Balochistan with other parts of the country," he added.

He said that opportunities would be provided for professional training in different fields in Pakistan in collaboration with China. He said that Pakistan is a close neighbor and trust worthy friend of China. "Pakistan-China friendship has historical importance which would be stronger by mutual economic relations," he said.

The Chinese ambassador said that China has second largest economy of the world which would also benefit Pakistan. "We want to see a peaceful, progress and economically thriving Pakistan," he said.

Chinese Consul General based in Karachi Ma Yaou and Balochistan Economic Forum President Sardar Shaukat Popalzai were also present.

All Day

Sun-led 7-member Chinese delegation visits Balochistan -- Daily Times

A seven-member Chinese delegation, led by Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong, visited the CM Secretariat and held a meeting with Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik and his team to discuss matters in connection with the development projects in Balochistan.

The chief minister informed the Chinese delegation that law and order situation has improved at satisfactory level in Balochistan and invited Chinese companies to invest in different sectors in the province including mines and minerals, agriculture, livestock and fisheries.

He said that execution of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project would bring progress and prosperity for the entire region, especially for Balochistan. This mega development project will put positive economic and financial support on the region and the Balochistan would be major beneficiary of it.

– Briefing on CPEC, Gwadar –

Balochistan Chief Secretary Saifullah Chatha gave briefing to the Chinese delegation on different ongoing and proposed projects pertaining to CPEC and Gwadar deep sea port. The Chinese envoy said that his meetings with the government authorities, leaders of political parties and business community were part of efforts being put to further strengthen friendship and to get consensus on joint economic projects.

He said that Chinese engineers and technical teams have been working on the project to expanding Gwadar port. The others who attended the meeting among them were Home Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, provincial ministers, Nawab Mohammad Khan Shahwani, Mir Mujib-ur-Rehman Mohammad Hasni, Adviser Mohammad Khan Lehri and senior officials.

All Day

Financial bid for Gwadar LNG Terminal to be opened this week --**Pakistan Today**

After completing evaluation of the technical bid, the public sector Inter State Gas Systems Limited (ISGS) is likely to open the financial bid of the China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau (CPPB) for the construction the Gwadar LNG terminal along with pipeline network upto Nawab Shah this week.

An official source said after the approval of the financial bid the contract for the construction of the LNG terminal at Gwadar and laying down of 42 inches diameter, 711 kilometres long from Gwadar to Nawab Shah will be awarded to the Chinese state owned company. The company was nominated by China for the project. The estimated cost of the project is \$2.5 billion, out of which 85 percent investment will be provided by China while the remaining 15 percent will be shared by Pakistan. The Chinese company will manage a loan from China Exim Bank for the project while Pakistan will pay off the loan in 20 years' time from the revenue of the project, the source added.

Pakistan is aggressively working on improving its gas infrastructure and imports from abroad as 50 percent of its fuels supplies are met through natural gas. The growth in demand for natural gas has outpaced the growth in supply therefore resulting in a shortfall, this leads to curtailment of gas supplies to both power and industrial sectors, especially during the peak winter months.

As per Pakistan gas supply-demand study conducted by ILF Beratende Ingenieure GmbH over the next 17 years gas demand is projected to stand at 11.73 bcfd while domestic supplies are expected to reach the level of 4.94 bcfd resulting in a huge shortfall of about 6.79 bcfd by FY 2030. The estimate is done considering the existing and planned capacity.

The Chinese company will construct the LNG terminal having a capacity to handle 500 million cubic feet gas per day with floating re-gasification and storage unit (FRSU). The gas pipeline from Gwadar to Nawab Shah will have a capacity to carry 1.5 billion cubic feet gas per day.

The pipeline will be used for importing natural gas from Iran once the international sanctions are lifted on Iran. Only 70 km pipeline will be needed to extend it to the Iranian border from Gwadar, to brand the 781 km pipeline as the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline.

Pakistan will initially get 750 million cubic feet gas per day from Iran which will be increased up to 1 billion cubic feet gas per day. While the pipeline will get another 500 mmcgd gas per day through the LNG terminal thus enabling it to carry upto 1.5 bcfd.

The pipeline project is part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative and is included in the early harvest projects. It is estimated to be completed by December 2017. Pakistani law enforcement agencies will be providing fool proof security during the construction of LNG terminal and pipeline.

All Day

Pakistan Navy ready to protect Gwadar port, CPEC route: Admiral Zakaullah -- Daily Pakistan

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Mohammad Zakaullah has expressed the commitment to ensure protection of Gwadar Port "against all asymmetric threats under the prevalent precarious internal and external security environment."

According to Pakistan Navy, the admiral Saturday visited naval units and forward bases along the Makran coast, including Jinnah Naval Base in Ormara and other units in Pasni, Gwadar and Jiwani, to witness operational readiness of these units during the ongoing major maritime exercise SEASPARK 15.

During his visit to the Gwadar Port, the naval chief was given detailed briefing on the ongoing operational activities at coastal stations, a statement issued by Pakistan Navy said.

MAKRAN: Nov07 - Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Zakaullah during his visit to Naval Units and forward bases along the Makran Coast-4. **ONLINE PHOTO**

The naval chief said Gwadar was cardinal to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and sea routes connecting Gwadar with international markets were extension of the

CPEC.

He added that providing a safe and secure environment both on land and at sea was essential for smooth functioning of the Gwadar Port and accruing desired socio-economic benefits of the CPEC.

Pakistan Navy is fully ready and capable of defending these important sea lanes and one of the objectives of SEASPARK 15 is to assess operational preparedness to undertake this key task, the statement quoted the naval chief as saying.

November 9, 2015

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All Day

**PROVINCIAL GOVT TO PROVIDE LAND FOR GWADAR
AIRPORT: CM -- BR**

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch Monday said that provincial government had been providing land for international airport in Gwadar and establish export processing zone in collaboration with the Chinese government.

He said this while speaking to journalists in Balochistan Assembly here.

"We have made arrangements for providing land in the port town where international airport and export procession zone will be constructed in collaboration with China," he added.

The CM, however, rejected the impression that any agreement was signed between the Balochistan government and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan during last week.

"No agreement was inked between my government and the Chinese ambassador during last week," he added.

All Day

Pakistan to hand over 2,281 acres of Gwadar's free trade zone to Chinese -- Express Tribune

In a landmark ceremony, Pakistani authorities will formally hand over 2,281 acres of Gwadar Port's free trade zone to the Chinese Overseas Ports Holding Company Ltd (COPHCL) on November 11 on a 43-year lease.

The ceremony will be held in Gwadar on Wednesday and will be attended by the Chinese delegation headed by Vice Chairman of National Development and Reform Commission Wang Xiaodao, who has already arrived in Pakistan.

Ripe for investment: Vast opportunities in AJK

The Chinese delegation comprises of all top level officials of the Chinese government and leaders of private companies. The Pakistani delegation will be led by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal.

The event will also be attended by Balochistan Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik and Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping Kamran Michal, said a senior official of the ministry. The government has already declared Gwadar port a free trade zone for the next 23 years.

The officer said that in this regard, a high level meeting of both authorities will be held in Karachi on November 12 to complete the formalities.

COPHCL will execute the port's affairs through its three main companies including Gwadar International Terminal (GIT), Gwadar Marine Services Ltd and Gwadar Freezone Company Ltd.

Grand scheme: Govt to spend Rs26b on Gwadar airport upgrade

GIT will also be responsible for the port's operations by handling business related matters.

Gwadar Marine Service Ltd, will look at the port's operation by providing allied services and Gwadar Freezone Company will look after affairs of the free zone area by developing and providing allied facilities to the investment companies in the free zone area.

After the formal handover of the free trade zone, all business affairs of the port will be carried out by Chinese authorities.

Grand scheme: Govt to spend Rs26b on Gwadar airport upgrade

The officer said that Pakistan has delivered its end of the bargain and now it is upto the Chinese authorities to show their commitment.

Additionally, during the ceremony, inauguration of some projects will also be held including inauguration of school and health centres established by the Chinese in Gwadar.

The scheme is part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), an ambitious \$46 billion investment plan linking western China to the Arabian Sea with infrastructure, energy and transport projects.

Three days in Gwadar

Pakistan is also raising a special security force of between 10,000 and 25,000 men to protect the port.

Earlier, Abdul Razzaq Durrani, the director general of Gwadar Port Authority, had said that land acquisition to build the economic zone had cost the Balochistan government around \$62 million.

Gwadar port was built in 2007 with technical help from Beijing as well as Chinese financial assistance of some \$248 million.

All Day

PAK-CHINA INK AGREEMENT ON GWADAR FREE TRADE ZONE -- APP

The representatives of Pakistan and China governments inked agreement to hand over 637 acres of land to China in port town of Gwadar, on Wednesday, where Chinese government and firms would establish a free trade zone.

The ceremony to sign documents was held which was attended by Chief Minister Balochistan, Dr Abudl Malik Blaoch, the Vice Chairman of National Development and Reforms Commission of China, Mr. Wang Xiaotao, Federal Minister for planning Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Shipping and Ports Kamran Michael, Chief Secretary Balochistan Saifullah Chattah, Chairman Gwadar Port Authority Mir Dostain Khan Jamaldani and others.

Speaking on the occasion, the Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal said that China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) project was being implemented in letter and spirit which include different projects including communication, rail, energy industrial development the development of other sectors.

"We have been putting serious efforts to execute CPEC in order to make Gwadar, one of best port of the world," he said, adding that the other projects pertaining to CPEC were also being implemented in letter and spirit. He said that the protection of rights of people of Gwadar including provision of jobs and all available basic civic amenities would be ensured.

The Vice Chairman of National Development and Reforms Commission of China Wang Xiaotao said that China has been giving special importance to the friendship with Pakistan.

"Chinese investor and business community would invest in different sectors in Balochistan which would help in boosting local economy," he said.

The Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping, Kamran Michael said that with the execution of CPEC Pak-China relations would be further strengthened and our economy would get boost.

"We will get great progress in connection with economic growth due to CPEC," he said.

All Day

CPEC to turn Pakistan into most important country of region: president -- Pakistan Today

President Mamnoon Hussain has expressed confidence that completion of projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would turn Pakistan into the most important country of the region.

He was speaking at the 50th National Speech Contest held in Islamabad on Wednesday.

The President said Gwadar Sea port, Gwadar International Airport, a number of motorways, energy projects, other infrastructure and industrial ventures are components of the Corridor. Their completion would open up new avenues of economic development and employment opportunities for far flung areas of the country.

He emphasized that the CPEC is not meant for any group, part or a particular segment of the society; rather it would benefit the entire country.

Mamnoon said Pakistan is destined to progress and prosper because of the policies of the present government and hardworking people. He said there was no instance of mega corruption in the country during the past two and a half years of the present government.

Referring to the speech contest that was dedicated to martyrs and Ghazis of September 1965 war; the president said no nation can progress without appropriately remembering its heroes. He said the best tribute for those who sacrificed their lives in the defence of Pakistan would be to equip ourselves with knowledge and take Pakistan to new heights of development.

He urged participating students to focus on their education so that they are able to shoulder their future responsibilities effectively. He particularly exhorted girls not to care about any hurdles in the way of their education. Hussain said we must not follow the West blindly and make efforts to preserve and promote our national identity.

All Day

Chinese firm begins managing Gwadar Port -- The Nations

Gwadar: A Chinese firm has officially taken control of Pakistan's Gwadar Port free-trade zone. Under the agreement, China Overseas Holdings Limited will manage the free-trade zone on a 43-year lease.

The formal handover signals the Chinese side's control of all the port's business affairs. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei says enterprises in China and Pakistan will continue to promote development of the Port in southwestern Pakistan on a principle of equal consultation and mutual benefit.

"Chinese enterprise's taking over of the management of the Gwadar Port is a commercial program under economic and trade cooperation of China and Pakistan, and a part of the two countries' friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation", the spokesman said.

Gwadar port is a deep sea port that sits next to the Strait of Hormuz, the key oil route in and out of the Persian Gulf.

As part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor scheme, China plans to make Gwadar a transportation hub by building a 3,000km railway linking Xinjiang, in western China, with Gwadar.

All Day

Pak-China banking service protocol becomes effective -- Daily Times

Improvements in collaboration between banking industries of Pakistan and China became effective forthwith following ratification, issued by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, according to a report on Friday.

The banking service protocol of the service trade agreement for the free trade area (FTA) between the two countries was signed in April when President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan. It will improve the liberalisation of the service trade of Pakistan and China, with easier financing for enterprises and ensuring the smooth running of major governmental projects such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The economic corridor is a planned network of roads, railways and energy projects linking southwest Pakistan's deep water Gwadar Port with northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

On the other hand, a Chinese firm has officially taken control of the Gwadar port free-trade zone. Under the agreement, China Overseas Holdings Limited will manage the free-trade zone on a 43-year lease. The formal handover signals the Chinese side's control of all the port's business affairs.

China's Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said that the enterprises in China and Pakistan would continue to promote development of the port in southwestern Pakistan on a principle of equal consultation and mutual benefit. "Chinese enterprise's taking over of the management of the Gwadar port is a commercial programme under economic and trade cooperation of Pakistan and China, and a part of the two countries' friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation," he said.

Gwadar port is a deep sea port that sits next to the Strait of Hormuz, the key oil route in and out of the Persian Gulf. As part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor scheme, China plans to make Gwadar a transportation hub by building a 3,000km railway linking Xinjiang, in western China, with Gwadar.

All Day

Chinese company leases Gwadar port for development Financial Spots
<http://financialspots.com/2015/11/15/chinese-company-leases-gwadar-port-for-development/>
-- Financials Pots

Wednesday's deal was widely reported in India where perceptions persist that Gwadar could be converted into a dual-use port facility by China, potentially abetting the Chinese People's Liberation Army-Navy's power projection in the western Indian Ocean. Visits such as that by General Fan offer the opportunity for course correction where necessary as well as providing a reminder to Pakistan (and its less than malleable politicians) as to who is bankrolling the exercise. Fan also met with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad Thursday, with Sharif lauding Islamabad's friendship with Beijing as a "cornerstone" of its foreign policy. A high level military delegation headed by the Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission of China, General Fan Changlong has called upon Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif at GHQ. According to an official statement, the Prime Minister emphasized the time-tested friendship between the two countries. AFP Map showing China's land access to the Arabian Sea via the Pakistani port of Gwadar. For an AFP Feature. 135 x 95 He also said that the mutually supportive cooperation in the field of defense is a critical factor in maintaining peace and stability in the region. In his meeting with Gen Sharif at General Headquarters on Thursday, Fan said, "China deeply appreciates the determination of Pakistan Army in counter terrorism and the successful operation in various fields". The nature of the relationship between China and Pakistan is swiftly evolving, all the quicker since the announcement of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Both countries are committed to its continuous process and future success. Gen Fan said, "Efforts of Pakistan Army in safeguarding CPEC security are highly appreciated". He said China would also relocate a few of its industries from China to Pakistan that would create thousands of jobs and contribute in GDP of the country. Ahsan Iqbal pointed out that it is need of the hour that Pakistan completes the projects on its side to take advantage of the economic collaboration and match the pace with China that is completing its projects on fast-track basis. Wang Shida, an expert on Afghanistan at the Beijing-based China Institute of Contemporary worldwide Relations, said China has already invested more than \$40 billion for the development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Gwadar Port will play an important role in the economic prosperity of both nations. He said he was looking forward to exchanging in-depth views with leaders of Pakistan and Pakistani armed forces on the relations between the two countries and two armed forces and other issues of common interest. Financial Spots
<http://financialspots.com/2015/11/15/chinese-company-leases-gwadar-port-for-development/>

All Day

CPEC Western route to be built as dual carriageway -- The Nations

The government has finally decided to construct the Western route as dual carriageway and finance it from the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) infrastructure development fund, it is learnt reliably here yesterday.

In the meeting of the 5th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) of CPEC, held in Karachi last week, Federal Minister Planning, Development & Reforms Ahsan Iqbal pursued the Chinese delegation to include the Western route in the infrastructure/road development project of the CPEC, official sources told The Nation here on Monday.

The source informed that now the project has been included in the infrastructure development projects of CPEC.

"It has been decided that the roads on Western route will be constructed as a dual carriageway and the funds will be provided from the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) infrastructure development fund," the source added.

CPEC is multi-sectoral project that includes energy, infrastructure/roads, Gwadar port, social projects, and industrial zones.

Although the government earlier had claimed that the Western route was part of the CPEC but actually it was a single road and was being constructed with the Asian Development Bank funds.

Ahsan Iqbal has time and again reiterated that building of the Western alignment of CPEC is the first and foremost priority of the government and the work on missing Gwadar-Quetta link of Western route would be completed by December 2016.

But the Opposition parties are contesting his claim by asserting that not a single penny has been allocated for the Western route, under CPEC, in the PSDP. The Opposition parties were also upset with the government by not following the commitment made by the Prime Minister at the APC for construction of the Western route.

The provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pukhtunkhwa have alleged that the Federal government is giving priority to the Eastern route and ignoring the Western route.

Opposition leader in the National Assembly Syed Khurshid Shah also criticised the government for ignoring the Western route and said that "the Eastern route under the CPEC is being given priority while the Western route which is shorter is being ignored".

In a letter to the Prime Minister, Khurshid asked the government to revisit its policy regarding the developmental work on CPEC.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Parliamentary Committee on CPEC last month unanimously recommended the Federal government that the Western route should be built as a dual carriage way at the outset and, eventually, there should be a motorway linking Gwadar with the rest of the country along the Western route as after operationalisation of Gwadar Port, traffic on the Western route will increase substantially.

It may be added that the CPEC is a 15-year project between Pakistan and China spanning 2015-2030, while the Western route is among the Early Harvest Projects which have to be completed by 2018.

Gwadar will be connected to Khunjrab through multiple routes.

All Day

Groundwork laid for China-Pakistan FTZ -- Ecns News

Move will boost CPEC, 'Belt and Road' plans: experts

Chinese and Pakistani officials have laid the groundwork for a China-Pakistan free trade zone (FTZ) at the strategically important port of Gwadar in Pakistan and preliminary plans are now being finalized, according to media reports on Monday.

Specific plans for the new China-Pakistan FTZ, which will be a part of Pakistan's Gwadar Port FTZ, are still under discussion, but it will be a free port that is similar to Hong Kong, the Shanghai Securities News reported on Monday.

The report, citing unnamed sources, said that China's top economic planner, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), is heading the Chinese delegation in the discussions. The NDRC did not respond to requests for comment by the Global Times as of press time.

A number of companies based in Zhuhai in South China's Guangdong Province have signed deals with the city of Gwadar worth a total of 6.5 billion yuan (\$1.02 billion) to develop the port, news portal ifeng.com reported Thursday.

Specific plans might include establishing industry parks, which are effective in facilitating investment and trade, said Chen Fengying, an expert with the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations.

"I believe that more plans will follow, and the establishment of an FTZ at the strategically import port of Gwadar is an important step," Chen told the Global Times on Monday.

Chinese firm leases FTZ land

China Overseas Ports Holding Co (COPHC) has leased over 650 acres of land in Gwadar to build and operate the FTZ, Pakistan-based newspaper The Express Tribune reported on Thursday.

That was the first part of a deal signed between the two countries, under which Pakistan will provide a total of 2,281 acres of the Gwadar FTZ to COPHC as part of a 43-year lease, according to a separate report from The Express Tribune on Wednesday.

COPHC will operate at the FTZ through three main companies - Gwadar International Terminal, Gwadar Marine Services and Gwadar Freezone Company - according to the report.

Key move for CPEC

Experts said the new developments with the Gwadar FTZ marked a milestone in the implementation phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"The new developments are by far the most important step in the implementation of the CPEC," Sun Lizhou, deputy director of the Academy of the World and China Agendas, told the Global Times on Monday.

The CPEC is a major bilateral initiative to build infrastructure facilities in Pakistan that will connect the country's Arabian Sea coast with the Himalayan border with China. The initiative was unveiled during Chinese President Xi Jinping's State visit to Pakistan in April.

With low tariffs and better coordination, the Gwadar FTZ will serve as an "entry point" for Chinese companies and products to enter the country, Sun said.

Step forward for "Belt and Road"

Because of the strategic importance of the Gwadar port, the establishment of an

FTZ there is also expected to have profound significance in the implementation of China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative, which will connect with Europe via Central Asia, Sun noted.

COPHC also noted the importance of the deal.

"On the shores of the Arabian Sea in the western province of Balochistan, Gwadar is strategically a well-located port to ensure increasing trade in the region," the company said in a post on its website.

Located at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, just outside the Straits of Hormuz, Gwadar is close to key shipping routes accommodating a flow of more than 17 million barrels of oil per day and a large quantity of cargo, according to COPHC.

Sun said that although shipments still go through the Strait of Hormuz, Gwadar could serve as a "back-up sea line" for China.

All Day

Weighing in on benefits: Implementing transit fee on CPEC routes -- Express Tribune

in a statement published on the PPI website, Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Federal Minister Chaudhary Muhammad Barjees Tahir claimed that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will bring about \$70 billion annual revenue in the form of transit fee.

Reportedly, he also said that, Pakistan will be turned into a transit economy soon after the completion of this trade route based on a re-routing of Chinese exports of more than \$2 trillion.

This figure of \$70 billion may be highly speculative for the scope of Pakistan's economy, where the size of federal budget in 2015-16 was a little over \$40 billion, the level of foreign exchange reserves were less than \$20 billion and exports barely exceeded \$25 billion.

Regardless, this reported statement indicates that the Pakistani government may have considered levying a transit fee on Chinese cargo to be transported through the CPEC on Kashgar-Khunjab-Gwadar route.

Benefits to China

The CPEC is well-aligned with its strategic vision of China to enhance its access to the global market through the Indian Ocean by building a new 3,000 km road, railway, pipeline optic fiber and a new deep sea port network through Pakistan. At present, China's link with Europe, Africa and the United States, which contributes largely towards global trade, is through the Strait of Malacca in the South China Sea.

Therefore, the development of the trade corridor through Pakistan would provide an alternative route for Chinese trade to reach the global markets of Middle East, Africa, Europe and the US. Additionally, this will also enable it to secure vital oil imports which mainly originate from the Middle East. According to an estimate, the new route is likely to reduce the distance from Western China to Eastern Europe by at least 10,000 miles.

Pakistan's advantage?

On the other hand, Pakistan eyes the increased expected flow of foreign direct investment, technology, cultural linkages, loans, and know-how from China and pegged its expectation with its offer to facilitate China by providing an alternate trade route. However, these returns are subject to presence of several other supportive factors.

The transport and communication infrastructure of CPEC will be largely financed by Chinese loan – to the tune of \$11 billion – except the newly declared grant of \$230 million dollars for Gwadar International Airport. Thus, Pakistan will be ultimately paying back this loan at varying interest rates over a course of the next few years.

In the 2015-16 Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) at least four PC-1 for CPEC transport and infrastructure sector have been included. These are, Karakorum Highway (Havelian to Thakot), Karachi-Lahore Motorway (Multan to Sukkur), Gwadar port East Bay Expressway Project, and Gwadar international airport (now converted into Chinese grant and therefore tenders have been called off). These projects will be financed by the Chinese loan with a 10% Pakistani counterpart funding.

Transit fee mechanism

Given the relative certainty about construction of transport and infrastructure network, Pakistan's government may want to consider the idea of levying transit fee more seriously. The general rationale of a transit fee is very simple. Transport corridor's purpose is to provide for efficient means of carriage of goods and services in transit with minimal damage to the goods and their quality. Where there is damage, it provides facilities for insurance surveys as well as for lodging claims. Having done so, the transit economy collects transit fees for services rendered.

More specifically, the transit fee on Chinese goods makes sense because it is a cost China will be saving each year in addition to significant reduction in time and cost of shipment. Additionally, the transport and infrastructure network is being ultimately financed by the public exchequer; therefore some return should be seen.

Pakistan has promised to provide security to the Chinese workforce for which it is deploying 10,000 strong specially raised security force.

International law states countries are not allowed to charge fee in the case of land-locked states, China is not a land-locked country.

It leads to the conclusion that levying a rational and business friendly transit fee may be the only tangible benefit that Pakistan will realize through CPEC.

It is imperative that the government should conduct detailed deliberations on signing a bilateral transit trade agreement.

The writer is founder and executive director of PRIME Institute, an independent think tank based in Islamabad

All Day

**Pakistan asked China to include Diamer-Bhasha dam project in CPEC --
Pak Tribune**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has asked China to include Diamer-Bhasha dam in energy projects to be undertaken under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"We have proposed to the Chinese government to include Diamer-Bhasha Dam in the next phase of CPEC," federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said on Tuesday.

He was speaking at the concluding session of the First CPEC Media Forum which was attended by journalists from both countries.

Energy projects of about \$34 billion are being undertaken as part of CPEC in the first phase. If China agrees to the proposal, the project would be included in the next phase of the energy projects under the CPEC.

The construction of Diamer-Bhasha dam is expected to cost about \$12 billion. Faced with the difficulty of finding funds for the 4,500MW project, the government had decided to divide it into separate dam and power generation projects. However, it is unclear which component of the project the government is interested in getting included in the CPEC.

The planning minister said the government was determined to perform the groundbreaking of the hydel project next year and had already completed land acquisition for the purpose. The project was first proposed in 2001, but delays have resulted in cost escalation.

He cautioned that Pakistan could face acute water shortage if work on the dam is not started next year.

Answering a question about the progress on the energy projects being executed in the CPEC's first phase, Mr Iqbal said the country would "achieve self-sufficiency in power generation by 2018".

Some 14 power generation and a transmission line projects are included in the first phase.

The minister said that wind and solar energy projects would be commissioned in about a year, and the coal power projects by 2018. The hydel projects would be ready by 2020.

Speaking on the occasion, Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong said there was no fixed limit for investment under the CPEC and that more could be made depending on the project for which it was required.

"As CPEC progresses more investment is likely," he said, adding that the CPEC was a process rather than a project and might take more than a decade to complete.

The \$46 billion figure commonly associated with the CPEC, he clarified, was only for the first phase.

He expressed satisfaction that the first phase projects were "making smooth progress" and of the 14 power generation projects nine had already reached financial close.

Ambassador Sun said the CPEC was a "major and pilot" project of President Xi's 'road and belt' initiative and described it as a mutually beneficial effort.

Chairman of Parliamentary CPEC Committee Senator Mushahid Hussain who helped set up the Pak-China Media Forum stressed greater cooperation between the media in the two countries.

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He called on the media to extend full support to the CPEC initiative.

All Day

CPEC made part of China's 13th 5-year development plan: Weidong -- Pakistan Today

China has made the historic China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative as part of its 13th five-year economic and social development plan for the year 2016-2020.

The leaders of the Communist Party of China (CPC) have approved proposals for the plan at the fifth plenary session of the 18th Communist Party of China Central Committee held in Beijing, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Sun Weidong informed the Chinese and Pakistan journalists in a recent interaction with them.

Giving details of the CPEC initiative, he said it was a process rather than just one project. Building the CPEC needed to be based on scientific research and designed by short-, mid- and long-term planning, he added.

"As the old Chinese proverb says that a journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. We need to make persistent efforts based on determination and diligence to achieve a sustainable development of CPEC."

He said Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the initiatives of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, or the Belt and Road initiative.

"The initiative embraces the trend towards a multi-polar world, economic globalisation, cultural diversity and regional integration. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a major and pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative. The CPEC has become the buzz word today and the focus of the media."

He said: "The CPEC is a vision. It is an important consensus reached between our leaders and the governments, and enjoys the full support of our two peoples. It will strengthen the time-tested China-Pakistan friendship, bring our two brotherly countries more closer, and lay a solid foundation for building a China-Pakistan community of shared destiny. Second, the CPEC is a platform. It is a comprehensive cooperation framework and identified the four major areas of energy, transport infrastructure, industrial parks and Gwadar Port. We also expect the fields of CPEC to be expanded to finance, science and technology, education, poverty alleviation and social development in the near future. Third, the CPEC is an opportunity. It is based on the spirit of openness and win-win cooperation."

"It faces whole Pakistan and brings benefits to the people of China and Pakistan. It is also a fusion of multiple developments, aiming to peace, prosperity and well-being of the peoples of the region and the world at large."

He said the construction of CPEC had made smooth progress. "Recently, we successfully concluded the 5th meeting of Joint Cooperation Committee on CPEC."

"The meeting has reached a number of agreements. In the energy sector, out of the 14 priority projects, Port Qasim Power Plant, Sahiwal Power Plants, Zonergy Solar Project and many others are under construction."

He said nine projects had achieved or reached the advanced stage of financial close. "We have held comprehensive and productive consultations on various infrastructure projects," he added.

"The Chinese company would speed-up the development of Gwadar Port. All these projects will definitely play a leading role in the construction of the CPEC in the future."

He said the construction of CPEC was a huge and systematic project. It required long-term efforts of governments, enterprises and people from all walks of life, he added.

Terming China and Pakistan all weather strategic cooperative partners, he said, all

weather means, no matter there was sunshine or cloud, weather it was windy or stormy, their two iron brothers were always standing together.

Ambassador Sun said China will continuously encourage Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan, adding: "We highly appreciate the Pakistan side for attaching great importance to the safety of Chinese personnel and institutions in Pakistan." He expressed the confidence that Pakistani side would continue to take all the necessary measures in this regard.

He said that he recently visited several cities in Pakistan and was happy to see that the CPEC had won support from all the parties and the peoples from Pakistan. In Faisalabad, Chinese technicians train Pakistani workers with textile technology hand by hand.

"In Quetta, I witnessed the aspiration of local government, army, media and civilians to the CPEC."

In Lahore, the newly built Pak-China Friendship Pavilion had become a new symbol of CPEC and their friendship, he said, adding these were the real sources of their strength.

"We are in the era of history-making. The CPEC forum is a favourable platform for our two media communities to make extensive and in-depth exchanges and achieve fruitful outcomes." He hoped that the media could continue to support and make comprehensive coverage on CPEC in the future.

November 24, 2015

Tue

All Day

BOOK ON PAK-CHINA FRIENDSHIP TO BE LAUNCHED ON WEDNESDAY -- APP

ISLAMABAD: Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS) will host launching ceremony of a book on Pakistan-China friendship on November 25.

The book titled "You and Us: Stories of China and Pakistan" is a compilation of the stories of Pak-China friendship penned by former Chinese officials in Pakistan.

A 12-member delegation comprising former Chinese ambassadors and counselors in Pakistan will attend this special ceremony marking China-Pakistan friendship.

Copies of the book will be available at the launch. Notable Chinese and Pakistani speakers will offer their remarks on the book.

All Day

**PAK, CHINA TO INK AGREEMENT TO ENSURE
TRANSPARENCY -- APP**

China and Pakistan would soon sign an agreement aimed at ensuring transparency in the implementation of energy and infrastructure projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which is an important part of China's One Belt One Road Initiative. The most important projects to be completed under the CPEC initiative included Gwadar port, the second phase of the upgrading project of Karakoram Highway, motorway project between Karachi and Lahore, Thakot Havelian motorway, Gwadar port expressway, Gwadar international airport and Karachi-Sukkur motorway.

China and Pakistan will work together to make the CPEC and other bilateral development projects transparent and free of any corruption, Chinese Assistant Minister, National Bureau of Corruption Prevention, Liu Jianchao said in a recent interaction with media persons here. The Chinese minister who visited Pakistan to attend Ombudsman Conference said that he also held meetings with Chairman, National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and other Pakistani officials and shared Chinese experience against corruption. Terming the CPEC most important project in Sino-Pak bilateral relations, he said, there was a need to make all possible efforts for its success.

Liu Jianchao, who earlier had served his country as Assistant Foreign Minister and took the new assignment two months back, gave details of the ongoing efforts making the Chinese society free of corruption. For this, he gave credit to leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, especially Chinese President Xi Jinping. He said the CPEC would be a symbol of good governance, as it would be clean and transparent and added under the law, it was forbidden for any Chinese business company to get itself involved in corruption, while carrying out development projects.

However, both sides would work closely to prevent, detect and control corruption in all the projects, undertaken at their bilateral level, he added. Liu Jianchao who was serving as Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister before assuming his new assignment, said the leadership of both countries attached great importance to CPEC and wanted to make it successful at all costs. This project would contribute a lot to promote peace and development not only in the two countries, but also in the region. It was a pilot project of One Road, One Belt initiative of the Chinese Government.

The Chinese minister, while praising high the Sino-Pak friendship said that they were looking forward to have close cooperation in fighting corruption. Liu Jianchao termed corruption a great threat to security, peace and socio-economic development. His country, he said, had adopted a policy of zero tolerance against corruption. Thousands of Chinese people, found committing corruption had been punished. There were over 150 top government officials who had faced serious punishment for corrupt practices. He said there were about 600 corrupt Chinese officials who had fled abroad and the government succeeded in bringing them back and punished them under the law. The Chinese minister said that more than 230,000 corrupt people were investigated and out of them 90 percent were punished during the last three years.—APP

All Day

Pakistan to collaborate with USA and China for Afghan reconciliation process -- Pak Tribune

Pakistan announced on Tuesday that it was making a renewed effort, in collaboration with the United States and China, to revive the stalled Afghan reconciliation process.

"Pakistan... would like to make renewed efforts to resurrect the peace and reconciliation process. Since it has to be an Afghan-led process, we are confident that the Afghan government and the Taliban would step forward with concrete ideas and proposals and engage in meaningful reconciliation talks."

"Pakistan is prepared to extend its full support and assistance in promoting any such initiative," said a statement issued by the Foreign Office and attributed to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Although the statement called for "a quadrilateral initiative to restart the reconciliation process", it emphasised the role of the US and China as "vital partners".

It has long been known that Pakistan has been working with the international community for the resumption of the dialogue for peace in Afghanistan, but this is the first formal statement that Pakistan is about to launch a fresh effort for salvaging the dialogue that was stalled after the disclosure about Mullah Omar's death in July.

The US and Pakistan had agreed last month to expedite the resumption of the reconciliation process during Army Chief Gen Raheel Sharif's visit to Washington.

The government is expecting that "a common roadmap" for the resumption of the dialogue would be agreed during President Ashraf Ghani's trip to Islamabad on December 9 for attending the Heart of Asia ministerial meeting being jointly hosted by Pakistan and Afghanistan.

According to sources, confirmation of President Ghani's visit came following meetings between Prime Minister Sharif and Mr Ghani on Monday on the sidelines of the Paris Climate Change Summit. The trip was earlier in doubt because of the strains in bilateral ties caused by events following the disruption in the reconciliation process.

Mr Ghani was encouraged by Britain and the US to accept the invitation for the Heart of Asia Conference.

The government also used the good offices of Pakhtun leaders to ease some of the bilateral tensions. A delegation of Pakhtun leaders led by ANP leader Asfandiyar Wali Khan had visited Kabul before Mr Sharif left for Paris.

The Pak-Afghan rapprochement following a brief breakdown is predicated on the understanding that both countries would deny sanctuaries on their soil to terrorists, improve border coordination and coordinate closely at the political, diplomatic, military and intelligence levels.

A source described President Ghani's coming visit as very important, which would help improve ties after the recent strains. "The improvement is essential for all other things to happen including reconciliation," he said.

The source said that some confidence-building measures were expected to be announced during President Ghani's visit. He, however, would not elaborate on what measures were expected.

About the reconciliation process, the source said a breakthrough would take place only after the Afghans actually owned and led the process instead of wavering on it with every change in political situation in their country.

Meanwhile, Gen Sharif is expected to visit Kabul in the next few weeks to discuss

the reconciliation initiative.

The dates for his visit were being finalised, a source said adding that it was unlikely to happen before the Dec 9 trip by President Ghani.

All Day

Pak-China joint military drills begin: ISPR -- The Nations

Rawalpindi: An impressive opening ceremony of two- week long joint training exercise between Special Forces of China and Pakistan was held in the Chinese city of Qingtongxia tuesday military media wing ISPR reported.

According to press release issued by ISPR, the joint exercise as part of Year of Friendship 2015 will focus on anti-terrorist operations, hostage rescue, cordon and search operations. The joint exercise will enhance and further strengthen already deep military ties between Pakistan and China.

The exercised called YOUYI 5 is being carried out in extreme weather conditions of northern China to impart and share Pakistan Army's experiences in war against terrorism.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by senior military officers of Special Forces of Pakistan and People Liberation Army. National anthems of both the countries were played on the occasion.

All Day

Pak-China joint military training exercise YOUYI 5 begins at Qingtongxia, China -- APP

RAWALPINDI, Dec 8 (APP): A two-week long joint training exercise 'YOUYI 5' between special forces of China and Pakistan started at Qingtongxia, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China on Tuesday. According to ISPR here, the impressive opening ceremony was attended by senior military officers of special forces of Pakistan and People Liberation Army (PLA). National anthem of both the countries were played on the occasion.

All Day

Digital age: Pakistan, China agree to develop e-corridor -- Express Tribune

Pakistan and China have agreed to develop an e-corridor to establish greater connectivity, keeping in view the importance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The agreement was reached during a meeting of a high-level Chinese delegation, led by China Investment Promotion Centre Chairman Yan Lijin, with Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunications Anusha Rehman.

Going strong: Pakistan, China celebrate another year of friendship

The minister apprised the delegation of the potential of Pakistan's IT and telecom sector and how the ministry was working to reap this potential in an optimal way. "We believe in a 'Digital Pakistan' and Chinese cooperation and collaboration will help us to materialise this vision of accelerated digitisation," she said.

"We are awarding the 'Tech-city' project on January 7 next year. It is an incubation project meant for the training of young entrepreneurs. Likewise, we intend also to establish a research and innovation centre of international standard."

She said the ministry was already collaborating for the development of an 'e-commerce gateway framework' so that online commercial ventures could flourish further and consumers and companies could get more confidence in online payment systems. "We would like to invite international companies to establish their setups here in Pakistan as well," she added.

China is now the top foreign investor in Pakistan: minister

The delegates appreciated the vision of the government and hailed initiatives being taken by the Ministry of IT for uplifting the sector and agreed to work with the government in establishing IT parks on the ministry's land in Karachi.

All Day

Pak-China have a shared future: Chinese FM -- The Nations

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif met Chinese delegation led by H.E Mr Wang Yi, Foreign Minister at PM House today. The Chinese Foreign Minister said that China and Pakistan have a shared future and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the largest comprehensive project with any foreign country.

'Pakistan and China are partners in comprehensive cooperation. Implementation of CPEC projects is in full swing. Success of CPEC will make a big difference in the region. Pakistan has played an important role in the 'Heart of Asia' conference. We appreciate the leadership of the Prime Minister in leading the war against extremism and terrorism', said Mr Wang Yi.

The Prime Minister stated that Pakistan appreciates the support of Chinese leadership.

'Chinese leadership played a key role in laying the foundations of CPEC. Pakistani nation is grateful to the Chinese leadership for taking the bilateral relationship to the highest level. We thank Chinese leadership for especially supporting Pakistan in energy and infrastructure sector', said the Prime Minister.

All Day

Pak-Netherlands agreement for institutional building of TDAP -- The Nations

Pakistan and Netherlands Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Cooperation for the institutional building of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and capacity building of other business support organizations (BSOs) in Pakistan and to provide export coaching programme to SMEs to meet the requirements of GSP-Plus.

The agreement was signed between the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and Center for Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries (CBI) in The Hague, Netherlands for the institutional building of TDAP and capacity building of other BSOs Business support organizations in Pakistan and to provide export coaching programme to SMEs to meet the requirements of GSP-Plus, says a message received here from Hague.

Federal Minister for Commerce, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan also witnessed the signing ceremony. Khurram Dastgir also held a meeting with the Dutch Minister for Trade and Development Cooperation Ms. Ploumen in Amsterdam and urged Dutch companies to invest in dairy, horticulture and agriculture and livestock research. The Minister said that Pakistan is the largest producer of milk in the world and wants to benefit from the expertise of Dutch dairy sector.

In horticulture sector the Netherlands has developed saline resistant potato seeds and test results of these seeds have shown positive results in saline lands of Pakistan. The Minister proposed a broader feasible project be designed with joint collaboration of Dutch Government, Government of Pakistan, agriculture universities and also with the involvement of private sector.

Dastgir invited the Dutch Minister to visit Pakistan and attend the Asian Living Wage Conference(ALWC). The Conference will be an international event about realizing living wages through social dialogue in the textile sector of eight Asian producing countries.

Its main aim is to highlight the need for living wages through social dialogue in a tripartite 'plus' setting, i.e. linking governments and social partners in Asian countries to international buyers in a joint effort to realize living wages in textile supply chains. The ALWC will be a 2-day conference with around 150 participants, most notably high level government officials from the host country Pakistan, Asian countries and OECD governments as well as international brands, manufacturers, trade unions and other stakeholders.

The Minister congratulated the Government of Netherlands for holding the EU Presidency for the upcoming six months and hoped that the Netherlands will play very positive role for strengthening of Socio-Political and Economic relations with comity of nations of the world in general and Pakistan in particular.

He also thanked the Netherlands support for Pakistan with regards to award of GSP-plus status to Pakistan in 2014 and hoped that it will continue to support Pakistan's case in the EU in the future as well.

The Minister also attended the ceremony to launch the Netherlands Pakistan Business Facilitation Forum (NPBFF) in The Hague. The purpose of the Forum is the facilitate and create awareness among the Dutch Trade and Investment sectors with regards to opportunities created in the wake of GSP Plus and Pak-China Economic Corridor Investments in Pakistan.

The Minister also attended a seminar on Global Value Chains and presented Pakistan's case especially in the textile sector.

He apprised the gathering regarding efforts of the Government to improve the working conditions in Pakistan. He said that with the grant of GSP+ to Pakistan, there is a growing urgency amongst the businessmen to know and implement good manufacturing practices to make workplaces more safe and accountable.

Government of Pakistan and ILO have been partnering for many years to bring meaningful measures into the place.

Recently Pakistan has developed Gender Sensitive Inspection System (GSIS) in the form of a web portal which provides database for compliance to about 70 laws. The system is aimed at assisting the Labour Inspectors in their routine inspections by providing measurable indicators for gauging progress against gender-inclusive target.

All Day

PM announces Rs20 mln grant for Mastung Cadet College -- The Nations

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has announced Rs 20 million grant for Mastung Cadet College.

The announcement was made during a meeting of students of Mastung Cadet College with prime minister today. Speaking on the occasion, Nawaz Sharif vowed to further speed up development activities in Balochistan.

He said peace has gradually been restored to the province and law and order situation has improved. Nawaz Sharif said today's Balochistan is far better as compared to previous years. He said that a coalition government is working in the province and federation is giving all necessary resources to the province to carry out the development activities.

Emphasizing the need for promoting the environment of brotherhood, the Prime Minister said several road infrastructure projects are under construction from Gwadar to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said, Balochistan is as dear to him as any other area of the country and quality education institutions, including medical colleges and university will be constructed in the province.

Prime Minister said he himself is overlooking the ongoing development work. Highways are being constructed from Gwadar to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that will enhance contacts among these areas and people as well, Nawaz added.

All Day

Two week Pak China exercise started -- Pak Tribune

RAWALPINDI: A two-week long joint training exercise 'YOUYI 5' between special forces of China and Pakistan started in Qingtongxia city of China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region on Tuesday.

According to ISPR, the impressive opening ceremony was attended by senior military officers of special forces of Pakistan and People's Liberation Army (PLA). National anthems of both countries were played on the occasion.

The joint exercise as part of Year of Friendship 2015 will focus on anti-terrorist operations, hostage and rescue, cordon and search operations. The joint exercise will enhance and further strengthen already deep military ties between Pakistan and China.

The YOUYI 5 is being carried out in extreme weather conditions of northern China to impart and share Pakistan Army's experiences in war against terrorism.

All Day

**After TAPI: Pakistan and Turkmenistan negotiating another project --
Express Tribune**

After the groundbreaking of TAPI gas pipeline, Pakistan and Turkmenistan are now negotiating for a second project, which would pass through the Afghanistan-Iran border to connect with the Gwadar port.

Balochistan, long marred by insurgency and political unrest, could now potentially see a massive increase in employment.

PM inaugurates TAPI gas pipeline project in Turkmenistan

An official familiar with the development said the Interstate Gas Systems (ISGS) had submitted a concept paper to Turkmenistan around two months ago, discussing the laying of an additional gas pipeline.

The official said that work on this proposal was under way to implement the project.

He said the TAPI pipeline would be able to provide 3.2 billion cubic feet of gas per day, while any additional gas supply from Turkmenistan would be transported through another pipeline.

"The Pakistan government would set up an LNG re-gasification plant at Gwadar Port to convert this gas into LNG," the official added.

Turkmenistan begins work on TAPI pipeline

"The proposal of a second pipeline was also discussed during the sidelines of the meeting at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan when Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited for the groundbreaking of TAPI project."

Turkmenistan had already committed to 85% investment to implement the TAPI gas pipeline project. The remaining equity would be equally shared by Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

China will also provide a concessional loan for the Gwadar LNG pipeline project.

Meanwhile, Russia, which is already importing gas from Turkmenistan, has also offered to lay a gas pipeline. Pakistan and Russia have recently signed a government-to-government deal to lay a \$2-billion LNG pipeline from Karachi to Lahore.

Pakistan, Turkmenistan to give big push to TAPI project

"Pakistan has two new proposed gas pipeline projects – one from Turkmenistan and the other from Russia," official said, adding that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has directed to pursue these two gas pipeline projects to meet domestic energy needs.

The cost of the Gwadar LNG pipeline project, including its terminal, and TAPI amounts to \$12 billion. Pakistan would have to finance only \$500 million from its own pocket to implement these two projects.

For the record

Pakistan would import 1.3 bcfd of gas through TAPI gas pipeline, whereas 600 mmcf of LNG would be imported through the terminal at Gwadar.

Pakistan, starved for energy, would be able to bridge a huge amount of its shortfall through these two projects. It will import 1 bcfd through the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project.

The Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) has also placed a request for 100 mmcf of gas to meet requirement of the city.

All Day**CPEC body wants agri sector to be part of Corridor -- The Nation**

Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Monday proposed to add agricultural sector as part of CPEC and also asked the government to define the role of railways in CPEC.

Chairman Parliamentary Committee on CPEC Mushahid Hussain Syed, presiding over the 7th meeting of the committee, said the western route of the Corridor will be completed by December 2016.

The committee was briefed by the secretary Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms regarding the 5th meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on CPEC. It was informed that the JCC, which is the apex decision-making body on CPEC between China and Pakistan, has adopted the updated list of prioritised and actively promoted energy projects. The committee was briefed in detail about decision taken on 15 different items which include energy, road projects and Gwadar.

The committee members discussed various aspects of the projects, their progress with reference to Gwadar which is the starting point of CPEC. Chairman parliamentary committee assured the members that "all the reservations of the local inhabitants of Gwadar would be addressed and resolved and the rights of the people of Gwadar as well as the people of Balochistan would be fully promoted and projected".

Senator Mushahid said that the "CPEC is a strategic national project, the most important in the country's history since the nuclear programme and vital for Pakistan's future prosperity by knitting the federation together through progress in the smaller provinces particularly the less developed areas". He welcomed the representatives of Gilgit-Baltistan, who attended the meeting as special invitees. The committee was briefed that in Phase-I, there was a security and development plan being developed in Gwadar at the cost of Rs 3.4 billion and the committee directed the Ministry of Planning and Development to furnish details of the plan and the breakup of the cost in various sectors.

Chairman committee also briefed the parliamentary committee about the CPEC Media Forum which was held in Islamabad on November 16, an effort to develop the CPEC specific website as well as his meeting with Sardar Akhtar Mengal, former chief minister of Balochistan. Sardar Mengal has invited the chairman of the parliamentary committee on CPEC to attend the all-parties conference on Gwadar to be held on January 10 next year.

Senator Mushahid further told that the first quarterly report of the committee was ready for presentation in parliament and he requested Minister for SAFRON, Lt-Gen (r) Abdul Qadir Baloch to present the report in the National Assembly on behalf of the committee.

The committee also directed the Ministry of Water and Power to respond to the queries raised by PTI leader Asad Umar by December 21.

Mushahid Hussain said the committee members visited Gwader on November 28-29 to witness the progress undergoing on western route. He said every province would be visited eventually. Earlier, the committee members visited Talar, Ghoshab and Turbat in Balochistan. He said the committee had also decided to visit Sindh next month to inspect the power projects in Thar and The Port Qasim.

As per plans the committee will also visit Peshawar to meet the KP Chief Minister Pervaiz Khattak to brief him about the CPEC projects on December 31. He said the committee was briefed by Chinese ambassador on December 2 and next year they were going to visit China on their invitation.

All Day**Pakistan, China PMs agree to further strengthen ties in diverse fields -- APP**

ZHENGZHOU, China: Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang on Tuesday agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations in diverse fields, particularly in economy and energy sectors.

Both leaders discussed bilateral relations and regional situation as they met on sidelines of the 14th SCO Heads of Government meeting here.

Implementation on Economic Corridor Project and energy and infrastructure development projects in Pakistan also featured during the meeting.

Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi were also present on the occasion.

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif expressed satisfaction with the progress on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project and said Pakistan wanted that all the projects under the CPEC, be implemented in a timely and efficient manner.

He said the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor Project would prove a game-changer in the region.

He said Pakistan considers friendship with China as central pillar of its foreign policy.

He said that cooperation between Pakistan and China was reflection of close friendship between the two countries and the new projects would change to destiny of people of the region. It will create new opportunities for employment and end poverty, he added.

Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan would like Chinese side to allow Pakistan to open a trade cum visa office in Urumqi to facilitate the CPEC projects implementation and people to people exchanges.

He said the progress achieved by handing-taking over of Gwadar Port Free Zone is a good beginning for initiating the process for building the economic zone.

The Prime Minister informed his Chinese counterpart that the operation Zarb-e-Azb in FATA and National Action Plan in the country are being successfully implemented.

He assured his counterpart of the security for Chinese workers and for this purpose a Special Security Division had been set up while Gwadar security force has already been mobilized under the command of a Brigadier.

Both leaders also discussed the Afghan reconciliation process and the recently held Heart of Asia Conference in Islamabad in which a Steering Committee comprising Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and US was set up which will supervise the process of peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan and coordinated efforts in this regard.

The Prime Minister also apprised the Chinese Premier of his recent meeting with Indian Prime Minister Modi in Paris and Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj's visit to Islamabad and said it has yielded encouraging results.

He said both the countries have agreed to resume the comprehensive bilateral dialogue process, which is a welcome sign and development.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan and China are celebrating 'the year of friendly exchanges' and next year will be the 65th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations.

He said both the countries wanted to further promote people-to-people contacts.

The Prime Minister thanked China's support for Pakistan being accepted as full member of the SCO.

The Chinese Prime Minister on the occasion said that the relationship between Pakistan and China is deep-rooted between the two peoples.

He said that China supports a strong and stable Pakistan and desires for a much more strong relationship in the future.

All Day**Parliamentary body meets: western route to be completed by December 2016 -- BR**

Chairman Parliamentary Committee on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Mushahid Hussain Syed has said the western route of the Corridor will be completed by December next year. The 7th meeting of the Committee, since its formation on September 15, 2015, comprising 15 members, was held here on Monday. The committee members discussed various aspects of the projects, their progress with reference to Gwadar which is the starting point of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Senator Mushahid Hussain in his remarks assured the members that "all the reservations of the local inhabitants of Gwadar would be addressed and resolved and the rights of the people of Gwadar as well as the people of Balochistan would be fully promoted and projected".

Joint corporation committee (JCC) which is the apex decision making body on CPEC between China and Pakistan has adopted an updated list of prioritised and actively promoted energy projects. The committee was briefed in detail about the decisions taken on 15 different items including energy, road projects and Gwadar. Senator Mushahid said the "CPEC is a strategic national project, the most important in the country's history since the nuclear programme and the CPEC is vital for Pakistan's future prosperity by knitting the federation together through progress in the smaller provinces particularly the less-developed areas". He also welcomed the representatives of Gilgit Baltistan, who attended the meeting as special invitees.

The committee was briefed that in Phase-I, there was a security and development plan being developed in Gwadar at the cost of Rs 3.4 billion and the committee directed the Ministry of Planning and Development to furnish details of the plan and the break-up of the cost in various sectors.

He also briefed the parliamentary committee regarding the CPEC Media Forum which was held in Islamabad on November 16, 2015, an effort to develop the CPEC-specific website as well as his meeting with Sardar Akhtar Mengal, former Chief Minister of Balochistan who has invited the chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on CPEC to attend an All-Party Conference on Gwadar which Sardar Mengal has convened in January 10, 2016 and which the chairman accepted.

The Senator further said the first quarterly report of the committee was ready for presentation in parliament and requested Minister for SAFRON, Lieutenant General Abdul Qadir Baloch (Retd) to present the report in the National Assembly on behalf of the Parliamentary committee on CPEC.

The committee also directed the Ministry of Water and Power to respond to the questions raised by PTI leader Asad Umar, MNA, by December 21, so that the interest of the Parliamentary committee on CPEC is fully promoted. Mushahid said the committee members visited Gwadar to observe the progress undergoing at the western route. Earlier, the committee members visited Talar, Ghoshab and Turbat in Balochistan. He said the committee has also decided to visit Sindh next month to inspect the power projects in Thar and Port Qasim.

As per plans, the committee will also visit Peshawar to meet Chief Minister KP Pervaiz Khattak to brief the projects' summary on CPEC on December 31. He said the members of committee proposed to make agricultural sector as part of CPEC. Railways, too, will require a new definition under the CPEC. As per documents, out of 14 projects under a prioritised list, 2 projects have already achieved financial close and 5 projects have started construction from sponsor equity and 2 hydro power projects are also at advanced stages.

Following projects to be taken up in 2016 for transport infrastructure and Gwadar segments includes Khuzdar-basima (110 KM), KKH-Phase-II (280 KM) Raikot-Thakot section, D.I. Khan-Quetta (533 KM), Expansion of Multipurpose terminal including breakwater and dredging, eastbay Expressway II and Fresh water supply, Wastewater treatment plans for Gwadar city.

The next meeting of Gwadar joint working group is expected soon to speed up Gwadar projects like water and energy, technical and vocation training institute and development of Gwadar port city smart plan as well as finalisation of the second phase of CPEC projects.

Talking to Business Recorder, Asad Umar said that the committee has so far not been able to bring the financial statement of CPEC budget in black and white. He raised the questions regarding the equity, debt and financial close with respect to the CPEC, adding that committee should allocate Rs 34 billion categorically which are meant for the energy projects. He also inquired about the foreign and other modes of the investment along with the government guarantees returns and terms on which the borrowing has been made.

All Day

OVER 80 PERCENT INVESTMENT UNDER CPEC TO COME THROUGH PRIVATE SECTOR: AHSAN -- BR

Minister for Planning Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal Thursday said that 80 percent investment under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would come through private sector investment with no debt implication on national economy.

Addressing a conversation on the 'Promise of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)' organized by Institute of Policy Reforms (IPR), he said that the projects would help in rapid socio-economic uplift of the region.

He said US\$ 46 billion CPEC project was not a grant or any part of budgetary support programme of the government but it was a project based initiative of both the countries.

The minister said out of the total investment of US\$ 46 billion, US\$ 38 billion would be spent on energy related projects which was on independent power producer (IPP) mode and would not increase burden of national debt.

He said energy generating projects were designed by focusing coal and hydro electricity generation potential of the country where as clean energy production was also given due attention.

The coal based energy projects was based on super critical technology to protect the environmental hazards in the country adding that Thar coal reserves would be mined and used for cheap electricity, he added.

He said Gwadar Port was the second main component of the project which would make the Balochistan a hub of commercial activities adding that health, education, water and technical institutes would also be constructed in that areas.

Ahsan Iqbal said that Pakistan and China were following three principles included scientific planning, step by step method and taking the easiest path for swift completion of the projects.

In first stage of infrastructure development, it was decided to connect the port with existing road links, adding that work on Gwadar-Sohrab was under progress and would be completed by December 2016.

He said that CPEC would help to enhance the local GDP by 7-8 percent besides significant increase in tax to GDP ratio and change the fate of over 3 billion people of the region.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman IPR, Humayun Akhtar Khan urged for elaborating upon project completion timeliness, their financing plan and strategy for effective implementation.

He said that connection between markets, both within the country and with the region would change the fundamentals of doing business in Pakistan and in the region.

In an overview of CPEC, Ashraf Hayat, Executive Director IPR, welcomed the China Pakistan Economic Corridor project. CPEC, he said has the potential for fundamental changes to the Pakistan economy.

Looking at the broader "One Belt One Road initiative", he said that it would connect about 60 countries through a complex network of roads, rails, ports, and oil pipelines.

General (R) Sikander Afzal, briefed participants on the security arrangements for CPEC and said between 17,000 and 32,000 additional security personnel would guard over 14,000 Chinese workers in Pakistan.

The army has a four-layer programme to provide security for CPEC projects and the

workers. The army is setting up a special security division with 12,000 additional personnel.

Number of security personnel will increase while six additional wings of the Frontier Corps with 5,700 personnel will be added in Balochistan, he added.

In Punjab, 3,500 police officers, 900 Rangers, 4,100 private security guards and 740 Askari Guards would protect various projects of the economic corridor, he added.

Deputy Chief of Mission of the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad reiterated the commitment of the Chinese government for completing the project with in time and with cost effective measures.

He said this bilateral relationship will further deepen and strengthen Pakistan and the region.

Dr. Hafiz Pasha, Managing Director IPR, elaborated on the macro-economic and operational implications of CPEC implementation.

All Day

Turkmenistan to Gwadar: government's decision to lay another gas pipeline welcomed -- BR

Former President FPCCI Senator Haji Ghulam Ali has said that business community fully supports the government's decision to lay another gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to Gwadar to convert it into LNG. He asked the government to prefer Russia for \$12 billion project as it is already working on Karachi-Lahore LNG pipeline and inclined to invest heavily in Pakistan.

He welcomed groundbreaking of TAPI gas pipeline which will reduce the current gas shortfall by 25 percent, said President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum (PBIF) Mian Zahid Hussain. They further said that US has imposed sanction on sale of Iranian gas but it has not imposed any restriction on Pakistan to complete its part of the pipeline which must be expedited. Mian Zahid Hussain said that gas pipeline would not only bridge energy shortages but also ensure peace and prosperity in the country.

He lauded the Nawaz government for initiating work on \$10 billion pipeline which will also help Pakistan earn up to \$250 million as transit fee. He said that financing TAPI is a challenge for which all four countries should try to lure foreign investors immediately.

All Day

Work on CEPC route from Khunjrab-Gwadar continues: NA told -- APP

State Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Sheikh Aftab Ahmed Thursday apprised the National Assembly that the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) route from Khunjrab to Gwadar is underway adding that its the Northern Alignment (Khunjerab – Raikot Highway (335 KM) had already been constructed with Chinese assistance.

Replying to various questions during Question Hour, he said that the CPEC route consisted of a network of highways and Motorways and the government has allocated amounts for its various alignments including northern, eastern and western in the Public Sector Development Programmes (PSDP) 2015-16.

Giving a break-up, he said that an amount of Rs.20,500 million was earmarked for Thakot-Havelian 120 km (Phase-1), Rs.2300 million for construction of Burhan-Havelian Expressway (59.1 km), Rs 50,250 million for Multan-Sukkur Section (387 Km), Rs.20,000 for Lahore-Abdul Hakeem Motorway, Rs.10,000 million for Islamabad-Mianwali-D I Khan section, Rs.2000 million for rehabilitation of D I Khan Mughalkot (50 Km), Rs.3000 Zhob Mughal Kot (81 km), Rs.2500 widening and improvement of N-85 Hoshab-Nag-Basima-Surab Road (459 Km) and Rs.2800

Gwadar-Turbat-Hoshab section, Gwadar-Ratodero Road, Khuzdar Shahdakot-Ratodero.

To a supplementary question, Aftab Ahmed said that Karachi-Lahore Motorway would be completed in 30 months and Prime Minister Prime Minister would inaugurate the project on December 19.

All Day

Chinese govt to give grant of Rs 94 million for KP -- Pak Tribune

The Chinese government will grant Rs 94 million funds to build additional facilities in Baffa Tehsil Headquarters hospital and Government Higher Secondary School, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In this regard, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Earthquake Reconstruction Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) and Anhui Construction Company. ERRA acting deputy chairman and Chinese Embassy Economic and Commercial counsellor witnessed the ceremony. ERRA Acting Deputy Chairman Brigadier Abu Bakr Bajwa thanked China for Rs 94 million funds to build additional facilities in Baffa hospital and school. He also recalled the Chinese government and its people strong support after October 8 earthquake.

He said that China has always been on forefront for helping people of Pakistan at the time of calamity. China was the first country after 2005 earthquake, which provided huge support to Pakistan in rescue and relief operation.

At the signing ceremony, Chinese Embassy Economic Counsellor Li Shaoton reiterated his government commitment to continue support for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of quake affected areas in Khyber Phaktunkhuwa and Azad Kashmir. He said that China government soon after devastated earthquake played its due role for building two grand facilities in Baffa, Mansehra, which included fully equipped 40-bed Tehsil Headquarters Hospital with a cost of Rs 412.5 million. He said the Chinese government also built Higher Secondary School at Baffa, which cost Rs 487.5 million to impart education to 720 students.

ERRA acting deputy chairman appreciated the Chinese government for Rs 94 million aid to carry out additional work, which included waste water treatment unit, medical waste burning facility at hospital, drainage for the hospital, provision for voltage stabiliser in hospital and provision for voltage stabilizer in school as well.

All Day

Gwadar real estate gets boost through TAPI pipeline -- Pakistan Today

The groundbreaking of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline, also known as the Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline, will bring property values in Gwadar to unprecedented heights, claims a real estate website.

The Gwadar real estate has already received a huge boost this year with the initiation of work on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The CPEC is a 46-billion-dollar mega-project intended to provide much-needed highways, railways and pipelines between Pakistan's Gwadar and China's autonomous Xinjiang region.

The TAPI pipeline will have a compounding effect on the value of Balochistan port city's real estate. It will be the third such international infrastructure deal for Pakistan after the CPEC and the Russia-backed "North-South" pipeline which will connect Lahore to Karachi.

Pakistan's real estate experts are already seeing big increases to Gwadar's property values. Faysal Al Zarooni, Chairman of the Faysal Al Zarooni Group, has remarked that the city was an "investment goldmine" and that investors who realised this now were likely to profit greatly.

All Day

MoU to promote Pak-China bilateral trade signed -- APP

Pakistan: China Xinjiang Kashgar Chamber of Commerce (KCC) and Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work jointly for promoting bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and China.

The signing ceremony was held at ICCI. Abdujilil Halil President, Kashgar Chamber of Commerce and Atif Ikram Sheikh, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry signed the MoU.

Both Chambers agreed to enhance mutual cooperation for exploring business and investment opportunities for their respective members in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that extends from Kashgar to Gwadar, said a press statement issued here.

KCC will facilitate ICCI members in grant of visas to frequently visit Kashgar for exploring business opportunities in Guangzhou New City's Special Economic Zone and ICCI will reciprocate same cooperation to KCC members for exploring investment possibilities in Pakistan.

Both parties agreed to establish a joint working group comprising 5-6 members from each side to work on mutually agreed agenda for promoting economic interests of both countries.

They shall exchange information about trade opportunities and facilitate participation of each other's members in trade fairs and exhibitions in their respective countries for promoting bilateral trade, investment and joint ventures.

Both Chamber shall cooperate for exchange of business delegations to promote business linkages and explore new avenues of mutual cooperation.

Speaking at the occasion, Abdujilil Halil, President, Kashgar Chamber of Commerce said that Chinese investors were taking great interest in Pakistan for investment and joint ventures and hoped that MoU between KCC and ICCI would help in exploring business partnerships between the private sectors of both countries.

Atif Ikram Sheikh, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that CPEC would start a new era of business and investment opportunities between Pakistan and China and it was high time that more and more Chinese investors should come to Pakistan to explore investment and joint ventures in energy and infrastructure development projects envisaged in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor for early materialization of this historic project.

All Day

Transport project with China could boost economy -- Asia Nikkei

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor initiative, a planned \$46 billion network of transport links, appears to be gaining momentum, which is good news for Pakistan's sluggish economy. Still, security and funding issues remain an obstacle.

The CPEC project, agreed to by Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang and his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif, in May 2013, would connect the Arabian Sea port of Gwadar in southwestern Pakistan with the Xinjiang region of northwestern China upon its scheduled completion in three years.

The corridor is part of China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative to establish a network of transcontinental land and sea routes. China views Gwadar as a potential hub for trade with the Middle East, Africa and Europe. The project is also aimed at promoting development in Xinjiang and Tibet.

Gwadar, a deep-sea port that is widely expected to become Pakistan's biggest, started container ship operations in May.

Claude Rakisits, senior fellow at the South Asia Center of U.S. think tank the Atlantic Council, said the project could be good for Afghanistan, too. "If peace eventually does come to Afghanistan, CPEC will help that country integrate more closely economically with Pakistan and Iran," he said. "And, of course, it will provide direct access to western China and its hinterland ... a vast and fast-growing region in need of development."

Added Rakisits, "Needless to say, with better roads and railroads, the huge Pakistan market will be easier to access for foreign investors."

Aiming too high?

However, some question the Pakistani government's ability to complete the project given its persistent financial difficulties.

"CPEC is a very ambitious and expensive project, and both [Pakistan and China] appear very keen on making it work," said Michael Kugelman, senior associate for South and Southeast Asia at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a U.S. think tank.

But is it too ambitious? "Many of the projects [planned under the CPEC] are in a holding pattern," Kugelman said. "China is supposed to fund Pakistan's side of a new Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, but until the U.S. releases sanctions on Iran, I doubt this funding will materialize. Also, many of the energy projects associated with CPEC are focused on coal, but Pakistan appears to be scaling back its earlier plans to develop its indigenous coal resources."

All Day

Liquefied natural gas: Govt seeks to negotiate Gwadar pipeline cost -- Express Tribune

The government has constituted a price negotiation committee in an attempt to seek a further reduction in the cost estimated by a Chinese company for laying the Gwadar liquefied natural gas (LNG) pipeline and setting up a terminal, an official says.

This project will work as an alternative to the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project and will be executed by the government in cooperation with the Chinese firm on a government-to-government basis.

Gwadar-Nawabshah: Work on portion to end by December 2017

Under the plan, the LNG pipeline will be laid from Gwadar to Nawabshah and the terminal will be set up at Gwadar port.

The price of steel, which stood at \$1,300 per ton when the engineering consultant ILF gave the cost estimate, has come down to \$900-\$1,000 per ton. The consultant put the total cost of the pipeline and terminal at around \$2.5 billion because of the fall in steel and compressor prices.

"However, the Chinese company has offered to develop the project at a cost standing below \$2 billion in the financial bid opened by Interstate Gas Systems (ISGS)," a senior government official said, adding a price negotiation committee had been set up to negotiate a further reduction in the cost.

"The bid was much lower than expected," the official said. Earlier, ISGS had expected the cost of 700 km of LNG pipeline from Gwadar to Nawabshah at \$2.5 billion.

Gwadar's 'string of perils'

He said the pipeline would be connected to the Iranian border at a cost of \$200 million after sanctions against Tehran were lifted.

State-owned distribution companies – Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) and Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) – will also get a share in pipeline construction as the Chinese company, China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau, is bound to award 30% of work to them.

"This is a significant development that shows Pakistan is serious about kicking off work on the IP pipeline, but its implementation hinges on lifting of global sanctions against Iran," ISGS Managing Director Mobin Saulat told The Express Tribune. ISGS is working to develop gas import projects.

Initiating the bidding process for the Gwadar pipeline indicated that Pakistan was truly interested in pushing ahead with the IP project.

Iran deal fuels tussle for gas pipelines in Pakistan

China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau, selected by the Chinese government to lay the LNG pipeline and set up the terminal, had submitted the technical and financial bid for evaluation.

The company is already working on pipeline projects stretching over 8,000 km in different countries including Myanmar, Bangladesh, Russia and other nations. It has also laid pipelines from Turkmenistan to China.

"This is the first project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor for which the technical and financial bids have been opened," another official said.

The Chinese government would provide a cheap loan covering 85% of the project cost and the Pakistani government would contribute 15% of funds.

The Chinese firm will build the new terminal – a floating storage and re-gasification unit (FSRU) – which will be owned by ISGS. The terminal will have the capacity to handle imports of 600 million cubic feet of LNG per day (mmcf/d).

The LNG pipeline, which will be of 42-inch diameter, will be laid on the IP pipeline corridor from Gwadar to Nawabshah.

All Day

Govt planning to supply water from Sawad Dam to Gwadar -- The Nations

To overcome the acute water shortage problem, the government is planning to supply 6.5 MGD water from Sawad Dam to Gwadar and its adjacent areas. "The dam is three to four times bigger than the Ankara Dam being used currently for water supply to the city," an official of the GDA claimed. "Sawad Dam is about 57km from Gwadar area and work on the dam is near completion," the official said, adding: "We just need to float tenders for the pipelines and pumps and hopefully it will be operational in next two years."

Talking to The Nation, a senior official of Gwadar Development Authority said the project will cost Rs3 billion which will help mitigate water crisis in the city. The current daily water requirement of the city is about 4.5 MGD and the supply of 6.5 MGD will help resolve the crisis, the official added.

A severe shortage of drinking water has hit Gwadar area during recent month. The shortage occurred because water supply from Ankara Dam was suspended as the dam has dried up due to no rain in its catchment area over the past three years. The Ankara Kaur Dam built in 1993 and stretching over an area of 17,000 acres and was the sole source of water supply to the city and adjacent areas. Gwadar city has a population of around 1,00,000 while Gwadar town and Jawani, constituting 50 per cent of the total population of Gwadar district, was relying on the Ankara Kaur Dam for all their water needs.

Ankara Dam used to supply 3 MGD of water to Gwadar and adjoining areas, including Jewani, Peshkan, Sur Bandar, Ganz and Bal Nagor. On temporary basis the Gwadar Public Health Department was supplying water from Suntsar but the supply is not adequate to cater to the needs of people, the official said.

"We have dug ten water wells in the Suntsar area, for the supply of water to Gwadar but seven of them are functional while three are not operational," the official said. These well can provide 5 MGD water to Gwadar, the official added. Besides, the provincial government had provided Rs15 million for water supplying through water tankers.

The development of Gwadar will be useless if no proper long term arrangements were made for the reliable water supply to the area, the official maintained.

The government installed a desalination plant at a cost of Rs1 billion in the Karwat area of Gwadar but it does not have the capacity to purify sea water in large quantity to meet the city's requirements. The desalination plant at Gwadar is providing only 0.6 MGD instead of its original installed capacity of two million gallons per day, the official informed.

When asked how the government will ensure the smooth and uninterrupted supply of water to a prospective bigger population of the city, the official replied: "There are about 130 private housing societies to be developed in Gwadar area, and we have an agreement with them that they will install their own desalination plants." The official further said that besides Sawad Dam to ensure the supply of water to city, they are also working on Shadi Kaur Dam. In 2011-12 the Gwadar area was facing water shortage when one gallon of water was sold for Rs1,000.

All Day

PM announces Karachi-Gwadar motorway -- APP

ZHOB: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Wednesday said a hefty amount of Rs.150 billion to Rs.200 billion would be spent in the next three to four years in Balochistan for alleviating its backwardness.

The PM also announced his plan to build Karachi-Gwadar motorway while addressing a ceremony after performing groundbreaking of upgradation of Zhob-Mughal Kot (N-50) and Qila Saifullah-Wagum (N-70) roads.

Also read: PM performs groundbreaking of CPEC western route

The 81-kilometer N-50 project, a part of CPEC, to be completed at the cost of Rs 8.80 billion by 2018. The 126-kilometer N-70 project will cost Rs 7.50 billion and it would also be completed by 2018.

He said there was no precedent in the history of Balochistan that construction work on massive roads network continued on such fast track basis.

He said as part of China Pakistan Economic Corridor, 194 kms road from Gwadar to Khushab would be inaugurated next month whereas Khushab- Panjgur -Basima 454kms road be completed by December 2016 by the Frontier Works Organization (FWO).

Khuzdar-Wanguhil-Shahdad Kot, 243kms road would also be completed by the next year, he announced, adding all these projects were being funded by the government of Pakistan out of its Public Sector Development Programmes (PSDP).

He praised the Director General FWO Maj. Gen. Muhammad Afzal and NHA chairman Shahid Ashraf Tarrar for their hard work and commitment.

The Prime Minister also referred to Kalat-Quetta-Chaman and Kharan phase-1 roads which would be completed in the next year while feasibility work on Zhob-Jandola road was being done.

He said uplift of the province was the top priority of his government as it would benefit the entire country.

"The project would open up opportunities of trade and business for the whole region and help in removing backwardness of the province. Soon, there will be dawn of prosperity of which Balochistan would be the major source of fast track progress," he added.

The Prime Minister also appreciated the national leaders who were at hand today for jointly laying foundation of the two road projects.

He expressed the hope that all the political parties would collectively work for the national prosperity and against terrorism and play their due part for the durable peace and prosperity.

He said that individually, he could not perform such tasks and thanked the political leaders accompanying him for their support. - Samaa/APP

All Day

Will Pakistan Land a Deal With US for New F-16s? -- Defense News

Pakistan continues to talk to the US about purchasing a new tranche of F-16 fighters, but analysts here warn that it is unclear if or when such a deal could close.

Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman, head of the Pakistani Air Force, was quoted in local media here Monday saying Pakistan was "in talks with US defense officials to get some [of the] latest F-16s but the deal may take some time." He spoke at an event to mark Pakistan Aeronautical Complex having manufactured its target of 16 JF-17 Block II for 2015.

That follows reports from mid-October that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif would use

a visit to Washington to push for the sale of eight F-16s for his military.

Pakistan currently operates a number of F-16 variants, so the addition of eight more jets is unlikely to have much impact on the local power balance between Pakistan and India.

However, the US Congress has historically been skeptical of arms sales to Pakistan, in no small part due to Indian lobbying, and any discussion of defense deals naturally must take this into account.

But circumstances could now be in Pakistan's favor. In addition to the Washington's speculated desire to maintain influence in Pakistan, there is a need to keep the F-16 production line open, which in the absence of domestic US orders can only be achieved through exports.

Despite the usual obstacles in the path of a deal, Brian Cloughley, an author, analyst and former Australian defense attache to Islamabad, says there is now a stronger chance that a deal could be struck.

"The India lobby in Congress is quite powerful and might help to block such sales to Pakistan, but the defense production lobby is much more influential," Cloughley said. "On that basis, it's likely such a sale would get through."

Author and analyst Kaiser Tufail, who flew F-16s among other aircraft during his Air Force career, said that if negotiations really are serious he does not "see any reason why the US would be secretive about it."

He also questioned whether the US would use the possibility of more F-16s to maintain political ties with Pakistan at a time when China is strengthening its ties with the Asian nation.

"Under the ongoing Pak-China strategic cooperation, there must be great urgency in US quarters to retain influence in Pakistan. Any rumored offer of military hardware should be seen in that light," he said.

Lockheed Martin is represented in Pakistan by Kestrel, which also represents a number of other US firms such as Sikorsky, Gulf Stream, Hawker Beechcraft and L3 Communications. However, no comment was forthcoming from the firm about details such as the potential timeframe for a deal.

"There is no doubt that the F-16C-52 is the world's best single-engine fighter. Since we already operate a squadron of this type, its additional induction would be smooth," Tufail said.

David McKeeby, a spokesman for the State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, declined to comment on a proposed sale until it has been formally notified to Congress.

However, McKeeby noted that, "When provided in the past, Pakistan has used US-funded equipment and US-provided technology to significant effect in their counter-terrorism efforts. Pakistan's F-16 is one key example of how US support has improved Pakistan's precision strike capability and capacity to combat terrorist elements in North Waziristan."

Those operations, he noted, are "in the national interests of both Pakistan and the United States."

Modernization Efforts

More F-16s would certainly speed up Pakistan's modernization efforts and Aman also stated the intention to replace the older generation of jets, such as the Mirage III/5 aircraft, by 2020.

DEFENSE NEWS

JF-17 Still an Option in Egypt-Pakistan Defense Cooperation Drive

First in line for replacement has been the Chengdu F-7P, of which small numbers are still operational. According to PAF officials the more advanced double-delta winged F-7PG is likely to remain as a point defense interceptor for the time being.

Even if the F-16 sale does not materialize, however, the JF-17 program is on course, and a spokesman for the Air Force said production would be increased to meet export orders. Though no official confirmation has yet been forthcoming, Myanmar is considered by analysts to have been the first export customer.

Four Pakistani Air Force squadrons are now equipped with the JF-17 and the number will grow as China and Pakistan signed a deal in April for the delivery of 50 aircraft in the coming three years.

Some parts of the JF-17, such as the rear fuselage, are still manufactured in China by Chengdu.

Even without further F-16s, Tufail believes the JF-17 can easily replace the remaining F-7P and Mirage III/5 fleets in the desired timeframe.

"We should have no problem as it is a well-planned and a phased program. The JF-17 production capacity of one squadron (16 aircraft) per year fits in well with the plans to complete the replacement by 2020."

All Day

Economic corridor to raise investment-to-GDP ratio by 2.8 percent -- BR

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will attract \$40 billion worth of investment which is projected to raise investment-to-GDP (Gross Domestic Product) ratio by 2.8 percentage points as well as increase indirect investment. According to documents available with Business Recorder, financial resources flow of around \$40 billion till 2020 would imply around Rs 800 billion per annum or 2.8% of current GDP every year thereby augmenting domestic investable resources.

Industrial Park will enhance exports by \$1-1.5 billion per annum in the short-run and boost export prospects in the long-run as well. The documents further reveal that the interface of Chinese investors with Pakistani businessmen will improve business sophistication and support technological transfer in the country. This investment will spur economic activity and given employment elasticity will create around 2 million new jobs.

The investment in hard currency will also support exchange rate stability in the country and stabilise the balance of payments situation. Potential GDP growth will be adjusted upward from existing 5% to 8% and thus will help reduce poverty by boosting per capita income in the country. The investment-to-GDP ratio will be jacked up from existing dismal 14% of GDP to 20% plus.

Additional benefits for Pakistan economy under CPEC include vast amounts of foreign exchange in transit fees, alleviation of the country's energy crisis, boost to Pakistan's trade, investment entailed in network of roads, rails, mass transit systems and energy routes that would modernise Pakistan's economic infrastructure and lead to transfer of technology and new business processes. The regional integration will bring peace and tranquility in the region and peace dividend would be the greatest benefit for the people of the region.

China and Pakistan have signed many bilateral agreements, like Free Trade Agreement, Bilateral Investment Treaty, Double Taxation Agreements, Customs related agreements/ procedures, Pak-China Joint Investment Company, bilateral contracts, currency swap arrangements and MOUs in various fields and other agreements. The existing arrangements along with new CPEC would work as catalyst in boosting economic activity in crucial areas.

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will link remote areas of Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan and Punjab. The economic potential of these areas is under-exploited and projects like Optical Fiber line, digitalisation and infrastructure will open window of opportunity in these areas. This digitalization will add half a percent to GDP growth and enable the country to fully reap the benefits of 3G and 4G. The infrastructure projects will enhance connectivity and enhanced mobility will create economic value. The underemployment and unemployment in these areas will be cured as a result of these projects in poorest areas.

Special Economic Zones and Investment would allow economic corridors along major transport and communication networks to fully harness the physical and human resources of the country, contribute to the value chain of finished products in the region, enable relocation of industry to utilise the abundant labor at lower costs and utilise the abundant savings in the region for higher return investment in a saving deficient developing country. Trade Facilitation will clear the impediments in the free movement of transport, goods and people for reducing the costs of logistics. Establishment of Havelian Dry port as a multi modal transportation of goods to facilitate the trade and investment in the country will feed in to prospective economic zones in the corridor.

Operationalizing Gwadar port will make it a regional hub and gateway of South Asia, Middle East and Central Asia. The port offers a strategic toehold in the energy rich Central Asian region and provides an alternative trade link to China's western provinces. Modern infrastructure development in the Gwadar city will make it a modern town, thereby creating thousands of employment for Baloch youth. Karachi airport will also get benefit from interlinkages between the two ports. Investments

under the framework in regional infrastructure including transport, communications and energy are expected to benefit both Pakistan and China. Pakistan's regional infrastructure investment needs till year 2020 are estimated to be \$179 billion.

The title "Gwadar's largest commercial scheme" Al-Noor cargo city holds this distinct. Al-Noor cargo city is also known as Gwadar's first strategic commercial scheme. Al-Noor cargo city is situated in the mid of Gwadar airport and Gwadar sea port. It has one-kilometer wide front on the 205ft wide main Baluchistan Broadway and 150ft wide Existing coastal highway.

Al-Noor Cargo City gives an eye-catching stance to both local and international investors due to its strategic location. In addition, just 1500 yards distance to Deep Sea East Bay gives another edge to Al-Noor Cargo City.



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All Day

COAS General Raheel Shahrif visits Gwadar port -- APP

GWADAR: Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif on Friday paid visit to Gwadar and vowed to help federal government in making Gwadar port as t as an international trade hub for Pakistan.

According to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), Raheel Sharif visited Pakistan's biggest province Balochistan. He also visit Talaar and Turbat and vowed to cut roots of terrorism from province.

COAS met with people of Talaar and Turbat and claimed that Pakistan is on way to success. "2016 will bring happiness for nation," he said.

January 3, 2016

Sun

All Day

China, Pak naval ships complete drills in East China Sea -- BR

The Chinese and Pakistani navies today concluded their two-day naval exercises in the East China Sea in which two ships each from both sides took part.

This is the first time navies of both the countries conducted exercises in the East China Sea which separates China and Japan, official media here reported.

Two missile ships from each of their fleets took part in the exercises, state-run CCTV reported.

The exercises included anti-submarine drills, air defence, anti missile and mock confrontations. Commanders of China and Pakistan gave instructions in rotation.

The Pakistani naval ships Shamsheer and Nasr arrived in Shanghai on December 28 to take part in joint naval exercises in a bid to boost defence cooperation with their Chinese counterpart.

"It is a very significant exercise which will enhance the interoperability and cohesion between the two navies," Bilal Abdul Nasir, Commander of Pakistan's 25th Destroyer Squadron told state-run Global Times.

A total of 591 officers and soldiers are on board in the two Pakistani vessels.

All Day

Pak Navy raises special marines to protect Chinese engineers at Gawadar Port -- APP

Pakistan Navy has increased all-round surveillance at Gwadar Port with the commencement of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project.

This was stated by Pakistan Navy spokesman while briefing newsmen, who undertook an extensive tour of Gwadar site.

He said a special Marine Battalion had been raised for security of Gwadar, Chinese engineers and delegates visiting the port.

He said Gwadar, the main destination of the CPEC, will be linked with China's western region through a rail and road network.

Terming the Gwadar Port 'backbone' of CPEC, he said Pakistan Navy is making strenuous efforts for ensuring comprehensive security as well as for the welfare of local people.

All Day

Navy ready for new challenges after Gwadar becomes functional -- Pakistan Today

Pakistan Navy is ready and capable of providing security to all the maritime traffic likely to be generated once the Gwadar port is made functional under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in about six month's time.

"Despite the arms race started by India, Pakistan will maintain a balanced fleet but we will maintain minimum credible deterrence to face any threat," Pakistan Navy Vice Admiral Syed Arifullah Hussaini said while briefing media personnel on the preparedness of the Pakistan Navy. "We are quite capable of facing any challenge from any side. We are ready and we are geared up," he added.

Briefing a 45-member media delegation, Hussaini said that with CPEC reaching operational stage soon, it was time Pakistan focused on the emerging opportunities and challenges.

The vice admiral said that the focus must be on the development of Maritime industry to meet future needs as CPEC would generate abundant business opportunities in near future.

Hussaini said that Pakistan had a 1,000 km long coastline where entrepreneurs could exploit the potential of seafood which could be worth around \$2 billion.

"Pakistan currently has only nine merchant ships. Due to shortage of ships, we pay \$4.5 billion each year to foreign ships. We can save a significant amount of money if we get more merchandise ships," he added.

He said that since Pakistan now had a deep sea port at Gwadar so there was a need for building new shipyards at Gwadar and Port Qasim.

He said that like the department of Homeland Security of the US, Pakistan had established Joint Headquarter, taking on board all maritime stakeholders. He said that ship breaking industry also needed up-gradation as it was on the decline despite initial success in the recent past.

All Day

Pak-China to build 1,200 acre eco-friendly industrial estate -- Pakistan Today

Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT), Shandong Yulong Real Estate Group and Roshan Packages (Pvt) Limited on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a 1,200 acre green industrial estate near Lahore.

PBIT Chief Executive Officer Amena Cheema, Shandong Yulong representative Sunato and Roshan Packages' Tayyab Aijaz represented their respective organisations.

According to the MoU, the estate will house up to a hundred industrial units and PBIT will facilitate in identification of land, while Shandong and Roshan Packages will invest all the capital. Major Chinese businesses will be encouraged to set up their units there.

Roshan Packages in partnership with Shandong is all set to establish an eco-friendly paper mill with \$40 million initial investments as soon as the land is identified.

"Green projects need to be encouraged and PBIT will provide all the possible facilitation to both the parties to set up the project," PBIT CEO Amena Cheema said.

The idea of developing an eco-friendly industrial estate was conceived by PBIT and proposed to Shandong back in May 2015. This agreement is a follow up of the MoU signed back in May. Both parties also agreed to provide all facilitation to promote

trade between China and Punjab, to generate investment and to organise trade fairs and seminars to bring together investors from both sides.

Such partnerships and endeavours were taking Punjab into a new era of creativity and growth, Cheema added.

January 9, 2016

Sat

All Day

Karachi: Chinese fleet arrives for third Pak-China joint exercises --

Dunya News

Chinese fleet has on Friday arrived in Karachi for third Pak-China joint exercises. Pakistan's Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zaka Ullah met the commander of the Chinese fleet. Chinese commander also visited Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's tomb.

People's Liberation Army's fleet comprising 3 ships has arrived in Karachi to take part in the joint exercises. Admiral Yeoman Xiang along with commanding officers of the Chinese ships also met Pak Navy's senior officers, Commander Pakistan Navy Fleet, Commander Coast and Commander Karachi.

All Day

Pakistan and Iran to have railway track between Gwadar and Iranian port -- Pak Tribune

Pakistan and Iran have decided to lay railway track to connect Gwadar with the Iranian port city of Chabahar.

The decision was taken at a meeting between Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Sanaullah Zehri and a 22-member Iranian delegation led by the governor of the Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchestan, Aaq Hashmi, in Gwadar on Sunday.

Balochistan Chief Secretary Saifullah Chattha, representatives of the Gwadar Port Authority and other officials concerned attended the meeting which discussed border security, drug trafficking, illegal crossing of border and other issues.

According to official sources, the Balochistan government delegation raised the issue of border violations by Iranian security forces.

The meeting decided to take up plans for border trade, new shipping service and flights from Gwadar to Iranian cities and towns.

A committee has been set up to monitor border security and related issues.

The meeting was informed that a border commission had already been formed that would look into border-related issues between the two countries.

Under another decision, Iran which is supplying 70 megawatts of electricity to Makran division will increase it by 30MW, besides providing 1,000MW to Pakistan's national grid.

Mr Zehri said at the meeting that Pakistan and Iran enjoyed strong brotherly relations and shared the affinities of culture, faith and customs. Balochs living on both sides of the border spoke the same language.

He expressed the hope that the governor of Sistan-Baluchestan would play an active role in speedy implementation of various projects.

Mr Zehri said Pakistan was against terrorism and condemned wherever it took place. The border commission, he hoped, would resolve security issues.

He said he would visit Sistan-Baluchistan.

Aaq Hashmi said the main purpose of his visit was to strengthen ties between the two neighbouring countries which shared traditional values. He said he hoped that border security issues would be resolved.

Meanwhile, a number of delegations of representatives of different local sectors called on Mr Zehri and apprised him of problems faced by them. The chief minister assured them that his government would take all possible steps to solve their problems.

He said work on the Sodh and Shadi Kour dams was under way and would soon be completed. The government was working to solve the problem of shortage of drinking water in Gwadar and address other issues.

The chief minister said a fully operational Gwadar Port and completion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor would usher in an era of development and prosperity in the region and local people would be its main beneficiaries. He also said that local people would be given preference in development projects in Gwadar.

All Day

Establishment of Gwadar's EPZ is at initial stage, NA told -- Pakistan Today

Parliamentary Secretary for Industries and Production Rao Muhammad Ajmal Khan said on Wednesday that the establishment of an Export Processing Zone (EPZ) at Gwadar was at preliminary planning stage and 1,000 acres of land had been leased by the government of Balochistan in 2006 for the project.

He was responding to a question asked by Shahida Rehmani regarding EPZ Gwadar and said that the PC-II for appointment of consultant had been approved while the EPZA had advertised notice for appointment of consultant for planning and designing of Gwadar EPZ.

Answering another question, he said due to energy crisis the industries were facing power shortage and efforts were going on to overcome the problem. Regarding Pakistan Steel Mill (PSM), he said, during the last two years the PSM had suffered losses due to interrupted supply chain of raw material and insufficient funds resultantly caused low production.

He said the federal government had written a letter to the Sindh government for taking charge of the mill but the provincial government had not replied yet, adding that Rs 50,500 million losses had been recorded during the two years. Rao Ajmal said due to losses sustained by the corporation and severe financial crises, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of Cabinet in its meeting held in 2014 approved the summary submitted by the Privatization Commission of Pakistan on 'restructuring option of PSM'. He said the mill took 45 days to start but due to insufficient gas supply it was not working.

All Day

Jinnah Naval Base – Navy expands strategic outreach to West Coast, Persian Gulf -- Pakistan Today

While China and Pakistan endeavour to develop Gwadar Port as a commercial hub for the entire region, Pakistan Navy is gearing up to new face challenges and threats which might come its way after the port become functional; the navy has fully operationalised its strategic Jinnah Naval Base near Gwadar Port at Ormara, Balochistan.

India has increased its naval strength in recent years and aims at transforming itself into a 'blue-water navy' within the next 10 to 15 years. By 2022, the Indian Navy will have 50 warships including three aircraft carriers, five nuclear submarines, 22 conventional submarines and a number of long range maritime patrol aircraft.

India acquired a nuclear submarine (Akula-II) from Russia in April, 2012. A second nuclear submarine of the same class will be inducted soon. Moreover, the sea trials of its indigenous nuclear submarines are also in progress. Pakistani defence establishment is looking at this induction of nuclear submarines in Indian fleet as a cause of great concern.

With minimal budgetary allocations, Pakistan Navy is quietly relying on minimum deterrence to counter any external threat. Jinnah base may just be the answer to Pakistan's prayers.

The base is situated 350 km west of Karachi and 285 km east of the Gwadar Port, and has been connected with China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"With the development of this base, Pakistan has acquired the capacity to secure naval trade in these waters. Moreover, we have expanded Pakistan naval forces' outreach towards the west coast into the Strait of Hormuz where all the oil traffic flows in and out," an officer at the base told Pakistan Today during a recent visit to the base at Ormara which is otherwise restricted for media.

"Karachi would remain our focus for the foreseeable future. However, Jinnah base would reduce reaction time of Pakistan Navy to six to 8 hours in case of any adversity," the officer said, adding that the base had a berthing facility "for anything

from warships to submarines and from heavy ships to warplanes”.

Asked whether or not Gwadar would also act as a naval base for Pakistan, the officer said that Gwadar would act purely as a commercial base.

“Though Pakistan Navy has a small base at Gwadar, its main focus would be security of Gwadar. Jinnah base, on the other hand, would be a purely naval base which would help maritime forces monitor the entire coastal area from Ormara to the Gulf waters,” the officer said.

Rear Admiral (r) Pervez Asghar, an expert on naval defence, told Pakistan Today that Pakistan Navy had developed four bases along the coastal areas of Balochistan including Ormara, Pasni, Jewani and Gwadar which had helped expand its ‘strategic outreach’ towards the west coast.

“In the past, we only had one [naval] base at Karachi and our military installations were vulnerable to any Indian adventure. However, with the development of these new bases towards the west coast, not only do we have alternative options to defend our positions, our reaction time has also decreased significantly in case of any attack,” the retired naval admiral said.

He said that the navy now also had a submarine base at Ormara. “We have developed Pakistan marine corps to thwart enemy designs of amphibious landing around the coastal areas,” he added.

“Pakistan Navy is now well placed to secure all sea lines of communications (SLOCs) emanating from the Persian gulf towards Pakistan. Moreover, the naval infrastructure including Radars and communication gadgets, have now been able to overlap each other – a capability we had severely missed in the past,” he added.

He said that the new bases had also helped secure Gwadar Port as there was no military presence on the port due to its being commercial in nature.

“Now, navy’s special forces are better placed in Ormara to secure Gwadar Port and nearby sea routes. Moreover, Ormara base would also help neutralise the enemy’s narrative that they would be able to block Karachi’s harbour in case of a showdown,” he added.

Asghar said that Pakistan had also developed a jump-off base for Pakistan’s maritime aircraft at Pasni.

He said that Pakistan Navy had recently raised another naval station at Turbat, namely PNS Siddiq for P-3c Orion aircraft.

“These P-3cs are capable of flying over 14 hours nonstop without refueling. They have stealth technology and can fly below the radar and strike India’s Eastern coast. Pakistan Navy has also developed Naval Base Jewani, about 60 km from Iran to help expand its outreach into the Gulf waters,” he added.

Jinnah base would act as an alternative option for Pakistan Navy to Karachi where all the logistic and technical support for berthing navy’s ships and even submarines were available.

“We have developed the required facilities for technical repair of ships and submarines at the base. It is an alternative arrangement to the Karachi base and can easily meet our defence requirements. However, Karachi dockyard would still be the center for major overhaul or repair,” the Jinnah base officer said.

The officer said that during the next five years, navy plans to develop huge workshops at Ormara, which would also have the ability to overhaul submarines and warships.

He said that the Jinnah base’s positioning provided cover against natural calamities and enemy’s advances as it was covered by sea on two sides and a 2 km wide hill

stood on the third.

On the top of the hill, called 'Hammer Mountain' due to its shape, Navy's surveillance unit RDS-Mianwali is stationed to help the officers keep an eye on movements taking place in and around the area.

Since the Karachi coast has become a hub of commercial activity, making it difficult for the Navy to perform its tasks and the industrial waste in Karachi's waters has been damaging the Navy's assets and reducing the life of the ships, Ormara is a better option for future Naval operations.

The law and order situation in the entire coastal belt is far better than other parts of the restive Balochistan province as well as Karachi where Rangers along with other paramilitary forces is involved in a clean-up operation.

Jewani, with a population of around 100,000 people and approximately 90 km away from Gwadar Port City, serves as a main surveillance point for Pakistan Navy to keep an eye on all the maritime traffic in the Arabian Sea.

Due to proximity of the area with Iran, many inhabitants of the area are dual nationals and can freely visit Iran on a mere permit from the deputy commissioner.

But navy has also reached out to the locals in the area to win hearts and minds of the Baloch people. It has set up educational and health facilities, many of which provide free of cost services to the local people. Under Chief of Naval Staff's scheme 'Adopt A Child', navy officers are paying educational and other expenses of 100 children in the area. The navy also provides jobs to locals in their facilities.

The navy operates a PN Hospital in Ormara which contains facilities like emergency department, trauma center, intensive care unit, labour room, operation theatre and a pharmacy.

A Navy Cadet College has also been set up the area, where 50 per cent of the admissions are offered to candidates from within Balochistan under a district-quota system. The other 50 per cent seats are offered to candidates from other provinces of the country.

A Bahria Model School is also working in the area to impart education to Baloch children. The school runs on donations and financial support of the provincial government.

All Day

CHINA KEEN TO SET UP OIL REFINERY IN PAKISTAN -- Pak Observer

Islamabad—China Huanqiu Contracting and Engineering Corporation (HQC) subsidiary of China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) interested to setup oil refinery in Pakistan preferably at Gwadar and Karak, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Wang Guobin, President, China Huanqiu Contracting and Engineering Corporation (HQC) subsidiary of China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) along with seven-member Chinese delegation expressed this during meeting with Minister of State and Chairman, Board of Investment (BOI) Dr. Miftah Ismail here on Thursday.

Wang Guobin informed that there group has specialized in Oil and gas exploration and oil refinery. He further said that they were interested to setup oil refinery in Pakistan preferably at Gwadar and Karak, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. China Huanqiu Contracting and Engineering Corporation subsidiary of China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), is an intelligence-intensive, technology intensive and technology-oriented state-owned backbone enterprise. It takes technology as the guide, design as the lead, engages in such diversified business as consultation, R&D, engineering, construction management, equipment manufacture.

Dr. Miftah informed that government encouraging the private sector for setting up of oil refineries in Pakistan. Recently UAE company had also shown interest to establish oil refinery in KPK. There is no tax for a period of 20 years in this sector, Laws have been tailored to safeguard and ensure protection of investments. The foreign investment is fully protected under the Foreign Private Investment (Promotion & Protection) Act, 1976, and Protection of Economic Reforms Act 1992, he highlighted. Miftah Ismail also discussed with Chinese delegation of investors about the available opportunities in Pakistan. The Chairman highlighted the investment potential and opportunities available specific for Chinese investors and companies in Pakistan.

All Day

Pak-China trade swells from \$9.3b to \$11.8b in one year -- The Nations Chief Minister Punjab Mian Shahbaz Sharif has said that China is the most reliable friend, has always stood with Pakistan and helped it in all respects.

He was speaking at Pakistan-China Business Opportunities Conference jointly organized by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Punjab Board of Investment & Trade (PBIT). A 100-member Chinese delegation also attended the Conference while LCCI President Sheikh Muhammad Arshad, Senior Vice President Almas Hyder, Vice President Nasir Saeed also spoke on the occasion while Consul General of China in Lahore Yu Boren, Chairman Pak-China Friendship Association Sha Zukang, Provincial Minister Ayesha Ghous Pasha, Chairman Punjab Board of Investment & Trade Abdul Basit, former LCCI Presidents, Senior Vice Presidents, Vice Presidents and Executive Committee Members were also present in the Conference.

Chief Minister Punjab said that China is a very important partner in Pakistan Economic Development and Bilateral trade. The involvement of Chinese enterprises both in term of technical and financial assistance in several development projects is reflective of our cordial relations based on mutual trust and sincerity.

Shahbaz Sharif termed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as an energy and infrastructure program with the investment of \$46bn in Pakistan. He said that \$ 46 billion is the biggest investment ever made by China in any foreign country. This program, he said, when completed would help end power outages in the country, and ensure seamless connectivity between China, South and Central Asia. He said that investment climate is getting better with every passing day due to best policies of Punjab government and all possible facilities are being provided to foreign investors.

The LCCI President Sheikh Muhammad Arshad said that both the countries not only share border but also have unanimity of views on various political & economic issues. He said that two countries have a combined market of more than 1.5 billion people but the trade volume needs to be pushed up. He said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project will change the destiny of Pakistan. He said that most of raw material is being import for the projects under CPEC. He suggested that Pakistani material approved from Pakistan Engineering Council should be used for CPEC projects. He said that Chinese technological advancement could help Pakistan overcome economic challenges in a short span of time. He also announced to set a "China Desk" at the LCCI to provide necessary information to the investors. He said that informed the participants of the Conference that the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry is making all out efforts to bring the private sector of the two friends closure. He said that the LCCI is also organizing Chinese language courses for its member so that they could interact with their Chinese counterparts quite easily.

The LCCI Senior Vice President Almas Hyder said that Chinese investment in energy projects will certainly solve the issue of energy shortage in Pakistan. He invited the Chinese businessmen to enhance their investment in priority sectors including Oil and Gas, Mining, Infrastructure, Power and IT & Telecom etc. He said that though trade has been increased from \$ 9.3 billion in 2013 to \$ 11.8 billion in 2014 but still there is a lot of room for enhancement of trade and economic ties. Chinese Consul General Yu Boren said that both Pakistan and China had huge potential to increase the bilateral trade as the existing volume of two-way trade between the two countries is very small when it is compared with the total Chinese business. He said that incentive package and China-Pak Economic Corridor is enough to make the point that China gives top priority to Pakistan in terms of business and trade.

Chairman Pak-China Friendship Association Sha Zukang spoke highly about Pakistan and said that CPEC would further cement trade and economic ties between the two countries. He said that China-Pakistan relations had become an example of state to state relations. He said both countries looked forward to have further exchanges of visits, to have more high level contacts to promote mutual friendship and cooperation in various fields including politics, economy and people to people contacts. He said China Pakistan Economic Corridor would be further promoted, particularly cooperation in trade, investment, energy and communications would be strengthened.

January 22, 2016

Fri

All Day

Pak-China Sign Letter Of Exchange On Gwadar Master Plan -- Daily Capital

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have signed a Letter of Exchange on Gwadar Master Plan to make it one of the best cities in the world.

Secretary Commerce Tariq Bajwa and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong signed the Letter in Islamabad on Friday.

Under the agreement, Gwadar city will be developed on modern lines having all basic facilities.

All Day

Accord with China: Deal inked on funding Gwadar master plan study -- Pak Tribune

Pakistan and China on Friday signed an agreement on financing a feasibility study for the Gwadar port and city master plan which envisions the port city as a regional economic hub.

Tariq Bajwa, the secretary of Economic Affairs Division, and China's Ambassador Sun Weidong signed the letter of exchange for the feasibility study of the project on behalf of the respective governments.

The government-to-government arrangement will see China provide a The Express Tribune of Rs410 million to finance the study that is expected to be completed in one year.

Under the exercise, the existing master plan for Gwadar city will be updated and integrated with the master plan for the port there.

After the port had been included in the multi-billion dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, there had been a need to update existing plans of the city to reflect the new strategic direction.

According to a handout issued by the finance ministry, the Chinese side had last year agreed to finance the study under The Express Tribune assistance. Subsequently representatives of the Chinese Commerce Ministry and Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform of Pakistan had met in Beijing on August 25, 2015 to discuss details of the Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan Project.

They discussed the implementation mode, objectives, scope and timeframe arrangements of the project. The feasibility study aims to identify Gwadar's competitive advantages vis-a-vis regional ports and developing a business case for the port, its contribution to export-led growth, market creation, industrialisation, tourism and revenue generation.

In addition to developing a business case for the port and city, the feasibility study will also suggest strategies to facilitate trade, tourism, community participation, public-private partnerships and industrial and economic development on a national and regional level.

Pakistan had handed over the control of Gwadar port to Chinese operators who are in the process of updating the port's master plan. In November 2015, the government had signed a 43-year lease as it handed over thousands of acres of land to the China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) to develop the special economic zones in the deep sea port.

According to the planning ministry documents, the current master plan of the city was last updated in 2005 and contains two inter-dependent elements: the port, and the city of Gwadar and simultaneous development of the port and the city.

All Day

All preparations complete for Karachi-Gwadar ferry service -- APP

Ministry of Ports and Shipping says the service will be extended up to Iran to provide safe journey for religious and general purposes.
radio

All necessary preparations have been made to start Karachi-Gwadar-Karachi ferry service to facilitate the travellers and businessmen.

The development has taken place in the light of the directives of the Prime Minister to strengthen ports and shipping sector.

Spokesperson of Ministry of Ports and Shipping said the service will boost economic and business activity in the region.

He said ferry service will be extended up to Iran to provide safe journey for religious and general purposes.

All Day

BALUCHISTAN TO RECEIVE \$7B THRU CPEC -- Pak Observer

Quetta—Baluchistan province will be receiving over US \$ 7 billion funds of its share from investment pertaining to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

President, Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industries (QCCI), Jamal Khan Tarakai said that Chief Secretary Baluchistan, Saifullah Chathha visited QCCI and assured the industrialists and traders that Baluchistan would get adequate share from investment funds to be spend under CPEC.

“Industrialist parks will be established in Zhob, Quetta, Khuzdar, Gwadar and other areas of Baluchistan where over US \$ 07 billion will be spend to build power plants and heavy industrial units which would be generate millions of jobs for local youth,” he added.

He said that the Chief Secretary told that the provincial government had started process to acquire land for construction of six-lane western route of CPEC in Baluchistan.

“Chief Secretary Baluchistan told that construction work on western route of CPEC has started and it would be completed within stipulated time,” he added.

He said that billions of rupees were being spent on the construction of Gwadar International Airport following the architecture of Beijing, China Airport where double story air bus would also land.

All Day

Govt sees 2016 as take-off year for CPEC project -- Express Tribune

The government expects 2016 to be the take-off year for the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Gwadar port, with a 100% increase in cargo-handling and start of the free economic zone.

Ports & Shipping Minister Kamran Michael stated this in a written reply submitted in the National Assembly in response to a question raised by PPP’s Mahreen Razaque Bhutto last week regarding the port’s role in the country’s development during the past three years.

Michael said that during the past two and a half years, besides handling limited government subsidised imports of urea, for the first time the Gwadar port started containerised export from May 2015.

“So far six ships have discharged 35 empty 40-foot containers and exported 25 loaded 40-foot containers carrying 675 tons of frozen fish to the international market.”

He added that during the past three years around 40 ships docked at the Gwadar port and discharged 1.6 million tons of urea.

Hard times

“Lack of railroad connectivity, unavailability of water, power and gas resources, and absence of required commercial and industrial facilities in Gwadar have hampered full utilisation of prospects of greater trade and economic development of Pakistan,” read Michael’s response.

CPEC for Punjab or Pakistan: Myth and reality

Under the concession agreement of 2013, it said a private company has been rehabilitating unused and outdated port equipment, machinery and facilities, finalising the port development plan, and enhancing infrastructure and superstructures to improve port operations.

Hope

The minister said that under the CPEC, it has been planned to construct the

Gwadar East Bay Expressway with Chinese assistance to connect the port with the M-8 motorway and N-85 highway. "Thus, Gwadar shall have its direct link to Ratodero/Sukkur and Quetta through Turbat, Panjgur and Surab."

To address water, electricity and gas issues, early harvest projects have been approved under the CPEC and would be completed within three to five years, he added.

CPEC- a window of opportunity for Pakistan

Similarly, the Gwadar Port Authority has signed sister-port relationship memorandums of understanding with the Qingdao and Zhuhai ports of China and with the Chabahar port of Iran. "The port operator is finalising the free zone master plan and it is expected to start during March-April 2016."

All Day

MoU signed for China Pakistan Investment Initiative -- Daily Times

KARACHI: At the conclusion of the visit by a delegation of companies from China, led by Sha Zukang, Pakistan, China Friendship Association, BMA Capital Management Limited, Gomtazy Capital Partners Limited and International Green Economy Association, signed a memorandum of understanding for the establishment of China Pakistan Investment Initiative (CPII).

The CPII provides for ongoing support and services to companies from China seeking to invest in or do business in Pakistan with reciprocal services to Pakistani companies. The visit, organized by the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing, in addition to presentations on Pakistan's sector based investment case, comprised B2B meetings in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi. Various Federal and Provincial Government Ministries coordinated closely to make the visit a success. Sha Zukang followed by saying "China is very confident in Pakistan's future and hence has invested more in Pakistan than it has any other Asian country."

He further emphasized that they have come to Pakistan due to their confidence in it and will continue to keep bringing groups of private sector companies to explore opportunities. Building on what Munir Akram said Sha Zukang emphasized how concrete and tangible results with the private sector were of highest importance. To ensure the same CPII is being created, to facilitate and follow up on any projects and investments from either side." Ambassador Munir Akram thanked Sha Zukang for making it to Pakistan after many years. He spoke about Zukang's many contributions, both diplomatic and conventional, in the development of Pak China relations. He went on to say that "it is imperative that we establish a process to follow up on either side for tangible and concrete results of various MoU being signed".

All Day

China's One Belt, One Road initiative promises to be the biggest generator of Asian mega- projects -- Ajo

While the Chinese economy has slowed, mega-projects associated with the One Belt, One Road initiative are rolling ahead with no stop sign in sight.

In mid-November, China Overseas Port Holding Co. signed a 40-year lease to gain control of more than 900 hectares around the Pakistani port of Gwadar, on the Arabian Sea near Pakistan's western border with Iran. The China state-run company, which took over operations of the port in 2013, has promised to spend more than \$1.5 billion on port improvements, a new free trade zone, an airport and feeder roads, with even more ambitious plans afoot of an LNG terminal, power plants and a pipeline linking the port with western China.

The goal is to turn what is now a minor port, handling less than one million tons a year, into a major entrepot for China-related natural resources and manufactured goods. It's only one component in a \$45 billion infrastructure package Chinese President Xi Jinping officially offered Pakistan during a state visit last April. That mix of investment dollars and loan guarantees centers on a 1,800 kilometer high-speed rail planned to link the western Chinese city of Kashgar, in Xinjiang province, with Gwadar. The Chinese term the initiative the "China-Pakistan economic corridor."

That, in turn, is part of a much bigger and far more ambitious Chinese enterprise. This strategy goes by the odd name of "One Belt, One Road," made odder still by the "road" referring to the sea. It envisions a series of land and coastal infrastructure linkages, underwritten by Chinese capital, that couple China with much of Asia, the Middle East and Europe. The map draws a land route from China through Central Asia and maritime routes from China through Southeast Asia and then to South Asia, Africa, and Europe.

All Day

Navy increases surveillance at Gwadar Port -- Pak Tribune

ISLAMABAD: With the development of the deep sea port at Gwadar, the Pakistan Navy (PN) is anticipating fresh security challenges. It has thus allocated a special Marine Battalion at the port for surveillance. These marines will safeguard sea links used for communication and provide protection to trade ships routing in and out of the port in the near future.

In a recent visit to the coastal belts of Gwadar and Karachi by journalists, PN officials revealed that the new division was deployed in anticipation of trade activities through Gwadar. Trade is expected to spring up under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project. The battalion is an addition to the existing troops securing the coastlines of Karachi Harbour and Sir Creek areas.

Officials briefed about the operational capabilities of the force, and the scope and scale of their operations. "Most of the Indian Ocean including Pakistan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) was declared a high-risk area of piracy," said a PN official, adding that they then enhanced security. As a result, after the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia revised limits of the piracy High-Risk Area last year, it excluded Pakistan's EEZ.

Pakistan on the global chessboard

Apart from security measures, the navy also shed light on its 'people-centric approach' to rehabilitate people living along the coastline. These projects include running schools, hospitals and vocational training centres in major towns across the 960-km coastal belt. Moreover, the navy conducted mock exercises of boarding and unloading helicopters on one of their frigates for journalists.

Focus on forces

Given its proximity with vital international sea routes, Gwadar is likely to become a major port of the country. Located near the international sea routes leading to the Persian Gulf from where 17,500 oil tankers and 7,300 cargo ships pass every year, the navy will require major improvements in the next four to five years once the port

becomes fully operational.

Pakistan's coastline of apathy

Once trade under CPEC magnifies and Central Asian countries also join in, it would need more equipment and platforms. For this, PN is in the process of shifting some of its operations and naval assets from Karachi to the newly-built Naval Base in the strategic town of Ormara located mid-way between Karachi and Gwadar.

Moreover, owing to the hostility between India and Pakistan, Pakistan Navy has plans on maintaining a 1:5 power balance with its arch rival. According to the officials, India plans on acquiring 50 warships, three aircraft carriers and 22 submarines, of which five will be nuclear submarines, in the next 10 to 15 years.

PHOTO: Irfan Ghauri

Besides that India also envisions converting its naval force into blue water navy – a marine force capable of operating across the deep waters of open oceans – with intercontinental outreach. This in return would pose serious challenges for Pakistan Navy owing to their resource constraints. However, officials said that they want to maintain minimum deterrence and limited overseas outreach against these plans.

Fleet boosting

To keep up with the challenges, special service groups and Pak-Marines have been trained to conduct special operations on land, sea and air.

On land, the navy has two warships, Type-21 and F-22P frigates. It also has Patron Craft Squadron, small but lethal missile boats equipped to safeguard sea frontiers and deliver an offensive punch which strikes deep into enemy territory.

According to officials, the main attacking fleet includes four former British Navy Amazon-class ships, known as Type-21, which they intend on withdrawing by 2020. Four Chinese light frigates, F-22P, are also part of the attacking fleet.

Moreover, the navy owns an Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate. To replace the Type-21s, they plan on adding another five to six of these surface warriors until new ones are built. Apart from these, the surface fleet consists of destroyers, high-speed missile crafts, gun boats, mine hunters, and training ships and boats.

For underwater surveillance, the navy has deployed the Submarines Service Force. They are a major component and aggressive command of the Pakistan Navy. Their primary mission includes commencing peaceful engagement, surveillance and intelligence management, special operations, precision strikes, battle group operations and control of Pakistan's sea borders. They also have the responsibility to protect the country's sea lanes of communication, as well as economic interests and foreign trade.

Gwadar's 'string of perils'

Currently, the navy has a fleet of five submarines, three 90B Agosta and two 70B Agosta. In the near future, they are planning to add another eight.

Lastly, the third component of Pakistan Navy's operations is its aviation fleet, comprising six squads. These carrier air wings include P3C Orion, ATR and Fokker aircrafts while helicopter units have Z9EC, Sea King and Alouette.

All Day

GWADAR FERRY SERVICE TO GENERATE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, PROMOTE TOURISM -- APP

ISLAMABAD: All necessary preparations were being made to start Karachi-Gwadar and Karachi-Iran ferry services within two months, to provide comfortable and affordable travelling facility to the people and devotees. The services would also promote tourism and generate economic activity in the region.

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, during his visit to Port Qasim Authority (PQA) on December 28 last year had directed Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC), to expedite the work on start Karachi-Gwadar and Karachi-Iran (for Zaireen) ferry services.

Following the directive, Federal Minister of Ports and Shipping Kamran Micheal has taken initiatives to launch the ferry service within two months, the Spokesperson of Ministry of Ports and Shipping told APP on Friday.

Efforts were being made to strengthen ports and shipping sector in a proper manner. The people would enjoy safe journey for religious and general purposes, the spokesperson added.

To a question, the spokesperson said that two more ships were being purchased to enhance business activity in the region.

A committee was established to ensure transparent procurement of more ships and in this regard, process of recommendation would be completed in next few weeks.

Currently, nine ships were operating in the area to carry out shipments to other ports and earning profit, the spokesperson said.

To another question, the spokesperson said that PNSC had earned Rs 800 million profit on its two cargo ships.

January 31, 2016

Sun

All Day

**China to provide Pakistan with 500 million USD for power projects --
News Tribe**

KARACHI: China will be providing Pakistan with 500 million dollars for the development of solar and air power projects. According to the sources at Alternate Energy Development Board, 2 billion dollars have been invested in alternate energy projects.

Sources say 90 percent of these investments include foreign aid provided to the country.

Sources also say that the target for the present volume of electricity produced by solar and air energy has been elevated from 300 MW to 800MW.

Officials have stated the Pak-China Economic Corridor has greatly facilitated in getting financial support from China for power projects.

All Day

FATEMI FOR ENHANCED CHINA-PAK INTELLECTUAL EXCHANGES, ACADEMICS LINKAGES -- BR

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi Monday underlined the need to further enhance intellectual exchanges and linkages between the academics and researchers of the two countries.

He said this in his meeting with Cai Fang the Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) in Beijing, said a press release received here.

Both sides also discussed ways and means to evolving an effective mechanism for enhancing regular exchanges of academia and research scholars.

During the meeting Syed Tariq Fatemi outlined the significance of China-Pakistan relations in the bilateral, regional and global context.

He described the relations as highly valuable, based on trust and on the trajectory of prosperity and growth. Friendship between the two countries dated back to ancient times and both the ancient civilizations had multitudes of people-to-people contacts, he added.

Many travelers, religious scholars, poets and philosophers brought together the two cultures which resulted in experiences that were mutually enriching for both civilizations.

He said that ever since every single generation had contributed and carried forward that tradition till the present day when deepened cooperation had touched an all time new height.

Tariq Fatemi said that growth in the China-Pakistan relationship was a strong factor for peace and stability in the region and beyond and termed the multibillion dollar mega project of CPEC as another chapter in the glorious book of sharing prosperity with neighboring countries.

Cai Fang said that CASS valued the cooperation and communication with the research institutes from the friendly country of Pakistan to intelligently support the construction of One Belt One Road.

CASS also hoped that based on Pakistan government's support, cooperation with Pakistani think tanks and research institutes would be further strengthened and deepened to work out more valuable resolutions for the construction of CPEC and contribute to the understanding of friendship between people from the two countries, he added.

He said that China-Pakistan relations, upgrading to an all- weather strategic partnership, had led the bilateral cooperation to a brand new historic period.

He also appreciated the efforts of the Pakistani government and people for CPEC.

Pakistan's Ambassador to China Masood Khalid was also present during the meeting besides other participants.

Later this evening, SAPM Tariq Fatemi also visited the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs where he was received by President Lu Shumin and his colleagues who also hosted a dinner in his honour.

All Day

PM inaugurates Gwadar-Hoshab (M-8) portion of CPEC -- THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE

QUETTA: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif inaugurated on Wednesday the Rs13 billion Gwadar-Turbat-Hoshab Road (M-8), a part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Army chief General Raheel Sharif drove the prime minister on the newly-constructed 193-km long highway, which will connect the western, central and eastern routes of CPEC with the Gwadar Port.

All Day

SEZ under CPEC -- Daily Times

SIR: The government of Pakistan has recently showed willingness to develop the first Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Gwadar at a cost of \$ 46 billion under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

According to sources the target is to make the Gwadar SEZ, spread over an area of 3,000 acres, fully functional by the end of 2017. It will be developed by China and would accommodate industrial units for mines and minerals, food processing, agriculture, livestock and energy. The remaining SEZs would be designed and developed on similar lines.

The Planning Commission figures show, other SEZs in Balochistan would include Lasbela Industrial Estate over an area of 1,290 acres, Turbat Industrial and Trading Estate over 1,000 acres, Dera Murad Jamali Industrial and Trading Estate over 50 acres, Winder Industrial and Trading Estate, Mini Industrial Estate Khuzdar over 50 acres and Bostan Industrial Estate over 1,000 acres.

At the moment Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the only province with eight SEZs among all provinces followed by seven each in Punjab and Balochistan, three in Sindh and one in Gilgit-Baltistan

The development of Gwadar is only possible when the locals are taken into confidence. Before developing a SEZ at Gwadar, the government should also think of how it can benefit the residents of the city too. The question is will it be beneficial to local residents?

All Day

PM Nawaz inaugurates Gwadar-Turbat-Hoshab Motorway -- Dunya News

QUETTA - Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday inaugurated 193-kilometres long Gwadar-Turbat-Hoshab Motorway (M-8) in Hoshab area of Southern Balochistan.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, he said the government is constructing a network of roads to connect all parts of the country with each other for development.

These projects will bring huge benefits for the country and it will also connect Pakistan with Central Asian Republics, China and Afghanistan, he added.

The Prime Minister said the project has great importance for the development of the country.

He said Balochistan is being given preference for development, and equal allocations are being made for the province.

Nawaz Sharif also announced three other road projects. He said Quetta-Khuzdar highway will be dualised, and work on Baseema-Khuzdar, Shahdadkot highway and Bela-Awaran highways will start soon.

Nawaz Sharif said several projects have been initiated to link Gwadar with the rest of the country. He regretted that in the past, mineral resources of the province were not properly utilized and the present government is committed to use them for progress and development of Balochistan.

The Prime Minister referred to mega projects like Diamer Bhasha dam, Dasu Dam and Bunji project and said each of them would generate 4000 mw of electricity.

Nawaz Sharif lauded Army Chief General Raheel Sharif for his whole hearted support in addressing problems of Balochistan and welfare of its people.

Later, Nawaz Sharif and the Army Chief drove in a car together to inspect the project.

All Day

Gwadar to have vocational training institute to improve skills -- Daily Times

ISLAMABAD - Gwadar Port Authority Board (GPA) has planned to start building a Vocational Training Institute (VTI) in its Free Zone to impart port and free zone related skills and training to local people.

The construction work on this Institute is scheduled during this year with grant to be provided by Chinese government. GPA has so far incurred Rs.1 million on the projects and this excludes the amount spent by Chinese Company and Chinese government. Sources at Ministry of Ports and Shipping while highlighting steps taken to develop unprivileged area/people of Gwadar on Friday said GPA has set-up a Social Sector Development Fund and was spending million of rupees on different social sector programmes.

In addition, they said GPA was also encouraging investors to provide grants to poor schools and health institutions for medicine. On two different occasions, the Chinese Embassy provided grants and gifts to students, teachers, schools, and hospitals. The sources said despite the fact that currently there are not much port operations in Gwadar Port and small revenue is earned, hopefully it will increase in future. They said GPA adopted a primary school in one of the poorest locality/income groups of Gwadar Town, renovated the school building, provided electrical items, furniture, uniform and restored source of clean drinking water facility.

The GPA was also providing annually three scholarships to toppers of Primary, Middle and Matric examinations studying in government schools in Gwadar District while Information Technology (IT) literacy was being encouraged in the very poor localities of Gwadar and so far it has provided three computers to IT centers functioning in such areas.

Moreover, the sources said GPA has also provided books to best students belonging to poor families and added with efforts of GPA and Ministry of Ports and Shipping, the Chinese government was providing solar electric systems and goods (LED bulbs, tube lights and Solar Power Generation systems) to poor families in Gwadar. The total amount of this grant is about Rs.320 million. These goods are scheduled to arrive Gwadar in March/April 2016, the sources added.

The sources said the Port Operator (M/s China Overseas Port Holding Company) has donated three school buses as part of Social Sector Responsibility through GPA to Education Department, Gwadar. The Chinese Company has also created an Education Support Funds Rs. 500,000 annually.

All Day

Training locals: Gwadar Port Authority to set up training centre -- The Express Tribune

ISLAMABAD: Gwadar Port Authority Board (GPA) has planned to start building a vocational training institute (VTI) in its free zone in a bid to impart port and free zone-related training to local people.

The construction of this institute is scheduled to begin during this year with a grant to be provided by the Chinese government.

GPA has so far spent Rs1 million on the project and this excludes the amount spent by the Chinese company and government.

Sources at the Ministry of Ports and Shipping, while highlighting steps taken to develop the unprivileged areas of Gwadar, on Friday said GPA has set up a social sector development fund and was spending millions of rupees on different social sector programmes.

In addition, they said GPA was also encouraging investors to provide grants to poor schools and health institutions for medicines.

The sources said despite the fact that currently there is not much port operations at Gwadar Port and a small revenue is earned, hopefully it will increase in future.

"GPA adopted a primary school in one of the poorest localities of Gwadar, renovated the school building and provided clean drinking water facility."

Additionally the GPA was also providing three scholarships to high-achieving students of primary, middle and matric examinations studying in government schools in the Gwadar District annually.

The sources added that due to GPA information technology (IT) literacy was being promoted in the poor localities and so far it has provided three computers to IT centers functioning in such areas.

Moreover, the sources said GPA has also provided books to exceptional students from low-income families and added with that with the efforts of GPA and the Ministry of Ports and Shipping, the Chinese government was providing solar electric systems, LED bulbs, tube lights and Solar Power Generation systems) to poor families in Gwadar.

The total amount of this grant is about Rs320 million. These goods are scheduled to arrive in Gwadar in March/April 2016, the sources added.

They also said that the port operator, China Overseas Port Holding Company, has donated three school buses as part of their social sector responsibility through GPA to the education department, Gwadar.

All Day

Norwegian businessmen invited to tap huge potential of Pakistan -- The Nations

Lahore - Pakistan is well positioned to take off as economic indicators are portraying an encouraging picture.

Growth rate is expected to reach 6 to 8 per cent in 2018 therefore businessmen of Norway should come forward and avail the opportunities through joint ventures with their Pakistani counterparts.

These views were expressed by the LCCI Senior Vice President Almas Hyder while talking to the Ambassador of Norway Tore Nedrebo here at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry on Monday.

Executive Committee Members Mian Zahid Javed and Shahzad Ahmed were also present on the occasion.

The LCCI Senior Vice President said that Pakistan is a huge market and this is high time for the foreign investors to tap huge potential and take full advantage of the investment-friendly policies of the present regime.

He said that the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry is ready to extend maximum cooperation to the businessmen of Norway in this regard.

Almas Hyder said that Norway and Pakistan are well known to each other and their mutual ties range from good diplomatic, cultural and economic relations but these are not being reflected in bilateral trade.

The volume of total bilateral trade and imports of Pakistan from Norway are constantly dipping since 2012.

He said that total mutual trade volume has come down to \$ 69 million in 2014 from \$ 78 million in 2012.

He said that trade figures of last three years suggest that both countries must jointly make efforts to reverse the declining trend.

The LCCI Senior Vice President said that direct interaction between the business communities of two countries can make it possible to cause quantum jump in trade figures.

Pakistan's exports to Norway include bed linens, articles of apparel & clothing, rice, sports goods and hosiery items etc.

Pakistan's imports from Norway are limited to polymers of ethylene & vinyl chloride and some natural polymers in primary forms.

Other items include electrical equipment and scrap of iron & steel etc.

He said that Pakistan is not only interested to improve trade relations with Norway but also want to welcome Norwegian investors to Pakistan.

He said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has opened up new opportunities of trade and investment in Pakistan.

He urged the Ambassador of Norway to play role in projecting Pakistan as a good market for international buyers and investors.

Almas Hyder said that LCCI will take a delegation to Norway soon to explore trade and investment opportunities.

On the occasion, issue of establishment of Pak-Norway Business Council also came under discussion.

The Ambassador of Norway Tore Nedrebo said that a number of Norwegian companies are planning to invest here especially in power sector of Pakistan.

He asked the LCCI to help identify areas of common interest.

He informed the LCCI Senior Vice President that Norway-based company Telenor is providing employment to 4000/5000 people in Pakistan.

He said that there is a need to make more concerted and sector-specific efforts to enhance economic cooperation between the two countries and Norway is ready to take all steps to expand its ties with Pakistan for socio-economic development of the country.

The Ambassador assured his full cooperation to the Lahore Chamber of Commerce

and Industry for strengthening the existing business relations between the two Norway and Pakistan.
He also eulogized the LCCI saying that the exchange of trade delegations and trade fairs are the most effective marketing tool in this fast changing global scenario.

All Day

Pak, Qatar PMs see display of JF-17, Super Mushshak -- The Nation

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and the Prime Minister of Qatar Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani witnessed the scintillating aerial display of PAF JF-17 Thunder and Super Mushshak aircraft at Doha, Qatar on Wednesday.

Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force and Major General (Pilot) Ghanem bin Shaheen Al Ghanem, Chief of General Staff, Qatar Armed Forces were also present at the occasion.

Senior government and military officials of both countries also witnessed the aerial display.

It was a momentous occasion when PAF JF-17 Thunder and Super Mushshak aircraft presented spectacular aerial display in the skies of Qatar for the first time.

Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force briefed both the dignitaries about the capabilities of these indigenously manufactured aircraft. Both the dignitaries lauded the performance of PAF aircraft and later on met with the PAF contingent.

A JF-17 Thunder and 02 Super Mushshak aircraft landed in Qatar on February 7, 2016 for static and aerial display. Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and high power delegation is on official visit to Qatar. JF-17 Thunder is a combat aircraft jointly developed by Pakistan and China. This light-weight, single-engine, multi-role aircraft can be used for ground attack and air intercept role.

The JF-17 can employ variety of weapons including air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles. The aircraft is equipped with cutting edge avionics and weaponry. Super Mushshak is being completely manufactured in Pakistan Aeronautical Complex Kamra, which has been exported to many friendly countries. These air forces are not only operating this sophisticated trainer aircraft but also get training of its air and ground crew from Pakistan.

FOUR MOUS SIGNED: APP adds: Pakistan and Qatar yesterday signed four memoranda of understanding (MoUs) including a long term LNG Sales and Purchase Agreement, cooperation in the fields of Radio and Television, Health and Academic Research activities.

The signing ceremony was also witnessed by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani in Doha.

The first MoU about cooperation between the two countries in radio and television was signed by Special Assistant to the PM on Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi and Foreign Minister of Qatar Muhammad bin Abdurrehman Al-Thani. The MoU on cooperation between the two countries in health sector was signed by Finance Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Qatari Health Minister Hanan Muhammad Alkwari.

Both the countries signed Acknowledgement of Long-term LNG Sales and Purchase Agreement between Qatar Petroleum and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources of Pakistan. The document was signed by Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Chairman Qatar Gas Board of Directors, Saad Sharida.

While a memorandum of understanding in academic research and cooperation activities between the two countries was signed by Pakistan Ambassador to Qatar Shahzad Ahmed and Commander of Strategic Studies in Qatar Armed Forces Staff Major General Saud Ali Alnaeemi.

Earlier, when Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his delegation arrived at Doha International Airport, they were given a warm welcome. Prime Minister of Qatar Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasir bin Khalifa Al-Thani warmly received the prime minister and his delegation at the airport.

Two children attired in traditional dress presented him bouquet.

Later, the official receiving ceremony was held at Diwan-e-Emiri where the Emir of Qatar received the prime minister and his delegation. Guard of honour was presented to the prime minister on arrival at the palace. Prime Minister Sharif and Qatar Emir Khalifa Al-Thani reviewed the guard of honor.

Both the leaders also held one-on-one meeting and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest while delegations level talks were held followed by signing of the MoUs.

The main focus of the prime minister's visit and interaction with the Qatari leadership is to enhance bilateral relations in various fields including energy cooperation, trade and investment, defence and increase in employment

opportunities for the Pakistani workforce in Qatar.

The Emir of Qatar paid a visit to Pakistan on March 23-24 last year. This return visit by the prime minister in a period of less than one year is a testimony of growing relations between the two brotherly countries.

Qatar hosts more than 115,000 Pakistanis, who have been contributing towards the development and prosperity of the country and act as a bridge between the people of two brotherly countries. Pakistan attaches great importance to its ties with Qatar. The two countries enjoy friendly and fraternal relations marked by close cooperation. Both sides share perception on various regional and international issues.

During the meeting with Emir of Qatar held at the Aiwan-e-Emiri, the prime minister said Pakistan is an ideal destination for investors and called upon the Qatar Investment Authority to explore the opportunities in Pakistan's oil and gas sector. Prime Minister Sharif said Pakistan and Qatar enjoy strong fraternal relations. He said Pakistan has huge manpower and Qatar can benefit by utilising the services of more Pakistanis. He said the trade and investment in all fields between the two countries must be increased.

All Day

Spokesperson to Prime Minister says contract for import of LNG with Qatar would help meet 25% gas requirements of the country. -- Radio Pakistan

Spokesperson to Prime Minister Dr. Musadik Malik says Pakistan would start receiving LNG at one of the lowest rates in the world within sixty days.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad, he said the contract for import of LNG with Qatar would help meet 25% gas requirements of the country.

The Spokesperson said the deal would also help accelerate the pace of economic development, increase electricity generation and enhance fertilizer production.

To a question, he said the price of LNG from Qatar would be less than the price of gas under TAPI and IP gas pipeline projects. He said India too has entered into a contract for import of LNG at 35 to 37% higher rates than Pakistan.

Responding to another question, Dr. Musadik Malik said all five LNG terminals would be established in the country.

He said another terminal at Karachi would become operational by the end of next year. Country's largest LNG terminal to be built at Gwadar will have a capacity of process one billion cubic feet of gas.

The spokesperson said a pipeline is being laid between Nawab Shah and Gwadar and with its completion there would remain only 80 kilometre portion to accomplish the IP gas pipeline project.

All Day

Pakistan Railways to make joint venture with int'l firm for manufacturing of locomotives -- APP

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan: Parliamentary Secretary for Railways Syed Ashiq Hussain Shah Bukhari Friday said that Pakistan Railways was going to make a joint venture with a big international firm for manufacturing of locomotives at Risalpur Factory.

During question hour in the National Assembly, he informed that the present government has claimed the warranty and underframe of these 16 locomotives are being got replaced.

He said Pakistan has also engineers who are capable to overhaul these engines.

He said that the tender of these locomotives were float in 2012 by the government of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).

Ashiq said the government of PML-Q had purchased a total of 69 engines from Dongfang Company adding that most of these locomotives were cracked but no action was taken at that time by the minister of railway Shaikh Rashid against the company.

Answering a question he said Pakistan People's Party again signed an agreement with the CSR Ziyang Co. Ltd and bought 29 engines again and added if these engines were found cracked we will declared it black list too.

When government of PML-N took over the charge, it cancels all agreements with Dongfang Electric International Corporation, Chinese firm and declared it black listed.

Pakistan Railway has signed early transit projects with Pak-China Economic Corridor (CPEC) through which, he said new railway stations, tracks, would be established.

The train could be run on these tracks on the speed of 160 km/hour adding that all railway system would be upgraded through the project of CPEC.

To a question, Ashiq Hussain said that over 1.8 billion rupees foreign aid have been provided to Pakistan Railways for three projects.

He said that Pakistan Railways has not entered into any contract for purchase of locomotives from China.

He shared the details of contract agreements which were signed in 2012 for procurement locomotives from China included two contract agreements for procurement of 29 Nos. (CBU) (3000-3500 HP) and 29 (2000-2500 HP) D.E. locomotives (CBU) with M/s CSR Ziyang Co. Ltd amounting to US\$ 61.16 million and US\$ 55.69 million respectively.

Parliamentary Secretary said that all the 58 locomotives have been received and working on Pakistan Railways system.

A contract agreement for procurement of material for manufacturing of 5 locomotives (3000 HP) in Completely Knocked Down (CKD) condition amounting to US\$ 12.82 million was signed in 2013 with M/s CSR Ziyang Co Ltd. China.

After receipt of material all the five (5) locomotives have been manufactured / assembled at Pakistan Locomotive Factory, Risalpur and working on Pakistan Railways system.

All Day

PM Nawaz: Will build Lahore-Karachi Motorway, increase trade with Qatar -- Dunya News

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has addressed the Pakistani community in Qatar on Thursday in which he has shown his desire to increase trade and investment

relations with Qatar.

According to the details, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has addressed a gathering of Pakistani community in Qatar's capital, Doha. He said that Qatari leadership has acknowledged the role of Pakistani community in the progress of Qatar. He told the gathering that he was honored to hear praise for Pakistani community from the Qatari Amir.

Sharif told the gathering that his government is working on several energy projects ranging from Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), coal, hydel, solar and wind to end energy shortage. He declared that the LNG agreement with Qatar is historic and is very vital for Pakistan, which is facing a huge gas crisis. He expressed his gratefulness for the Qatari government for providing the lowest rates of LNG for Pakistan.

The Prime Minister told the gathering that previous governments have done extreme injustice to the public. He said they are reaping the mistakes of previous governments. He said they promised before elections to bring electricity in the country and to lower its tariff. Today, he said they are going towards completing this promise.

Sharif told the gathering that today Pakistan has the highest foreign exchange reserves in the history. He said Pakistan is progressing compared to three years ago. He said that even the president of the World Bank has praised the economic performance of Pakistan.

On the security situation of Pakistan, Sharif said that today, Pakistan's security situation is better compared to three years ago. He said that his government started the Zarb-e-Azb military operation which has severely damaged terrorist networks resulting in decrease of terrorism. He expressed his government's determination to continue the operation till its logical end.

He said that they are building the Gwadar port and the world's most beautiful airport in Gwadar. He also addressed the PIA issue; said that they want to bring PIA on its foot and added the government will make PIA's quality equal to Qatar Airways.

The premier also announced that the government is going to build Lahore-Karachi motorway and a motorway from the Chinese border to Abbottabad. He said they will build an expressway, which will lead the country towards the road to progress. He said that the development projects started by his governments in the past were not completed by the preceding governments.

February 14, 2016

Sun

All Day

Pak Navy allocates Special Marine Battalion at Gwadar port -- Business Standard

With the development of the deep sea port at Gwadar, the Pakistan Navy is anticipating fresh security challenges.

It has thus allocated a Special Marine Battalion at the port for surveillance. These marines will safeguard sea links used for communication and provide protection to trade ships routing in and out of the port in the near future.

Trade is expected to spring up under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project, reports the Dawn.

The battalion is an addition to the existing troops securing the coastlines of Karachi Harbour and Sir Creek areas.

Most of the Indian Ocean, including Pakistan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), was declared a high-risk area of piracy.

Moreover, owing to the hostility between India and Pakistan, Pakistan Navy has plans on maintaining a 1:5 power balance with its arch rival.

All Day

Chinese ambassador for more Pak-China joint ventures -- APP

Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) opened 'China Week' on its premises on Wednesday with the aim to further boost country's economic ties with China.

Chinese Ambassador HE Sun Weidong inaugurated the week in an ornamented ribbon cutting ceremony. Chairman Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed also accompanied the Chinese envoy.

RCCI President Mian Humayun Parvez, Senior Vice President Saqib Rafiq, Vice President Muhammad Aqil Obaid, Group Leader Sheikh Shabbir, SM Naseem, former presidents, members of the executive committee and other industrialists, traders and businessmen were present on the occasion.

Different local as well as Chinese companies have established their stalls at the exhibition, displaying cars, motorcycles, leather products, garments and other items. School children presented colorful performances depicting Chinese and Pakistani culture and music. The whole building was decorated in Chinese national color and a small picture gallery reflecting Chinese culture and art was also displayed on the occasion.

While inaugurating the week, Chinese Ambassador said that Pakistan and China enjoyed best mutual, trade, bilateral, social and cultural relations. The government of China and its people has always shown a great affection, love and brotherhood towards Pakistan and its people. "Chinese businessmen always prefer to invest in Pakistan," he said. The ambassador also praised the RCCI for organizing China Week and offered cooperation in arranging such programmes in future.

China is Pakistan's largest trading partner and Pakistan is China's second largest trading partner in South Asia. The trade volume between the two countries has jumped up to approximately 19 billion dollars. 46 billion dollar CPEC is the key project and this shows how much importance China is giving to Pakistan. He said that this year we are going to celebrate 65th anniversary of our diplomatic ties with Pakistan and lot of activities are going on. He invited RCCI President and others to join these events. He ended his address by saying: "PAK CHEEN DOSTI ZINDA BAD" in Urdu. Later, the ambassador visited various stalls and stressed the importance of Pak-China joint ventures.

President RCCI Mian Humayun Parvez said China is Pakistan's time tested friend. He said that RCCI will hold industrial exhibitions in different countries including China aimed at further promoting the trade relations. He informed that the trade volume between both the neighboring countries has increased to a considerable level however there is a need to increase exports. "We must explore new areas of opportunities. Gem and jewelry, marble, poultry, pharma and information technology can bring a lot of investment in Pakistan."

Earlier, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed in his address said that Pakistan and China shared a great history of brotherly and time tested relations. He referred to CPEC project and said that this single project will change whole picture of Pakistan's economy and will set up future economic direction. This project will strengthen the federation as all provinces and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan will benefit from it. "This corridor will benefit all provinces and areas in Pakistan, and transform our country into a regional hub and pivot for commerce and investment", he added.

All Day

Chinese economy and dynamic CPEC -- BR

The 2015 witnessed a slow global economic recovery while most major economies are suffering the slump in growth. Global trading has been facing the most serious downward pressure since Financial Crisis as well. Under such a circumstance, the economic and trade performance of China become more outstanding. Besides, as one important part of bilateral economic and trade relationship between Pakistan and China, CPEC attracts much attention all over the world.

China remains a major driving force for global growth The domestic and international situation China faced with was extremely complex and severe in 2015. Overall, with the progress in stability, the domestic economy and commerce works keeps the medium-to-high speed of growth and has achieved hard-won fruits with all performance indicators ranking forefront in the world. China GDP growth fell 0.4 percentage points to 6.9%, which remained relatively higher than many other major

economies. China's import and export trade in goods and export value have ranked the top one in the world since 2013, and the year 2015 is not an exception. The value of online retail sales maintained the first place of the world, the total value in retail sales of consumer goods and the import and export volume in service trade stably ranked the second place in the world, foreign investment has ranked the top one among developing countries for 24 consecutive years and the investment abroad ranked the third one in the world.

There are many highlights in China's economic growth. According to a World Bank report, China's economic growth contribution to the world increased 0.8 percentage points to 26.1%. In terms of import and export, with the double-digit negative growth in global trade last year, the decrease of China fell far below the decrease of other major economies and global trade. China's share in global trade is expected to increase by a percentage point from 12.2% to over 13%. In 2015, China's global share enhanced the fastest; in terms of international investment, the foreign direct investment (non-financial sectors) in last year, reached 118.02 billion US dollars, an increase of 14.7%, which remains the rapid growth of consecutive years; in terms of attracting foreign investment, actual use of foreign investment is 126.27 billion US dollars, an increase of 5.6%, and China still ranks the top one among developing countries. Consumption's contribution to the social and economic growth has reached 66.4%, with an increase of 15.4% over 2014. That is to say, China has successfully achieved the vital transformation of economic development from investment and foreign trade based to domestic demand, especially consumption based.

"Belt and road initiative" has made positive progress "Belt and Road Initiative" is China's top-level design of the opening and economic diplomacy in the new era and China's suggestion and scheme on the cooperation development and common prosperity in the new era. Chinese President Xi actually proposed such a major cooperation initiative to promote peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and benefits under the "Silk Road" symbol. With respect to the implementation of the "Belt and Road Initiative", it does not delineate the boundaries by ideology, development path, development model and development level or other standards, but intends for mutual benefit and win-win through exchanges and cooperation in policy, trade, currency, infrastructure, cultural and other aspects based on the principles of broad consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. At present, more than 60 countries have given positive responses and some countries carried out strategic docking with China, and put forward specific ideas of cooperation. Just as mentioned by President Xi in his speech, The "Belt and Road" is not China's solo, but the mixed chorus of all related countries.

The implementation of "Belt and Road Initiative" achieved success in many countries like Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Belarus, Thailand, Egypt, Kenya and so on. China has established 75 overseas economic and trade cooperation zones in the world, which has created a large number of tax and employment for the host country. According to statistics, various overseas Chinese funded enterprises have paid taxes of more than 100 billion US dollars to the country in which they have invested; by the end of 2015, overseas Chinese funded enterprises have nearly employed 900,000 foreign employees.

CPEC will substantially promote economic and trade ties between the two countries Pakistan and China elevated their ties to all-weather strategic partnership in April 2015 after the Chinese president Xi's historic visit to Pakistan, which further enhanced the long time-tested friendship between the two countries. As one important part of "Belt and Road initiative", China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will not only strengthen the economic and trade ties between both nations, but will also promote the common prosperity and development for the whole region. According to the statistics of Economic and Commercial Office of Consulate General of P.R. China in Karachi, the overall on-going and planned Pak-China related projects in both Sindh and Balochistan provinces reached 27, worth more than 12 billion US dollars, covering sectors such as power generation, resource development, roads, transmission lines, ports and so on, including Qasim coal-fired Power Plant, Dawood Wind Power Project, Thar Coal-Mining Power Plant, Gwadar

Port etc. According to related companies, Dawood Wind Power Project will be done in this September; Qasim Coal-firing Power Plant is expected to be completed within the next two years.

CPEC injects new vitality to Pakistan's economic growth. It will stimulate local industries like steel, cement, construction, logistic, travelling, security etc. According to local analysts' estimate, the start of mega development schemes and power projects under the CPEC will boost the annual demand for steel products by more than 30% to 6 million tons from 4 million tons. Besides, Pakistan & Gulf Economist expects that Cement sales in FY2016 will increase 3.5% compared to last year, reaching 36.7 million tons, domestic sales will increase 11.4%, reaching 31.5 million tons. CPEC is also a major attraction for domestic investors and international capitals that see it as catalyst for Pakistan. The huge investment from China has made Pakistan one of the central economic activists all over the world, which is also a major attraction for large foreign capitals. Moreover, CPEC accelerates the industrial promotion of Pakistan and brings more advanced equipment and techniques through industrial shift and capacity cooperation.

CPEC benefits local residents in a more realistic way. On the one hand, Chinese enterprises bring more job opportunities to the local people and offer chances for them to get more skilled education, which improves the local living standards. On the other hand, Chinese enterprises built public facilities aiming at improving people's well-being in the project region. Take MCC Sandak Copper-Gold Mine Project as an example, the Chinese company improved public infrastructures like irrigation systems, power plants as well as roads, which largely promoted the local livelihood.

We are fully confident that, based on the principle of broad consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, the economic and trade ties between Pakistan and China will be further strengthened, and the future of Pak-China relationship is broad and bright.

March 12, 2016

Sat

All Day

Will move cargo from China to Gwadar this year, says army chief -- Daily Times

GWADAR – Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif on Tuesday said that officials concerned will move the cargo from China to Gwadar this year, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

Addressing a seminar here, the army chief said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a reflection of the friendship between the two countries.

All Day

CHINA'S 5-YEAR PLAN GOOD HOPE FOR PAK ECONOMY -- Pak Observer

Beijing—China 13th five-year plan that is expected to be approved by the on-going session of National Peoples Congress brings good hopes for Pakistan's economy as well as its far-reaching impact on China's own domestic growth. According to the five-year target, the economy will grow around 6.5 percent every year. "The plan will decisively overhaul, modernize and strengthen China's growth engine, laying stable foundations for further growth," said Amanullah Khan, chairman of the Pakistan-China Business and Investment Promotion Committee. "We in Pakistan see the plan as a positive development for the socio-economic well-being of their peoples." The people of Pakistan wished to see China ever-growing, since it is a source of peace and development for its neighboring countries as well and the World as a whole. Analysts said, China's 13th Five-Year Plan concerns more than just its own domestic affairs. The world should sit up and pay attention: it will have a global impact.

"China has been the powerhouse of the world for decades. In the next five years, ballooning domestic demand, investment and buying power will further vitalize the global economy," said Chen Fengying, world economy researcher with the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations. As China steers itself toward quality development in the next five years, a critical period of transition, the world should cast their eyes east, said Chen. The draft of the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020), outlines policies, priorities, as well as clear economic and social targets.

"Such clear goals will serve as assurance to foreign entities as it will paint a clear picture of what measures will be taken," she said. Innovation, growth Cui Jicheng, 53, is a oceanologist. By 2019, he plans to take a manned deep-sea submersible 10,000 meters down to the Mariana Trench. Deep-sea exploration is one of the principle projects under the Scientific Innovation 2030 initiative, outlined in the plan. According to the draft, by 2020, China's R&D investment will account for 2.5 percent of GDP.

The contribution of scientific and technological advances to economic growth will rise to 60 percent. Investment into semiconductors, chip materials, robotics, aviation equipment and satellites, also aim to facilitate scientific advances. "China already leads in the fields of Internet, new energy and AI. It will be an important player in the new round of scientific revolution and reform. In the next five years, expect more surprises from China," Chen said. Statistics show China will import \$10 trillion of commodities in the next five years. It will make \$500 billion of investment. Chinese are expected to make 500 million trips abroad.—INP

All Day

**CASA-1000 PROJECT TO FURTHER BOOST PAK-TAJIK TIES:
PRESIDENT -- AP**

ISLAMABAD: President Mamnoon Hussain Wednesday said that CASA-1000 project would be a milestone in boosting bilateral relations between Pakistan and Tajikistan.

He said Pakistan was looking forward to the opening ceremony of the CASA-1000 project in May 2016.

He also noted with appreciation that a committee had been formed to prepare preliminary report for additional 1000-1200 MW electricity from Tajikistan to Pakistan outside CASA-1000.

He was talking to the Tajikistan Parliamentary delegation headed by Chairman Majlisi Namoyandagon of Tajikistan Zuhurov Shukurjon that called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, said a press release.

The President said that exchange of parliamentary, business and cultural delegations would further solidify relations between the two countries and increase people to people contact.

He called for making concerted efforts for further enhancing bilateral trade between the two countries commensurate to their potential and increase the volume of bilateral trade to US \$500 million as already agreed upon by the two countries.

President Mamnoon Hussain said that Pakistan and Tajikistan enjoyed excellent relations which were deeply rooted in common history, religion and culture.

He said that the two brotherly countries needed to enhance their cooperation in the defence sector and suggested that the Tajik military officers might avail training facilities in Pakistan.

The President said that Pakistan was the worst victim of terrorism and extremism and had rendered great sacrifices in fighting this menace.

He said that operation Zarb-e-Azb would continue till elimination of all terrorists.

President Mamnoon Hussain urged for unity and cooperation amongst the Muslim countries for collective efforts to remove misperceptions about the Muslims in the West and to project the Muslims as a peace loving and enlightened people.

He stressed that peace in Afghanistan was necessary for peace, security and stability in Pakistan and the region.

President Mamnoon said that Pakistan was trying its utmost to facilitate reconciliation in Afghanistan through the Quadrilateral Coordination Group comprising Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and the United States.

He said that Pakistan was sincerely pursuing the vision of a peaceful neighbourhood and desired to have friendly relations with all its neighbours including India.

The President emphasized that resolution of the Kashmir issue was essential for improvement in ties with India.

Chairman Majlisi Namoyandagon of Tajikistan Zuhurov Shukurjon thanked the President for the warm welcome and hospitality extended during their visit to Pakistan and hoped that bilateral ties would reach new heights through mutual cooperation.

The Chairman Majlisi Namoyandagon expressed his country's keen desire for linkages with China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said that projects were already underway for rail and road connectivity with the CPEC.

Zuhurov Shukurjon extended an invitation on behalf of the President of Tajikistan to President Mamnoon Hussain to visit Tajikistan at his earliest convenience.

All Day

PM INVITES CAR TO USE GWADAR PORT -- Pak Observer

Islamabad—Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has invited Turkmenistan and other Central Asian Republics (CAR) to use Pakistan's deep sea port of Gwadar for trade with other countries.

He was addressing a joint press conference along with Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov after delegation level talks in Islamabad on Wednesday.

"Our deep sea port provides shortest route to the Arabian Sea to the Turkmenistan and other Central Asian Republics and we will happy to see our brothers there using this facility", Nawaz Sharif said.

The Prime Minister said regional connectivity is part of Pakistan's vision 2025 under which the country will be made hub of regional trade. Pakistan is also closely working with Turkmenistan for improvement of basic infrastructure to enhance economic relations as well as tourism and people to people contacts.

Referring to the TAPI gas pipeline project, the prime minister said this is a mega project which will help energy starved industry of Pakistan run at its full potential. Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan will also import one thousand megawatt of electricity from Turkmenistan and the MOU in this regard was signed during his visit to the country last year. He said we have agreed to undertake this project on fast track basis. This will help us in reducing power deficit.

Nawaz Sharif said the energy projects will facilitate regional connectivity and contribute to peace and security by creating inter dependence in the region.

The two sides during talks agreed to further bolster their relations in different fields including economy, trade, culture and education. Nawaz Sharif said both the countries enjoy close cordial relations deep rooted in shared history, faith and culture and these bonds are growing with the passage of time. Nawaz Sharif said the meeting of Pakistan-Turkmenistan Business Forum on the sidelines of delegation level talks will help facilitate bilateral trade and investment. Such high level contacts will help in boosting our economic relations.

In his remarks on the occasion, the Turkmen President termed his talks with the prime minister as fruitful and productive saying these will further strengthen our brotherly relations. He said the people of Turkmenistan follow with great interests the achievements made by the Pakistan and we wish the country make more progress in days to come.

The Turkmen President said the TAPI gas pipeline project will be implemented at the earliest as it will not only contribute to socio economic development but also serve a bridge for building friendly relations amongst the regional countries.

The two countries signed a series of MOUs and agreements for promotion of cooperation in various fields. The foreign affairs ministries of two countries signed the document for future cooperation. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and his Turkmen counterpart signed an MOU for cooperation against money laundering and terror financing. Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and his Turkmen counterpart signed an MOU for further cooperation in the energy sector. Five MOUs were also signed for cooperation in higher education, research and information technology.

All Day

Pak-China Business Forum from 19th -- APP

LAHORE - The ministry of science and technology is organizing the 5th Pak-China Business Forum 2016 from March 19 to 22 at Expo Centre Lahore.

COMSATS University director Qaisar Abbas, while addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, said that more than 400 foreign companies will exhibit their products at the forthcoming event.

He said that the forum will bring the foreign investors together in the country where business to business meetings will also be arranged.

In the Pak China Expo, students of various Pakistani universities will also share their projects with the foreign companies.

It would be the event to explore business for our students, he added.

He said that the event will be held in collaboration with Ministry of Science & Technology, Punjab Board of Investment and Trade and NTS.

These partners are offering their tremendous support for this event.

Most importantly, 5th Pak china Forum will again welcome a delegation comprised of more than seven hundred Chinese guest this year.

Exhibitors' logistics are arriving in Pakistan to participate in 5th Pak-China Business Forum (PCBF).

Sources have confirmed that event would be inaugurated by Punjab CM Shahbaz Sharif and Federal Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology & Chancellor, CIIT, Rana Tanveer, Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Board of Investment & Trade (PBIT) and Ministers, industries experts and other dignitaries will attend the event.

PCBF was established by the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), a leading public sector, federally chartered, Degree Awarding Institute, in 2012 as a part of its efforts towards the socio-economic development of the country by strengthening academia-industry linkages as well as focusing on research, innovation and commercialization.

All Day

Shahbaz Sharif inaugurates 5th Pak-China Business Forum 2016 -- APP

LAHORE, Pakistan: The Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif on Saturday inaugurated the 5th Pak-China Business Forum 2016 at the Expo Center in Lahore.

The business forum will continue for four days and is expected to attract 700 representatives of more than 400 Chinese and 150 Pakistani companies.

The business forum is being held with the cooperation of COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT). Other partners include Ministry of Science & Technology, Punjab Board of Investment & Trade and National Testing Service (NTS).

The major objectives of the Pak-China business forum were to increase foreign direct investment into Pakistan, improve export opportunities to China, develop stronger B2B (business-to-business) relations with Chinese business and enhance economic activity in the country by strengthening academia and industry alliance.

The forum provides a unique opportunity for Conglomerates, SMEs, R&D Institutions, Organizations from the Financial and Services sectors to collaborate with more than 200 participating Chinese companies from the following sectors; ICT and Electronic, Engineering and Manufacturing, Energy Resources/Solar/Renewable Energy, Associations/Chambers, Textile, Furniture and Decoration, Tourism, Automotives, Trading and Logistics, Chemicals, Medical and Pharmacy, Banking and Investment, Food Industry, Education and Research.

The event includes an exhibition to display products, business-to-business meetings as well as thematic workshops for scholarly work.

All Day

CHINA PROVIDED FULL ASSISTANCE TO TRANSPORT, ENERGY PROJECTS: SHEHBAZ -- Pak Observer

Lahore—Punjab Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Saturday that China has provided full assistance and cooperation to transport projects, improvement of infrastructure, energy projects and process of mining in Punjab.

He expressed these views while addressing the inaugural function of 5th Pak-China Business Forum at Expo Centre, here. Chinese Consul General Yu Boren, 700 delegates of various Chinese companies, Chief Executive Officers of business houses and companies, senior officials and a large number of Pakistani investors attended the function. The forum was arranged with the cooperation of COMSATS Institute of Information Technology.

Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistani nation can never forget huge investment of a great friend, unconditional support and cooperation of China in the development of various sectors of Pakistan. He said that 11 months ago, agreements on the projects under CPEC were signed during the visit of Chinese President to Pakistan in April last year and work was started on these projects in September. He said that such friendship is unprecedented.

Shehbaz Sharif said that holding of Pak-China Business Forum is a welcome step due to which process of contacts between people and traders of both of the countries will strengthen.

He said that Pak-China friendship has become an example in the world. He said that participation of businessmen in such a large number from China is a clear proof of strengthening friendship. No doubt, Pak-China friendship is higher than Himalaya, deeper than ocean, sweeter than honey and stronger than steel, he added. Chinese President openly said that we are iron brothers and he has also proved by extending unconditional support to Pakistan.

He said that reserves of iron ore have been discovered in Chiniot and Chinese company MCC has taken part in exploration of these reserves and completed this task. He said that according to initial verification of reserves of iron ores in Chiniot, there are also some spots of gold and copper. He said that a final report will soon come fore and a plan can be made for setting up a steel mill.

He said that Chinese companies can make investment under public-private partnership and this is best opportunity for them. He said that Chinese government has provided funds through Exim Bank for orange line metro train on very soft terms. He said that there is no such country except China in the world which can provide funds on such soft terms. Shehbaz Sharif said that besides coal, solar, wind and hydel power projects, communication, transport and infrastructure projects are also being set up under China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

He said that 2.8 billion dollars investment is being made on 1320 megawatt coal power project at Sahiwal whereas 1320 megawatt coal power plant is also being set up at Port Qasim with the same cost. He said that China has also invested in 900 megawatt solar power project in Bahawalpur.

He said that under CPEC, China is making 100 percent investment in energy and other projects and the management in the projects is of China and Pakistani government is only ensuring implementation of these projects, therefore, question of transparency and non-transparency in these projects does not arise.

He said that there is no need of tendering in G to G projects but Punjab government has completed the process of tendering in this project and this has happened first time in the history of the country.

Federal Minister for Science & Technology Rana Tanvir Hussain addressing the Forum said that under Pak-China Business Forum, contacts between businessmen of both the countries are increasing.

Chinese Consul General Yu Boren said that the leadership of both the countries is interested in strengthening economic cooperation. He said that Pak-China economic cooperation is increasing due to implementation of the projects under CPEC. He said that Chief Minister Punjab Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is serving people of the province in an excellent manner.

He said that completion of development projects is being ensured through transparency, quality and speed. He said that a strong leadership like Shehbaz Sharif has become available to Punjab and due to his steps, economy of the province is improving. Representatives of Chinese companies expressing their views said that increasing economic cooperation of Pakistan and China is useful for people of both the countries. Chairman Organizing Committee Prof. Qaiser Abbas

March 20, 2016 Continued

Sun

threw light on the aims and objectives of Pak-China Business Forum. Federal Minister for Science & Technology Rana Tanvir Hussain presented souvenir to Shehbaz Sharif.

All Day

4-day Pak-China Business Forum concludes -- APP

The four-day 5th Pak-China Business Forum-2016 concluded Tuesday; over 700 representatives of Chinese and Pakistani companies participated in the forum.

Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurated the Pak-China Business Forum at Expo Center Lahore on March 19. The event was held in collaboration with the COMSATS University, while the Punjab government and the relevant institutions provided support to the organisers, the Chinese and local traders and businessmen.

The forum was the biggest Pak-China business forum to date with participation of over 700 delegates from 400 Chinese and 300 Pakistani companies. The forum consisted of stalls of Chinese companies in various sectors. It offered an opportunity for Pakistani businessmen to meet their Chinese counterparts.

Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) also actively participated in the forum by setting up a stall where the Board's experts briefed the visiting Chinese investors about investment opportunities in Punjab. The PBIT team arranged B2B (Business to Business) meetings, and meetings with various governmental organisations on behalf of numerous Chinese companies at the Forum.

National Logistic Cell (NLC) also set up a stall at the Pak-China Business Forum, where more than 20 Chinese companies held meetings with the NLC officials on issues related to logistics. During their meetings, both sides agreed to proceed further on the initial understanding and to implement mutually beneficial agreements.

Pak-China Business Forum aims to increase bilateral trade with China and help introduce middle and small sized Pakistani businessmen with their Chinese counterparts. This forum falls under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor project.

All Day

Development ties: Chinese delegation visits Gwadar -- Express Tribune

QUETTA: The Chairman of Zhuhai Port Holding Group has said that China is interested in investing in various fields in Gwadar which would further cement the long-standing relations of China and Pakistan. He expressed these views during a visit of nine-member Chinese delegation to Gwadar here on Tuesday. He said that under 'sister city relationship' China would help Pakistan in investment in civil and other sectors. Chairman Gwadar Authority Dostain Khan Jamali and Director General Gwader Development Authority Sajjad Baloch briefed the delegation about the master plan of the Gwader port, Economic Corridor, Gwadar Free Industrial Zone, Gwader Expressway and other projects. He said that the cooperation would be increased between Gwadar and Zhuhai Port under sister city relationship accord. A Chinese company has already begun the survey for Gwadar International Airport which would be stretched over 4,800 acres.

All Day

**GOVT KEEN TO COMPLETE IRAN-PAKISTAN GAS PIPELINE:
MIFTAH -- APP**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Board of Investment (BoI) and Minister of State Dr Miftah Ismail on Friday said that Pakistan was keen to complete Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline (IP) and in this regard, the government was engaged in negotiation with a Chinese company for building of a 200- kilometer Nawabshah to Gwadar gas pipeline.

He was talking to media after attending Pakistan-Iran Business Forum here at a local hotel.

He said that the project of the gas pipeline from Nawabsah to Gwadar was likely to be completed within two years while the remaining 70 kilometer part of gas pipeline from Gwadar to the Iranian border would be completed within few months in the second phase.

The BOI Chairman said that after the completion of the IP Gas Pipeline, 250 million cubic feet gas would be imported from Iran during first year, while in the second year the import of gas would be enhanced to 500 million cubic feet while int the third year 750 million cubic feet gas would be imported.

Replying to a question, Miftah Ismail said that currently Iran and Pakistan had no formal trade but after the visit of the Iranian President,Hassan Rouhani along with high profile business delegation, the bilateral trade was likely to be initiated formally.

He said Pakistan would export textile, pharmaceutical products, value added agricultural and dairy products while Iran was interested to send petrochemical products, gas, steel and paper products.

All Day

Gwadar, Chabahar ports to link Pakistan, Iran with Central Asia

ISLAMABAD – President of Iran Dr Hassan Rouhani on Saturday said that wider connectivity between Gwadar and Chabahar ports would link Pakistan and Iran with the Central Asian countries.

Addressing a press conference here at the conclusion of his two-day official visit, he said more road and rail networks between the neighbouring countries would spur immense trade and business activities, resultantly leading to progress and prosperity in the whole region.

He viewed the development of Gwadar port vital for linkage with the countries up to Central Asia, besides referring to the Chabahar port as significant one in the region. He expressed his country's strong desire for intensified relations and cooperation with Pakistan in all spheres, including trade, economy, energy, education, science and technology.

President Rouhani described his visit and meetings with the Pakistani leadership as very constructive and fruitful. During the meetings, he said, the two sides held wide ranging discussions for cooperation in the areas of trade, economy and energy as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest.

About Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, Rouhani said Iran had almost completed the work on its side of border on the pipeline and would be in a position to provide gas to Pakistan in a few months. It was now up to Pakistan to initiate work on its side, he added. He said Iran could meet all the energy needs of Pakistan.

The country was already selling 1,000 MW of electricity to Pakistan, which could be increased up to 3,000 MW. Rouhani said Iran was also interested to have connectivity between Gwadar and Chabahar seaports through roads and shipping lines for a win-win situation to both the countries. To a question about the relations between Iran and India, he said, "Whenever Iran comes closer to Pakistan such rumours are spread."

Rouhani said Iran was the first country that recognized Pakistan after the latter's independence in 1947. He also mentioned the decision made by the two countries during his visit of opening two more border crossings, which he said, would help promote trade and people-to-people contacts. About the Afghan peace process, he said both Pakistan and Iran had always held consultations and collaborated on the issue.

"During my talks with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, we have specifically talked about the issue," he said, adding that his country fully agreed to a proposal by the Pakistani side for holding trilateral talks among Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan. He stressed that peace and security was vital for Afghanistan and Iran was ready to do whatever it could to help bring peace and stability there.

The Iranian president said that Pakistan and Iran were playing their parts to resolve the Afghan issue through bilateral and trilateral consultations. About Iran-Saudi tensions, he said that Iran was not interested in any tensions as it was a peace-loving country. Different Muslim countries, including Pakistan, had offered to resolve the issue, he added.

Rouhani stressed that any problem among the Muslim countries should be resolved as the Muslim world required peace, progress and prosperity. To another question, he said Pakistan and Iran had agreed for steps for more secure common borders, which would also help increase bilateral trade through setting up border market places.

Brushing aside reports about Pak-Iran ties, he termed them mere rumours, which were created whenever both countries came closer. "We are like-minded." Responding to a query, the Iranian president maintained that regional issues could not be resolved militarily and referred to Iran's nuclear deal with the world powers as an indication of peaceful tactics to sort out differences.

He said he had also talked with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif over the issues confronted by the Muslim world. He said that the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) should be an effective platform for bringing closeness, unity and cooperation among the Muslim world.

About Syrian ceasefire, Dr Rouhani expressed the hope that it would hold the ground, paving way for restoration of peace between the government and opposition. He urged all the parties to play their role to resolve the Syrian issue through peace.

All Day

Special Chinese children perform in Alhamra -- Observer

Lahore—A group of special children from China performed in the Alhamra Arts Council here on Saturday to pay tribute to Pak-China friendship.

The group sang national songs like Jeevay Jeevay Pakistan and its name is Beijing Orchestra. The programme was arranged by the Lahore Arts Council and National Arts Council of Pakistan.—PP

All Day

Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG project part of CPEC -- Observer

Islamabad - Gwadar-Nawabshah Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal and Pipeline Project is part of China- Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), official documents have revealed. Interestingly, a federal minister has recently told the Parliamentary Committee on Petroleum that no RLNG terminal/pipeline project is part of the CPEC. It seems there is a communication gap between the Ministry of Planning and other ministries, as the Federal minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources had last week told Senate's Standing Committee that Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG Terminal and Pipeline Project was not part of the CPEC. Documents, related to the progress on CPEC projects, available with The Nation, have clearly shown Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG Terminal and Pipeline Project as part of the CPEC. According to the documents, negotiations for a commercial contract with China over Petroleum Pipeline Bureau are in progress. In a presentation given to the Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal on CPEC last month, it was informed that there was one project of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources, listed among the CPEC projects, and that was Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG Terminal and Pipeline project. The minister was also informed that detailed site survey of the LNG terminal had already been conducted by CPP. "Two conclusions can be drawn from the petroleum minister's statement that he made in front of a parliamentary committee: either the minister is completely unaware of the CPEC projects or the government is intentionally trying to hide the truth," an official source said. Take the case of Orange Line Train project, which was first shown as part of the CPEC, but now the government has changed its stance which now says it is not related to the CPEC. Under the RLNG project plan, a terminal will be set up at Gwadar port and 700km long RLNG pipeline will be laid from Gwadar to Nawabshah. A Chinese firm will build new terminal – a floating storage and re-gasification unit (FSRU). The terminal will have the capacity to handle imports of 500 million cubic feet of LNG per day (mmcf). The LNG pipeline, which will be of 42-inch diameter, will be laid from Gwadar to Nawabshah. The Chinese government would provide 85 percent funds of the project, while Pakistan would contribute 15 percent of funds. This project will work as an alternative to the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project and after the completion of Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline, only about 70km of pipeline segment between Gwadar and Iranian border would be left which could be constructed at the cost of \$200 million to connect to the border. The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) has already approved construction of 700km Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline to transport Re-Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG). "The secretive behaviour of the federal government is making this vital national project controversial," the official said, adding the government should come forward and show the official documents of what comes under the CPEC.

All Day

Maiden MoU signed for expanding co-op between Pak, Chinese textile firms -- The Nations

LAHORE - The Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PRGMEA) and China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textile and Apparel (CCCT) have inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote and expand cooperation between Pakistan and Chinese textile and apparel companies.

The MoU signing ceremony was held during China Asia Textile Forum 2016 at Shanghai.

PRGMEA chief coordinator Ijaz Khokhar inked the MoU on behalf of Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association while China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textile and Apparel was represented by its chairman Jiang Hui.

Ijaz Khokhar, who was the guest speaker from Pakistan side, also made presentation on Pakistan's textile and apparel sector in China Asia Textile Forum. The forum was attended by major apparel associations and many leading Chinese garment companies from the whole Asia.

It is the first time that a Pakistani garment sector body signed such an agreement with the overseas stakeholders for strengthening mutual trade of garment and textile.

As per the MoU, PRGMEA will provide visa assistance to Chinese companies through invitation letters.

In first phase, CCCT delegation is visiting Pakistan to attend Texpo Fair being held first time in Pakistan from April 7 to 10.

PRGMEA will arrange factory visits for Chinese delegation, and B2B meetings with its members.

PRGMEA also plans to arrange a trade delegation to visit China by the end of this year.

It is expected that Chinese companies will establish their units at CPEC Economic zones through joint ventures of the local companies, with PRGMEA playing leading role after striking this deal with CCCT.

PRGMEA and CCCT have also agreed to deal with managing business contacts, seminars, business meetings, presentations, exhibitions, fairs holdings and other arrangements to make potential partners and export possibilities available in the two countries.

PRGMEA and CCCT will assist each other in small and medium size business development, provide technical assistance, search for partners for trade and joint ventures, as well as render other services of interest for business entities of the both parties.

In his presentation, PRGMEA chief coordinator Ijaz Khokhar highlighted the overall situation and development trend of Pakistan's garment sector and textile industry. He said that CCCT as part of the Ministry of Commerce is the largest textile and apparel trade agency both in China and the world.

CCCT member companies, totaling more than 12,000 and operating in 34 provinces across the country, engage in the production and export and import of textile fibers, yarns, fabrics, clothing, home textiles, industrial textiles and accessories.

Its member companies comprise the majority of Chinese textile and apparel enterprises incorporating export and import enterprises, the trade volume of which accounts for 70% of the total export and import volume of Chinese textile and apparel industry as a whole.

Ijaz Khokhar said that China is not a traditional market and have a lot of opportunities for Pakistani merchandise.

He said that MoU between the PRGMEA and CCCT would go a long way and help Pakistani value-added garments goods to find their way in Chinese market.

He said that ample opportunities exist in value-added textile sector of Pakistan and now it is the duty of the policy makers to help the garment industry make this MoU meaningful.

All Day

Pak-China to build interconnection grid for electricity -- Daily Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Online) – The Ministry of Water and Power and State Grid Corporation of China are working to build an Interconnection Grid for electricity Between Pakistan and China which will mutually benefit both the countries by utilizing each other energy potential.

This was stated by Secretary Ministry of Water and Power, Muhammad Younus Dagha in Beijing at the occasion of Global Energy Interconnection Conference where more than 700 delegates are participating.

The Secretary Ministry of Water and Power said that the building of an Interconnection Grid between Pakistan and China will allow Pakistan to meet its energy demands when there are requirements.

It will also benefit China to benefit from the potential of clean energy in Pakistan, especially hydroelectricity on the Indus River cascade lying all along the route of China Pakistan Economic Corridor, he added.

Younus Dagha said that Pakistan is very much positioned to become energy corridor for the region and facilitate the exchange and optimize use of clean energy available in the region of South Asia, Central Asia, Middle East and China.

He said that Pakistan can play an active role in the Global Energy Interconnection.

While apprising about CASA-1000 project, Dagha said that Pakistan has a unique geographical position, strategically located at the confluence of South Asia, Central Asia, Middle East and China. We are aware of the opportunity offered by our geographical location. Working on it since past many years, we succeeded in signing an agreement on Central Asia South Asia transmission line, known as CASA-1000, with Tajikistan, Kyrgyz Republic and Afghanistan to build a 1400 km long HVDC transmission line which will bring 1300 MWs of clean power to Pakistan.

We already have Grid interconnection with Iran and plan to further enhance it. We are also working with South Asian countries to bring interconnectivity within South Asia. We have found a lot of interest in CASA-1000 in the countries of the region such as Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Russia.

The Secretary Ministry of Water and Power said that Pakistan has the potential and is fast becoming an energy surplus from an energy deficit country in the next three years due to the volume of energy projects initiated by the Government.

He said that when His Excellency President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan in April 2015, we initiated work on 10,400 MWs of new power generation and 660 HVDC Transmission Line with the State Grid.

He congratulated the four countries who through a Memorandum of Understanding yesterday during this Conference signed their commitment to work on Global interconnectivity.

He said that the four countries signing MOU represent more than 70% of Asia's power demands. They however, need to tap the unutilized resources of clean energy lying in the neighborhood of the proposed Global Grid, in those countries which might not have developed that much demand. Pakistan can be one of those countries, he stressed.

Although at present, Pakistan might be facing a deficit of transformed energy, especially power, but has a sizeable potential in terms of its untapped energy resources. Such untapped resources have a large share of clean energy, apart from fossil fuels.

While we hope to become self-sufficient in Power generation in 2018, we will still be left with an untapped potential of more than 60,000 MWs of Hydroelectricity Power, most of which lies right across the Pakistan-China border; also an untapped

potential of more than 90,000 MWs of Wind Power in our South and an unlimited potential of Solar power all across the 850,000 sq km of its area, with almost 300 days of bright sunshine.

At present Pakistan Produces more than 40% of its electricity from non-fossil sources, mainly Hydro-electricity. In the coming days, working closely with international players, we hope to explore the possibility of further advancement towards Sustainable energy.

All Day

Pak-China links: Logistics complex construction to facilitate trade -- The Express Tribune

KARACHI:

Construction on a logistics complex that will deepen bilateral trade between China and Pakistan began in Tashkurghan Tajik Autonomous County in Xinjiang on Friday.

According to the local government, the project covers an area of about 58 hectares southwest to the county and will use up a total investment of 3 billion yuan (\$464 million). The first stage of the three-stage project includes an Internet service administration centre, a cross-border ecommerce enterprise incubator, and a modern warehousing and logistic centre.

In the meantime, a comprehensive transportation system, especially for cross-border cold-chain logistics, will be further developed. RMB settlement will be introduced as well, reports China official news agency – Xinhua. Further stages will see the completion of a commodity exhibition centre, manufacturing and assembly factories, hotels, entertainment facilities and vehicle maintenance station.

All Day

Sino-Pak trade likely to increase by 24 percent -- BR

Trade between Pakistan and China is likely to increase by 24 percent after completion of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects especially relating to energy and infrastructure, it is learnt. According to the sources, CPEC would play a significant role in making Pakistan one of the most attractive transit trade routes in the world as the route would open immense trade opportunities for Pakistan with other regional countries as well.

Sources added that that trade route, in future, could link central Asia via Afghanistan, and gave the Central Asian countries an easier access of sea route to Far East and Australia. Most of CPEC projects relating to energy, Gwadar Port and infrastructure would be completed by end-2018 and the \$46 billion corridor projects envisage construction of infrastructure projects such as motorways, expressways and rail lines to bolster connectivity. Various power projects would also be established to help Pakistan meet its growing energy requirements.

The sources said Pakistan was also discussing Industrial Economic Zones with China which would be established along side the route of CPEC. They said a meeting of Economic Zones Joint Working Group (EZJWG) of Pakistan and China was going to hold next week of that month to discuss the matter relating to establishment of industrial zones. According to documents available with Business Recorder, the economic zones would target various sectors including food, pharmaceutical, engineering, fruit/food packing for exports, textile value addition, marble industry, minerals and cutting and polishing, industries of mosaic furniture, construction of material vendors, herbal medicine and agriculture implements etc. The Karak Special Economic Zone is also under design which would target oil and gas sector. This industry would refine 100,000 barrels of oil per day while approximate \$5 billion investment is expected. Federal government has proposed to establish 1000MW gas based power house for this sector.

The sources said the industrial zone would require energy at a time when the country was already facing shortfall of power. However, the government has launched many projects of energy under CPEC to meet the power shortfall. Source further said that China would also benefit from that economic corridor, which would greatly reduce China's trade route from 12,000 kilometres via sea, to 2,000 kilometres via land ie from Kashgar to Gwadar.

In future, the sources said China could also use Gwadar to build a naval base which would increase influence of China in the region. At present 40 percent of the world's oil is extracted from the Gulf region and its transportation is through the Persian Gulf and it is expected that all the oil shipments from the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries will be shipped via Pakistan to China.

According to media reports, Ambassador of Tajikistan Sherali Saidamir Jononove had said his country would benefit from that opportunity and would become a partner in CPEC. The Ambassador also said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif would participate in the transmission line laying ceremony of CASA-1000 electricity project in Tajikistan in May next month. Tajikistan will export more than 1000MW hydel electricity to Pakistan under the project.

All Day

China-US alliance will have positive impact on Pak-China relations -- Pakistan Today

China's alliance with the United States and their unanimous position on international and regional issues will have positive impact on Pakistan-China bilateral ties.

This was stated by Yan Xuetong, director of the Institute of International Relations at Tsinghua University while commenting on the new phase of the Sino-US ties in the wake of President Xi Jinping's recent visit to the US.

He said that forming alliances abroad can help China smooth bilateral ties, like in the context of Pakistan, the two-countries' growing relation which are cited as exemplary the world over.

The comments are based on Yan's recent lecture "Strategies for China's rise and changing international environment." These appeared in the Global Times, a Chinese tabloid published under the auspices of People's Daily newspaper.

He believes that alignment between two powers is a solution of many conflicts. For instance, Pakistan is in alliance not only with China, but also with the US. In terms of issues concerning Pakistan, there is no divergence between Beijing and Washington. If China can ally itself with every single ally of the US, there will be far less controversies between the two. But the problem is China is not willing to ally with the US partners.

According to Yan Xuetong, some say that forging an alliance is a Cold War mindset. On the contrary, he says, it is nonalignment that demonstrates the Cold War mentality. The proposal of nonalignment was raised in 1956 by India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Egypt's second president Gamal Abdel Nasser and Yugoslavia's then president Josip Broz Tito.

And the very first conference of non-aligned heads of states or government, at which 25 countries were represented, was convened in September 1961. The Non-Aligned Movement came into being during the Cold War, and so has a Cold War mentality, while forming alliances is simply human nature since ancient times.

The core of nonalignment is not to provide security assurances for other nations. All members from the Non-Aligned Movement are small and medium economies, and super powers have never engaged in such a thing. If China insists in nonalignment, how can they show their good will and justice?

Are we going to tell the world that China is growing increasingly stronger, but China will never protect your safety, he questioned.

"For the moment, we should consider how to face the emerging pressure that comes along with the rise of China. That's correct. Beijing and Washington are now trying to ease tensions with each other by pretending to be friends. But this strategy is obviously not working," Yan said.

"The root cause is the fact that the core of this bilateral relationship is competition, rather than cooperation. Cooperation is only a method to prevent their competition from getting worse. And it is impossible to turn competition entirely into cooperation. Hence, my suggestion is to admit that we are competitors, and guide Sino-US ties toward healthy competition," he added.

"The conflicts of core interests between China and the US are constantly growing. So far, there is no solution to the puzzle. All we can do is to prevent these controversies from escalating into war. But it is impossible to pursue a relationship without conflicts of core interests. It's like you can prevent two students from fighting over scholarship," he said.

"Yet you cannot stop them from competing for it. Instead of ideological conflicts, the major controversy that lies between Beijing and Washington is conflicts of core

interests.”

All Day

CHINESE DELEGATION INAUGURATES GWADAR PORT FREE ZONE -- APP

GWADAR: A 61-member delegation from the Chinese province of Xinjian reached here Monday and inaugurated Gwadar Port Free Zone.

The delegation was led by General Secretary of Communist Party, Zhang Chunxian. The head of the delegation inaugurated Gwadar Port Free Zone at the Port Area here.

Earlier, the Governor of Balochistan and other officials received the delegation at the airport.

On the occasion, he said that there are immense opportunities for investment in Gwadar and China is interested in the investment in various sectors.

The head of the delegation while speaking said that friendly ties between China and Pakistan were strengthening day by day.

At a ceremony regarding quality education and public health, he said that China is actively taking steps for the development of Gwadar.

The Chairman of District Council, Babu Gulab, appreciated the Chinese steps in this regard.

Zhang Chunxian provided uniforms to students of Model High School and GDA School Gwadar.

Some 3,000 students of other schools would also be provided with uniforms.

It was pointed out that higher education for 20 students of Gwadar would be arranged in China.

The delegation also visited a Chinese memorial in the precincts of Gwadar Port and placed flowers there.

The Chinese delegation also visited the Gwadar Port.

Chairman of Gwadar Port, Dostian Khan Jamaldini, said that this port would prove to be a game changer for Pakistan and serve as a gateway and centre for economic and commercial activities.

All Day

Army chief reassures China of CPEC security -- The Express Tribune

ISLAMABAD: Army chief General Raheel Sharif has reassured senior Chinese leaders that the military will ensure a secure environment for timely completion of the multibillion-dollar network of roads and rails connecting the Gwadar deep seaport with Xinjiang.

The army chief held out this assurance during a meeting with Zhang Chunxian, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), who met him at the GHQ on Tuesday.

‘CPEC a game changer only if Pakistan tackles security issues’

He reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to ensuring a secure environment for timely completion and subsequent management of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the best interest of a prosperous region.

According to the military’s media wing, matters of mutual interest, regional stability and measures to enhance bilateral defence and security collaboration were discussed in the meeting.

Zhang acknowledged Pakistan’s efforts against terrorism, and appreciated the successes achieved in the ongoing operation Zarb-e-Azb. He also underlined the importance of CPEC, saying the multibillion-dollar project would have significant long-term impact on the region.

Earlier, Zhang, along with the secretary (CPC) Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, also met Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz. Chunxian is heading a high-level delegation which also visited Karachi and Gwadar port to review progress on CPEC.

The two sides discussed a wide range of bilateral issues such as trade, investment, economic cooperation, including CPEC, people-to-people contacts, culture, education and science and technology, the Foreign Office said in a statement.

Aziz emphasised that friendship with China was the cornerstone of Pakistan’s foreign policy. The all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries is an anchor for regional peace and stability.

Thanking Aziz for the warm hospitality, Zhang said Pakistan and China were ‘iron brothers’ joined by land, mountains and rivers.

Pakistan Army to establish HQ in Diamer district to ensure CPEC security

Reiterating China’s unflinching support to Pakistan’s sovereignty, national security and territorial integrity, he lauded Islamabad’s efforts against terrorism and recognised the sacrifices made by its people in this campaign.

Expressing commitment to CPEC, he said it was a flagship project of President Xi Jinping’s ‘One Belt-One Road’ initiative to which the Chinese leadership was attaching great importance.

Zhang emphasised that CPEC would yield economic benefits to the people of China and Pakistan as well as the region.

All Day

Pak, China take space collaboration further -- pak observer

Islamabad—Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) signed a contract with China Great Wall Industry Corporation (CGWIC) for the development and launch of Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite (PRSS-1) system.

Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal and President of CGWIC Yin Liming inked the historic agreement.

PRSS-1 will be the first remote sensing satellite of Pakistan with multiple applications that will significantly assist the socio-economic and infrastructure development activities in the country. The project assumes greater importance in the backdrop of the ongoing gigantic China Pakistan Economic Corridor project. It will also be utilized to help in various aspects of disaster management such as floods forecasting and damage assessment. Its use will also be expanded into the areas of mapping forestry and urban development. Besides socio economic benefits, the PRSS-1 will also serve the needs of the national security especially in the context of security and border surveillance.

PRSS-1 will be a high resolution Electro Optical Earth Observation Satellite having a life of more than seven years. The system contract consists of one satellite, two ground control stations and a comprehensive know-how transfer program. The satellite will be launched in June 2018 from China. An indigenously developed experimental satellite by SUPARCO will also be co-launched with the PRSS-1. The cooperation between Pakistan and China in the space domain will open new vistas of socio economic and scientific cooperation giving boost to the historic interstate cordial relations in other fields.

China had helped Pakistan in launching Pak-sat IR from Xichang Satellite Launch center in south west Sichuan province, which replaced Pak-sat 1.

All Day

PTCL to make investment in Gwadar -- The News

QUETTA: The Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) will make massive investment in Gwadar in order to provide facilities to local and foreign investors, PTCL Business Zone South) Executive Vice President Raza Hasnain said on Wednesday.

Talking to newsmen, he said that the PTCL plans to execute infrastructure project in Gwadar in order to make investment-friendly environment for the companies.

Two major data centres of PTCL were already functioning in Lahore and Karachi, he said, adding that Gwadar telecom infrastructure would be connected with Karachi data centre.

Presently, PTCL has been running international internet cable service through four submarines under deep sea water and has planned to expand its international internet service to neighbouring countries, including China, Hasnain said.

All Day

Two-year course in China : CM encourages students to enhance value of green passport -- Daily Times

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has said that young generation is guarantee to a bright future of Pakistan, adding that provision of resources for equipping the youth with modern knowledge is a useful investment and the government would provide all out funds for this purpose.

Addressing first batch of 66 students selected for two-year Chinese language course on Wednesday, he said that the government has made a programme to send 500 youth to China for learning Chinese language. "First batch of 66 students will leave for China today (Thursday). China has become the second biggest economic power of the world and has proved its mettle across nations," he added.

Shahbaz said that political, diplomatic and economic importance of China is there for everyone to see, adding that learning Chinese language is the need of the hour. No doubt, he said, this programme would increase the friendship, economic cooperation and relations between the two countries.

Chinese Consul General Yu Boren, additional chief secretary, Higher Education secretary, vice chancellors and other officers concerned were present on the occasion. The chief minister told the students that they are the ambassadors of the country and they have to earn a good name through hard work, discipline, punctuality and high character in order to enhance the value of the green passport. He said that the students not only have to learn Chinese language during two years' course but also get knowledge about history and culture of China. He assured that all out resources would be utilised for the bright future of the country and the nation.

"Youth are equipped with courage and knowledge and they have to make their country prosperous. Punjab government will bear all the expenditure in this regard," he said, adding that those who would show outstanding performance in the course would be provided with jobs in universities and colleges.

He said that Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran and a number of other countries are also friends of Pakistan but Pak-China friendship is unprecedented, adding that friendship and economic cooperation with China is important in many respects.

Shahbaz said that judges, generals, policymakers, judiciary, traders and all segments of society would have to play due role in the uplift of the country. Referring to merit policy of Punjab government, Shahbaz said that culture of merit and transparency has been promoted in the province during the last eight years. He said all recruitments in education, police and other departments have been made on merit. Besides, selection of girl and boy students visiting China has also been made on merit. He said that merit is only way to development of the country therefore, merit has been promoted at every level.

Replying to the questions of students, the chief minister said that Pakistan is more for the poor than for the rich, adding that Pakistan would become the country of Quaid and Iqbal only when the gulf between the rich and poor is eliminated. If we ensure merit, the disappointment of common man will change into hope and he will consider Pakistan as his country and the confidence of the youth will be restored," he added. Chinese Consul General Yu Boren said that it was an honour for him to participate in the ceremony. He said China and Pakistan are good neighbours, friends, partners and brothers and the friendship between both the countries is strengthening with the passage of time. He said that role of the chief minister is commendable for enhancing Pak-China friendship and economic cooperation.

The Chinese consul general would remain in contact with the university in Beijing and extend all out facilities to the students participating in the course in Chinese language. The chief minister also gave laptops to the students going to China.

All Day

NUML holds Chinese exhibition of Muslim customs -- Daily Times

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage Pervaiz Rashid on Friday inaugurated "one belt, one road", a photo exhibition on Muslim customs in National University of Modern Languages (NUML).

The embassy of Peoples Republic of China, Ningxia Islamic Friendly Council and NUML arranged the exhibition. The Chinese charged d'affaires Zhao Lijian and Ningxia Islamic Council Head Hei Liangji were also present on the occasion.

While talking to media after inaugurating the exhibition, the minister said that the holding of this exhibition in the federal capital not only reflected the deep cultural ties between people of the Pakistan and China but also a testimony of Chinese government's policy of ethnic equality and religious freedom under which Muslims enjoy equal rights. He said that this exhibition is a message as the two countries celebrate the 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. He said that our people are connected with strong bonds of friendship and brotherhood. The minister congratulated Ningxia Islamic Friendly Council for their efforts to highlight the tolerance and harmony in the Chinese society adding that these exhibitions help promote people to people contact and cultural cooperation which deepens existing friendly relations between both the countries.

The minister said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is being constructed along the Silk Route, which has expanded the Pak-China relations by providing it solid economic foundations and dynamism. The minister further said that these relations can now be termed as both corporate and cultural strategic partnership adding that the Pak-China relations are rooted in the will of people of both the nations and such exhibitions would bring the people of both the countries more closer.

All Day

Pakistan-China Economic Corridor – a mutually beneficial project -- The Nations

SANA BATOOL - China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China.

It is an under-construction development program to connect Gwadar Port in southern Pakistan to China's northwestern autonomous region of Xinjiang via highways, railways and pipelines to transport oil and gas.

The Pak-China Economic Corridor program was inaugurated in Islamabad on August 27, 2013.

Pak china economic corridor is termed as the game changer as it would usher in a new era of economic progress and prosperity for both countries.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has the potential to turn Pakistan into a hub of regional cooperation; it is of immense importance for the revival of its economy, resolution of energy crisis and strengthening the Federation through development and infrastructure.

Chinese government announced that it will finance Chinese companies to build \$45.6 billion worth of energy and infrastructure projects in Pakistan as part of CPEC.

China has promised to invest around \$33.

8 billion in various energy projects and \$11.

8 billion in infrastructure projects which will be completed by 2017 at most.

The deal includes \$622 million for Gwadar port.

Under the CPEC agreement, \$15.

5 billion worth of coal, wind, solar and hydro energy projects will add 10,400 megawatts of energy to the national grid of Pakistan.

According to the BMA capital analysis of impact of CPEC on national economy CPEC will increase GDP growth rate at 1.

5 per cent in next three years.

Moreover, it will also enhance the private investment due to positive environment, economic opportunities, improved infrastructure, stable economy and generation of much needed energy.

Private investment will add 0.

5 per cent to the GDP of country.

Cumulative impact of investment would be 02 per cent during 2016-2018.

Apart from the importance of CPEC for Pakistan, it also has a special significance for China and its future role as great power at global level.

Experts believe that it is not only a trade or economic initiative but also a plan for the expansion of China's role in the world.

China is building its leading role in Asia and beyond for economic and political cooperation through "One Belt One Road".

CPEC serves as a primary gateway for trade between China and the Middle East and Africa.

Oil from the Middle East could be offloaded at Gwadar, which is located just outside the mouth of the Persian Gulf, and transported to China through the Balochistan province in Pakistan.

Such a link would vastly cut the 12,000-kilometre route that Mideast oil supplies take to reach Chinese ports.

Even if China uses PCEC only for 50% of its current level of oil supplies, it will save around \$6 million every day, almost \$2 billion every year.

China will be able to make attractive financial returns from projects initiated under CPEC.

The projects would help Chinese firms and labor as machinery used in the infrastructure projects would be procured from China and the projects would also employ a large number of Chinese labor.

Because of its unique geography CPEC is not only significant for the two countries but also for the entire region; Uzbekistan Turkmenistan Tajikistan- land locked countries- will get access to international waters for Oil and Gas exports and other imports.

For Iran, CPEC will provide the country with much needed accessibility to the east and also the decades-old dream of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline can now be fully realized.

Many more companies in the world from various countries would be setting up their businesses to take the advantage of State of the art port the best in the region, with cheap labor and close proximity to the huge Middle East market.

UAE alone is committed to investing \$30 Bn.

United States has also expressed interest in investing in CPEC projects.

According to world bank report The investment in Pakistan is expected to increase to 15.

4% of GDP by 2017 as a result of operationalization of CPEC.

Analysis of facts and figures shows that CPEC is not only critically important for both countries but also a fate changer for the entire region .

Pakistan needs it to overcome its economic, development, social and energy problems.

China needs it to expand its periphery of influence, consolidate its global presence and securing future supply routes of energy and trade goods .

It's a win win situation for both countries.

World needs it because of its geo strategic location .

Pakistan should embrace this huge opportunity and use it wisely to be able to reap the economic benefits of this corridor and enhance its regional power and prestige.

All Day

Balochistan govt considers tax amnesty for investors in Gwadar -- The Nations

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has planned to introduce a tax amnesty scheme for national and international investors to attract investment to the port town of Gwadar.

Provincial Minister for Planning and Development Dr Hamid Khan Achakzai said this while addressing a press conference along with Additional Chief Secretary (Planning and Development) Nasib Ullah Bazai here on Tuesday. He said that work on several development projects pertaining to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Balochistan was under way. "Work on Zhob-Mughal Kot N-50 and Qila Saifullah Road N-70, Gwadar-Hoshab and Hoshab-Sorab N-85 was under way," he said. He said that these road projects would be completed before and by 2018.

He said that work had been started on the Rs 14.06 billion East Bay Express project along the coast from Gwadar to Karachi. He said that Rs 4.70 billion were allocated for this project in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2015-16. He said that funds had been allocated for road projects such as Gwadar-Karachi, Gwadar-Basima and Basima-Jacobabad-Khuzdar. He said that Rs 1.01 billion were being released in this regard.

Achakzai said the Balochistan government had achieved 95 percent of the target with regard to implementation of 2,250 development schemes of the provincial Public Sector Development Programme 2015-16 and 140 development projects of the federal PSDP 2015-16. He said that action would be taken against the officials if PSDP funds lapsed. He said the Rs 54.5 billion provincial PSDP 2015-16 had 2,250 schemes — 940 of them were ongoing and 1,310 were new. He said that Rs 19.5 billion were allocated for ongoing schemes and Rs 31.57 billion for new projects. "About 95 percent of funds for the ongoing schemes have been released within seven months," he said, adding that 97 percent of the PC-1 of the new development schemes had been approved and 95 percent of funds allocated for them have been authorised.

The minister said the Rs 44 billion federal PSDP for Balochistan had 140 development schemes, adding that 102 federal PSDP schemes were being executed by the federal agencies and 38 by the provincial departments. "About 60 percent of the funds earmarked for the federal PSDP schemes for Balochistan have been authorised and the remaining 40 percent will be authorised soon," he said.

The additional chief secretary said that 98 percent of progress on implementation of the federal PSDP projects had been achieved. He said that Rs 440 million were allocated for 88 schemes involving the Millennium Development Goals. "At least 87 PC-1 of the Millennium Development Goal schemes were made and 50 percent of work on them had been completed," he said.

He said that donors had increased financial assistance for foreign funded projects in Balochistan from US \$70 million to \$90 million and this amount would be included in next year's budget. He said that water projects worth billions of rupees had been completed with the cooperation of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. He said that Rs 5 billion were allocated for flyovers, by passes and underpasses in Quetta under Prime Minister's Package. He said that Quetta would be supplied water from Pat Feeder Canal and dams.

He said that Prime Minister's National Health Insurance Programme had been initiated in four districts of

Balochistan on an experimental basis, adding that the federal government and the provincial government would give Rs 25,000 and Rs 50,000, respectively, for the treatment of each poor patient.

Achakzai said that missing facilities were being provided to 900 state-run schools. "Three new medical colleges, three new universities, seven cadet colleges and five residential colleges were being built. At least 800 primary schools have been upgraded to middle and 400 middle schools to high schools," he said. He said that

486 small dams had been built with 50 balances and a project of 100 dams was part of the PSPD 2015-16. He said that new provincial budget of Balochistan would have 5,000 check dams and 600 live Karez in 32 districts of the province.

All Day

CPEC is a symbol of Pak-China all-weather friendship, says Nawaz Sharif -- <http://www.dnd.com.pk/>

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said on Wednesday that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a symbol of all-weather friendship between both the countries.

In a meeting with the Chairman Shandong Hi-Speed Group Ltd Sun Liang in Islamabad on Wednesday the prime minister said that the CPEC is not only a road and rail network but also includes investments in trade, energy, transport, infrastructure and industrial estates.

Warmly greeting the Chairman Shandong Group, the premier appreciated his interest to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan.

The prime minister invited Shandong Group to invest in various projects especially in road, rail, power, dams, pipelines, airports and the financial sectors of Pakistan.

"We will provide all possible help to your investment plans," Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Sharif said that government's economic team has worked assiduously during the last three years to achieve the economic turn-around which is being well acknowledged by all the international institutions.

The prime minister said that gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of our economy is rising and Inflation has been brought down to single digit. He added that the stock exchange has shown considerable increase and foreign currency reserves are highest in history.

In his remarks, Sun Liang greatly appreciated the economic policies of the government and attributed the Pakistan's economic turnaround to the sound economic vision of the prime minister and strict financial discipline of the government.

Sun Liang expressed keen interest to explore new opportunities to invest in Pakistan.

All Day

Gwadar port to be operational this year -- Gulf News

Islamabad: Gwadar port, a key component of the \$46 billion (Dh168 billion) China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, will be operational by the end of 2016, Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the convocation of a university here, the president said CPEC would make Pakistan a major hub of economic activity in the region.

The president said that CPEC includes several energy initiatives including coal, oil, solar and nuclear projects, adding that upon completion of these projects — by 2018 — the country will be rid of its power shortage problems.

He called upon students to acquire knowledge and skills in the fields of information technology, banking and commerce in order to meet the requirements of the mega corridor project.

The president said Gwadar, on the southwest Arabian Sea coast in Balochistan province, is an important part of CPEC.

Officials say an expressway linking Kashgar of China's Xinjiang region and Gwadar is under construction and will be completed in 2017, and a railway link is also planned.

An international airport is to be built at Gwada, along with various infrastructure projects.

All Day

Gwadar Port Project Reveals China's Regional Power Play -- NBC

GWADAR, Pakistan — A 30-by-45-foot Chinese flag draping the port authority building here projects an unmistakable message: Pakistan and China are now self-declared "iron brothers" and "all-weather friends."

Underpinning this relationship are some \$46 billion in Chinese investments and loans to build energy and infrastructure projects that will be part of the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

According to officials, new roads will help open up routes for goods from China's landlocked and underdeveloped Xinjiang province, through Pakistan, into the Arabian Sea and then onto the Middle East and Europe.

Image: A Chinese flag hangs on the Gwadar Port Authority building
A huge Chinese flag hangs on the newly built Gwadar Port Authority building in Gwadar, Pakistan. Wajahat S. Khan / NBC News
Under the 10-year plan announced in 2015 by President Xi Jinping as a part of Beijing's "One Belt, One Road and New Silk Route," China will also get a free trade zone and ownership of Gwadar Port.

The massive project is about more than simple trade — its backers hope that once finished, it will bolster Pakistan's economy and potentially give China's navy access to the Indian Ocean. The plan would also strengthen both countries' positions versus India, Pakistan's arch-enemy and China's strategic rival, and hedge against U.S. influence in the region.

Situated on a barren, hammerhead-shaped peninsula in the south of insurgency-ridden Balochistan — and just northeast of the strategically important Straits of Hormuz — Pakistan's generals and China's politicians predict the development of Gwadar will be a game-changer.

Gwadar "is poised to become one of the most important and modern cities of the Middle East, West Asia and the South Asia" as a "gateway port for Pakistan and ... a world-class maritime hub," according to a Chinese handout at a networking seminar held in Gwadar recently.

So the few dozen Chinese engineers holed up in the Pearl Continental — the only five-star hotel in the vicinity — could be poised to help reset the balance of power in the region.

But creating this "great monument of Pakistan-China friendship," as the local authority calls it, won't be simple or straightforward. Building the corridor of roads, railways and pipelines from northwest China to Pakistan's Arabian Sea coast will be a huge challenge in a country where Islamist militants and separatist gunmen are a constant menace.

At the moment, Gwadar is a fishing city of 120,000 that's closer to the Iranian coast than it is to any major Pakistani city. It has little gas and no water, few buildings more than one story in height.

"HOW CAN WE EXPECT TO BUILD SUCH A BIG PROJECT WITH SUCH A SECURITY PROBLEM?"

Locals aren't all sure that the plans crafted by Pakistan's generals and China's politicians will help improve their lives.

In the city's old fishing harbor, angry fishermen huddle every evening under a concrete shed strewn with nets. They smoke hashish and debate what Islamabad and Beijing are thinking, and what cost they will have to bear in this barren peninsula.

"Will they let us keep our land? Will they build us a new harbor once they build a highway here, like they plan to? What will happen to our generations-old tradition of living where you fish?" asked Mehran Mehdi, the head of the local fishermen's

group.

"Our boats are rotting and are wallets are empty and our water pipes are dry," he said as he smoked a smuggled Iranian cigarette and toddlers played with stray dogs in Gwadar's East Bay behind him. "Development is good, China is our great friend, this CPEC thing sounds amazing, but don't forget that this is our land, first."

Image: Fishermen in Gwadar

Fishermen in Gwadar, Pakistan, unload the day's catch. Wajahat S. Khan / NBC News

Lt. General Amer Riaz, the powerful military commander who watches over Balochistan, is tasked with ensuring that Gwadar, CPEC and Pakistan's Chinese benefactors survive security threats. He tried to assuage these concerns.

"There is going to be no deprivation of the locals," he said. "Folks here have the first right to everything. We must ensure that there is transparency and justice in this very critical and expensive project."

Still, security is a nagging issue.

For decades, separatist groups have waged an on-again, off-again violent campaign in Balochistan, where Gwadar is located, saying the state has failed to develop the impoverished region and instead plundered its natural resources.

The CPEC's western branch passes north through the province, where ethnic Baloch rebels are opposed to the project and chafing under a military crackdown. It also skirts the Afghan-Pakistan border where Islamist militant groups, including the Pakistan Taliban and al Qaeda, have long been based. And it takes in Peshawar, scene of some of the worst insurgent attacks of recent years.

Image: A paramilitary soldier stands guard at Gwadar Port

A paramilitary soldier stands guard at Gwadar Port. Wajahat S. Khan / NBC News
So Pakistan is throwing men and weapons at the project.

The main responsibility for securing the corridor, vital to Pakistan's long-term prosperity, lies with a new army division established in the last few months and numbering an estimated 20,000 troops.

Outside the port authority's office, Pakistan army soldiers with Chinese-made Type-56 submachine guns and U.S.-made Harris radios protect Chinese engineers who arrive daily at the single runway airport.

Pakistani businessmen — many of them land developers from the country's business capital of Karachi some 700 miles to the east — on the lookout for the next big opportunity in Gwadar worry that their country won't be able to deliver on its side of the bargain.

"The army will do what it does, which is to protect the Chinese," said Aftab Ali, a land developer with interests in Dubai and Abu Dhabi as he chomped on cigars and spring rolls in the Pearl Continental's marble lobby.

"The Chinese will do what they do, which is to make a killing and some great infrastructure. But the government can't even put up a website about CPEC or manage to get more than three flights a week here," said Ali, who was with his 20-something son to teach him the family business. "It's us businessmen who will ultimately make this place, but the government is already getting in the way by not doing much."

Image: Pakistan serviceman stands guard near Gwadar

A Pakistani serviceman is silhouetted while standing guard at a hilltop position near Gwadar on April 11. Anjum Naveed / AP

And there are still questions about how much the project will help Pakistan's economy. Pakistan's Planning Ministry does not yet have specific estimates on how many jobs the CPEC will create in the country, although officials believe it could

generate hundreds of billions of dollars over the long term.

Companies from China's violence-prone far western region of Xinjiang signed deals worth about \$2 billion with Pakistan earlier this month during a visit to Pakistan by Xinjiang's top official, who sought to cement ties with an important security partner.

So hope and fear surround the huge project.

Liu, a Chinese engineer working a short drive from the Pearl Continental in the West Bay that is to become a constellation of residential projects and resorts, also said he was hopeful but worried both about timelines and security.

"Look at these men," he said pointing to around 15 security personnel deployed to guard some 30 local construction workers and the Chinese contractors.

"They are all OK," said Liu, who did not want to share his last name. "The army keeps me safe, the police keeps the locals safe, but how can we expect to build such a big project with such a security problem? And if I finish this school by June, like I'm supposed to, will the children who study here be safe?"

All Day

Xinjiang-based Chinese companies to make heavy investment in Gwadar -- pak observer

Beijing—Five Chinese companies based in Karamay Xinjiang region have pledged to make heavy investment in Gwadar port for its rapid development, according to Karamay's publicity department, reports China Daily on Tuesday. The senior representatives of these companies recently paid five-day visit to Gwadar and entered into agreements with the Gwadar's Development Authority.

According to the report, the five enterprises and Gwadar reached initial cooperation agreements in hotel construction and management, concrete supply, sale of building materials, agricultural planting technology services, and marine products trade. Gwadar, a superior deep-water port and Karamay city in Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region have been sister cities since April 21, 2015.

Meanwhile, a Forum of Chinese Think-Tank at its recent meeting held in Karamay urged entrepreneurs from the both countries to undertake socio-economic projects for the implementation of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). It called for proactive cooperation for their mutual benefits. It was decided that the Forum will act an interactive platform for the business community and Think-tank to share information, explore cooperation opportunities, and to actively launch mutually beneficial cooperation in such fields as infrastructure, information technology, electricity, energy, agriculture, aquaculture, e-commerce, education, vocational training and climate change.

It emphasized that the two countries should promote the smooth flow of new production factors such as science and technology, capital, management expertise and talent, and information, and implement international cooperation covering joint research and development (R&D), technology transfer, commercialization of R&D results, standardization and promoting innovation through exchange of ideas and experiences. The Forum also called for close collaboration between the city of Karamay and Gwadar port. Karamay is the only city in the world named after its oil fields, a city established in the response to the needs of times. Gwadar Port is a city in the world named after its wind, a city came into existence as the situation requires.

The corporation of both cities will make them the model of cities in various fields, and will be recorded in the written history of both countries and drawn worldwide attention. It was pledged that Karamay, Xinjiang Forum will continuously offer enormous opportunities, abroad development space as well as solid people's welfare for the implement of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the Belt and Road Initiative.—INP

May 2, 2016

Mon

All Day

Senate body seeks execution of CPEC Western route -- The Nations
QUETTA - The Standing Committee of Senate of Pakistan on China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) has demanded of the Federal govt to ensure timely releases of funds for execution of Western route of CPEC which would pass through Balochistan to connect port City Gwadar.

A meeting of the Committee held with its Chairman, Senator Daud Khan Achakzai in chair, here on Sunday which was also attended by its members including Senator Osman Khan Kakar, Senator Rozi Khan Kakar, Senator Inamul Hasan and senior officials.

Secretary Communication, Khalid Rauf and Member, National Highway Authority, Muhammad Yousaf Barakzai gave briefing to the Committee on alignment of CPEC and Zhob-Mughal Kot Road project.

Later, talking to journalists, the Chairman of the Committee and the member Senators said that they welcomed the likely visit of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to Quetta.

They said that the Prime Minister should play his pivotal role for timely release of funds for execution of Western route of CPEC.

It is need of hour to timely release funds for initiating construction work of western route of CPEC which would pass through Balochistan to connect Gwadar, they said.

They said that although the Federal govt had announced giving special priority to Balochistan in execution of uplift schemes, adding, that but the govt should also ensure release of development funds for Balochistan timely.

They said that the CPEC was game changer in the region which would bring economic revolution.

All Day

First phase of Gwadar port operational, NA Committee informed -- Daily Pakistan

GAWADAR (Web Desk) – A meeting of National Assembly Standing Committee on Ports and Shipping chaired by Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah was held in Islamabad.

The Committee was informed that the first phase of Gwadar port with three multipurpose berths having a total quay length of 602 meters was now fully operational.

Sources said that the second phase is longer and mainly includes the development of port-related infrastructure projects, which cannot be carried out without the active support and participation of the private sector.

There is a need to mobilize the private sector by announcing attractive incentives and improving the security situation in Balochistan.

Minister for Defence Production Tanveer Hussain said other phases of the Gwadar port project would be functional by next year.

As a future trading hub in the region, Islamabad has already extended tax exemptions and tax holidays at the industrial zones and duty-free economic zones in Gwadar.

All Day

Pakistan, China ink agreements worth \$4.2b -- Express Tribune

ISLAMABAD:

Pakistan and China have signed financing agreements valued at \$4.2 billion for the construction of two main road projects of the eastern alignment of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), thereby removing the last obstacle in starting the construction process.

The agreements were signed last week during a visit of Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal to China, according to the ministry officials.

China's AIIB to co-finance first project with ADB in Pakistan

As per the contracts, China would provide a concessionary loan of \$1.3 billion for the 120-kilometre long Thakot-Havelian section of Karakoram Highway-II (KKH-II) and \$2.9 billion for the 392-kilometre Multan-Sukkur section of the Lahore-Karachi motorway.

The loan agreements were signed after clearance was given by the State Council of People's Republic of China. After the signing of the agreements, the contractors have been moved to the construction site, said an official of the National Highway Authority (NHA).

Both projects fall on the eastern alignment of the CPEC and are critical for connecting Beijing with the port city of Gwadar. The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet has already approved giving the contracts of the engineering design, procurements and construction to the Chinese firms.

Since China is providing concessionary loans for both projects, the contracts have been awarded on a government-to-government basis, waiving the condition of international competitive bidding.

Out of the \$46 billion CPEC investment package, roughly \$11.5 billion is reserved for the road and railways infrastructure. China has promised to give concessionary loans for four infrastructure projects. Two of these projects will get interest-free loans.

Pakistan, China divided over tax exemptions

The composite interest rate of the four projects is over 1.6%, while the interest rate of eastern alignment projects is over 2%.

The CPEC is one out of six arteries that China has planned under its 'one-belt one-road' project and, according to the National University of Science and Technology's (NUST) Chinese Studies Centre Director Syed Hasan Javed, this one-belt-one-road project has been at the planning stage for the last 20 years.

He proposed setting up a constitutional authority to monitor progress on CPEC projects – a suggestion that has already been given by the military to the government.

Javed, who is also a former ambassador, said that a clear implementation mechanism of the CPEC projects was missing and urged Islamabad to remove the obstacles on a fast-track basis.

China is also reportedly upset over the slow progress made in awarding the \$2-billion commercial contract that includes laying a gas pipeline and setting up an LNG terminal in Gwadar.

According to a report, a Chinese firm had submitted the commercial bid for the contract; it had not been opened yet.

The China Pipeline Bureau (CPB) was designated by the Chinese government to implement the project.

China, Pakistan ink \$820m Thar coal agreement

The issue of Gwadar LNG pipeline and terminal project was also discussed during last-week's visit of the planning minister to Beijing, said the ministry officials. They said the project was facing delays due to financing issues.

Ahsan Iqbal proposed to the Chairman National Development Commission of Reforms (NDRC) China to make this project part of the CPEC framework.

They said that the purpose of making the Gwadar pipeline and terminal project part of CPEC was to address financing issues. After its inclusion in CPEC framework, the Chinese financial institutions would give it 'high priority.'

"China is considering Pakistan's proposal," said the officials.

The issues related to CPEC have been largely addressed and now provinces are on board for its implementation, said the CPEC Planning Commission Cell Project Director Major General retired Zahir Shah.

May 11, 2016

Wed

All Day

Linyi-Gwadar freight train begins operation -- BR

The international freight train "Linyi," which travels from Linyi in Shandong province to Gwadar Port in Pakistan via Kashgar in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, has been put into operation, Peoples Daily in a report said on Tuesday. The city of Linyi has over 130 specialised wholesales markets, with its total trading volume reaching 300 billion yuan in 2015. Kashgar is also an important trade port in western China.

In recent years, the cargo trade volume between the two cities has continually increased. In 2015, over 400,000 tons of cargo from Linyi was transported to western Asia via Kashgar. Lian Maoyong, Deputy General Manager of Shandong Asia-Europe International Logistics Company, said that the plywood, hardware and other commodities from Linyi are popular in the West Asia market. Cargo gets transported to Kashgar by train and then transported to Gwadar Port by truck. The whole journey is over 8,000 kilometres and takes 10 days. Compared with sea transportation, the highway-railway combined transport can save both time and money. The Linyi freight train is expected to reach an annual freight volume of 400,000 tons and realise a trade value of 2 billion yuan, according to the newspaper.

All Day

Pakistan, China agree to build Gwadar-Nawabshah gas pipeline -- The News

ISLAMABAD: In a major breakthrough, Pakistan and China have initialed an agreement to build 700 kilometers gas pipeline to be laid down from Gwadar to Nawabshah at the cost of \$1.35 billion after Price Negotiation Committee (PNC) has finalised the cost of the project.

And to this effect Inter-State Gas System (ISGS) on behalf of Pakistan and China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) on behalf of China on Thursday initialised the agreement.

The project will be constructed with 85 percent financing from Chinese company and 15 percent from government of Pakistan, and the price at which the gas line will be laid down is much below the estimated cost, top sources of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources told The News. The government of Pakistan will arrange the financing of Rs15-12 billion for the project from the head of GIDC (Gas Infrastructure Development Cess).

When contacted, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi confirmed the development saying both the sides initialised the agreement for building the pipeline. "We are now in the process of making summary for ECC approval and once the approval is accorded, the ISGS and CNPC would formally sign the agreement and after which the construction work would kick off. The pipeline will be constructed and commissioned by December 2017." To a question, the minister said that since the GIDC amount would be involved in the project therefore, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources had sent the PC-1 of the project to Planning Commission for approval.

However, the sources said that the project was to be built by CNPC that would arrange the commercial loan for the project. The CNPC would be given the contract on EPCF (engineering, procurement, construction and financing) basis. The impression that the project would be completed under CPEC umbrella was not correct, rather the said project would be materialised out of the CEPC initiative and it would be completed as a commercial transaction.

According to the sources, earlier Chinese side had come up with the offer to build the pipeline with diameter of 42 inches at the cost of \$2 billion, but after hectic meetings of Price Negotiating Committee (PNC) in a row, the price of the pipeline had been finalised at close to \$1.35 billion which was too much below from the expectations. Sources said under the agreement basically the pipeline of 700 kilometer would be built and another 12 kilometer portion of pipeline would also be constructed from LNG terminal to main pipeline and that particular portion would be part of LNG terminal. Once the pipeline was completed, Pakistan would extend the same pipeline with three compressor stations by 81 kilometer backward from Gwadar to Iranian border as part of IP gas line. The pipeline when it is connected with Iran will economically become more feasible as the said pipeline will transport the gas of 750 mmcf from Iran and 500 from LNG terminal. Later on Iran will increase the gas export up to 1 billion out of which 250 mmcf gas will be earmarked to cater to Gwadar.

However, the sources said, LNG terminal with 12 kilometer pipeline will be built at Gwadar port with capacity to handle LNG of 500 mmcf by the same Chinese company on BOOT (build, own, operate and transfer) basis. And to this effect Price Negotiating Committee (PNC) will start working on price of LNG terminal. The sources said that the cost of the LNG terminal at Gwadar port would be at higher side as there was no supporting infrastructure to build the LNG terminal, so one had to construct the terminal from scratches meaning by that the project would bear the cost at higher side.

All Day

Chinese offer to finance whole \$2b LNG project -- Express Tribune

ISLAMABAD: It appears that the Rs184 billion the government had collected to finance gas infrastructure projects will never be used for their intended purpose, as Chinese have agreed to finance the whole LNG Gwadar terminal and pipeline project.

Originally, the Chinese side was to provide 85% of the financing for the \$2 billion project while the remaining 15% (\$300 million) was to come from Pakistan's side. For that purpose, Gas Infrastructure Development Cess (GIDC) was to gather the needed funds for the project.

Pakistan, China ink agreements worth \$4.2b

Under the cess, Rs184 billion was collected, which translates to around \$1.8 billion, far exceeding the \$0.3 billion needed to finance the project.

The Express Tribune previously reported how these funds had already been spent on projects like Metro and Orange Line, according to officials.

When the Chinese pressed, the finance ministry stalled. The reluctance to even release the token money for the project, gave away the truth: funds were no longer available.

After having weighed Pakistan's inability to pay for the infrastructure project, the Chinese asked the government to apply for a loan – an expensive and burdensome alternative but better than nothing. But the government continued to drag its feet as it wanted to have Project Cycle-1 (PC-1) approved from the Planning Commission beforehand.

China irked by delay in Gwadar project

Left with no alternative and irked by government's inability to even apply for a loan, the Chinese have agreed to finance 100% of the project, instead of the original 85%.

All the chain of events beggar the question, if Chinese were to indeed be allowed to finance the whole project, what of the Rs184 billion cess?

History

At a time when gas shortage was becoming less of a probable scenario and more of an imminent threat, Pakistan conceived Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline dream.

It was originally proposed as an alternative to the Iran-Pakistan pipeline, since US sanctions on Tehran at the time meant Pakistan was to surrender its own energy interests.

China-funded LNG project to turn into Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline: petroleum minister

The project is to be developed under a government-to-government agreement with the Chinese side responsible for project implementation alongside financing.

Published in The Express Tribune, May 14th, 2016.

Correction: In an earlier version of the article, the amount collected to finance the project was stated as Rs183.86 billion. The error has been corrected and is regretted.

All Day

1000 acres land acquired to set up Export Processing Zone at Gwadar -- APP

Islamabad—The Senate was informed on Friday that one thousand acres of land has been acquired for the establishment of Export Processing Zone at Gwadar. Minister for Industries and Production Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatui told the House during question hour that a consultant has been hired for the planning, designing and operation of PC-1 of the project. He said PC-II for appointment of consultant had been approved and EPZA had hired the services of M/s. Techno Consultant International for Planning, designing and preparation of PC-I for Gwadar EPZ. Jatui further told the House that the Utility Stores Corporation (USC) was operating 5455 stores throughout the country, providing daily use commodities to masses at affordable level.

Answering a question in the Senate the minister said in Punjab there 2993 stores in Sindh 671 3, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 1312 4, Balochistan 294, AJK 80 and in Gilgit-Baltistan 105 retail outlets. He said out of 5455 stores, 4472 stores were regular stores of the Corporation being operated by Corporation itself and 983 were functioning as franchise stores. He said the data relating to complaints of the stores was being maintained at regional level.

Answering another question, the minister said an Rs 4,246.21 million subsidy was provided to Utility Stores Corporation under Ramazan relief package during the last three years. He added subsidy on sugar procured through Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP), Ministry of Commerce was discontinued in pursuance of ECC of the Cabinet's decision. However, he said a quantity of 204,978 Metric Tonnes already procured by TCP for USC was provided from 2014 to May, 2016.

He said the government provided Rs 15, 965. 558, Rs 10,447.828 and Rs 1,433.675 million subsidy on sugar during in 2013, 2014, 2015, respectively. He said the Ministry of Industries and Production was implementing 23 ongoing PSDP projects in various districts of all the provinces during current financial year. He said out of the total portfolio, Ministry of Industries and Production was sponsoring 12 projects worth Rs. 5.740 billion and allocation of Rs. 313.893 Million during CFY 2015-16 for development of infrastructure and establishment/promotion of industries in less developed areas of Balochistan, KPK and Sindh.

While Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal replying to a question relating to his ministry said at present there are a number of Chinese working on various projects in Pakistan. However, in view of security considerations, he added it would be appropriate not to make the number public. He said security of Chinese working in Pakistan on various projects lies with M/o Interior, being the focal agency responsible for security of the Chinese. He said a Special Security Division (SSD) has been raised comprising 9,000 Army personnel and 6,000 civil armed forces, which would be deployed to ensure security of Chinese working on CPEC projects.

May 23, 2016

Mon

All Day

Gwadar to become game changer: Dastagir -- APP

QUETTA: Federal Minister for Commerce Khurram Dastagir has said that Gwadar is going to become game changer for the entire region.

He was addressing a launching ceremony of Pak-Iran Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry, here on Monday. He said that the federal government would construct warehouse in Taftan and Expo Center in Quetta, respectively.

He said that the nation had pinned hope on mega projects of China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Gwadar Deep Sea Port which would boost national economy, adding that Gwadar would be proved a game changer for the entire region.

The minister said that most of funds were allocated for power production projects to be executed under CPEC. He said that bright future of the region linked with CPEC and Gwadar projects.

He said that the federal government has planned to construct a warehouse in border area of Taftan and Expo Center in Quetta to strengthen local and national economy and to support trade activities. "If the Balochistan government provides land, the federal government will construct warehouse in Taftan and Expo Center in Gwadar," he said.

Dastagir said that Pakistan wanted neighboring countries of Iran and Afghanistan to extend their fully cooperation for strengthening mutual trade relations. "Around US \$ 35 billion will be spent on power production projects in the region," he said, adding that several road projects would also be executed under CPEC and other mega projects.

Others who spoke among them were former federal minister Aijazul Haque, Balochistan Assembly Speaker Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Iran's Consul General Majeed Sadiq and Provincial Minister Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhel.

All Day

**Quetta-Gwadar section of western route to be operational by Dec --
Observer**

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal said on Monday said that apart from investment in physical infrastructure, CPEC would integrate the economies of China and Pakistan and industrialise Pakistan by turning it into a trading & manufacturing hub of the region.

Speaking at a seminar titled, 'Symbol of immortal friendship - icon of iron brotherhood', organised by the Ministry of Planning and Development in connection with 65th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations, he said, "Pakistan is investing in CPEC projects from its own resources, and alongside it, it is seeking monetary assistance from multilateral financial institutions under the CPEC framework.

" He said that China jumped to top foreign investor position in Pakistan after CPEC, whose first phase would be completed in 2018.

Ahsan described the holding of the event at his ministry as a testimony to the fact that bilateral relations had entered into geo-economic orbit.

"When the prospects were not promising for Pakistan, China reposed confidence in Pakistan by promising investments in CPEC, when foreign and local investors were reluctant to come forward," the minister said, and added: "CPEC should not be construed merely as a bilateral agreement, but it should be seen in a broader context.

" Ahsan said future of CPEC depended on business enterprises in both China and Pakistan.

"Business enterprises in both countries will take over as they will realise the real potential of CPEC in the coming years" he prophesied.

Ahsan said that Quetta-Gwadar section of the western route would become operational by December 2016 that will provide Afghanistan and Central Asian states access to the Gwadar port city.

He informed that DI Khan and Burhan sections of the western route would be completed by June 2018.

He pointed out that due to CPEC, for the first time, the neglected treasure of coal Thar would be utilised for power generation.

The minister expressed the optimism that CPEC would trigger economic activities in far flung areas of Balochistan.

Addressing on the occasion, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong said that CPEC had uplifted bilateral relations to strategic economic partnership, and added that economic diplomacy now played an active role in relationships between states.

He congratulated Ahsan on playing a key role in CPEC

Both Ahsan and Weidong also jointly cut the cake of 65th anniversary of diplomatic relation between China and Pakistan.

All Day

DEVELOPMENT IN GWADAR WILL INCREASE WITH COMPLETION OF PROJECTS UNDER CPEC -- Radio Pakistan

Development in Gwadar will increase with completion of projects under CPEC

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal says steps have been taken to attract Chinese and other foreign investors to invest in Gwadar. In an interview, he said the pace of Development in Gwadar will increase completion of projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. He said Pakistan's exports will increase after completion of Gwadar Port. The connecting roads with other parts of the country will be completed at the end of this year. Ahsan Iqbal said besides other incentives, the government has declared Gwadar tax free zone for twenty-three years. Country has been put on the right track with economic indicators showing positive trend. The economic performance has also been appreciated by the world's leading financial institutions. Meanwhile, President Mamnoon Hussain has China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is not merely a bilateral project but the entire region will benefit from it. Pakistan will emerge as a hub of international trade with completion of this mega project. Central Asian states have already started planning projects to connect with the CPEC. The project will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs and the youth should get themselves prepared to seize opportunities. Under CPEC, Gwadar deep sea port will be made functional by the end of this year.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar stresses the need for making joint efforts to stabilize economic gains

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has stressed the need for making joint efforts to stabilize economic gains. Addressing a pre-budget seminar in Islamabad, he said the opposition members need to sit with the government and evolve a charter of economy so that fundamental economic policies are not changed with change of government to ensure speedy development. The Minister assured that no new tax burden will be put on the existing taxpayers in the next budget. He, however, said the government will specially target the non tax filers in a bid to force them to come into the tax net. Government would enhance development expenditure while no new burden would be put on the existing taxpayers in the budget for 2016-17. The Finance Minister said during last three years, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government's prudent economic policies had managed to stabilize the dwindling economic condition as had been endorsed by the major international rating agencies. When the PM-N government came into power in May 2013, it had inherited a dwindling economic condition and international financial institution were declaring Pakistan as a macro-economically de-stabilized country. International financial institutions like IFC and ADB had closed their doors for business with Pakistan. There was some 18-hour load shedding in rural areas and 16-hour electricity breakdown in urban areas, he said. Present government took bold decisions to stabilize the national economy and saved the country from a possible default. Government took power the budget deficit was 8.8 per cent which had now been brought down to 4.3 per cent and Dasu hydel project to overcome the energy crisis. US \$ 46 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiated with the help of China would bring prosperity in the country. If Pakistan stayed on course it could become the 18th largest economy by 2050.

Pakistan trade caravan makes final stop at Dushanbe

Pakistan Trade Caravan, which held successful trade shows in Almaty, Kazakhstan and Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, has now reached Dushanbe, Tajikistan on its final leg. The two-day caravan was jointly inaugurated by the Tajik Deputy Minister for Economic Development, Secretary Trade Development Authority Pakistan (TDAP) Rabiya Javeri Agha, and Pakistan Ambassador to Tajikistan Tariq Iqbal Soomro. Addressing a news conference, the Ambassador said the two countries have vast business potential, which needs to be tapped. About forty different companies from Pakistan exhibited their products and expertise.

SECP reduces company formation fee to encourage corporatization

With the aim to bring the non-corporate businesses into the corporate fold and incentivise existing companies, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has decreased the fee for the formation of a company as well as for the filing of returns being charged under the Sixth Schedule to the Companies Ordinance, 1984, effective from May 31, 2016. The corporate sector regulator issued an SRO notifying a reduction of 60 per cent fees in the first slab of capital fee for new incorporation cases to Rs1,000 for online and Rs2,000 for offline submission from Rs2,500 and Rs5,000, respectively. The fee structures for other slabs of the capital fee too have been rationalised. SECP has also made significant reduction in filing fee for returns, particularly for small sized entities, by introducing capital based filing fee starting from as low as Rs250 for online and Rs500 for offline submission replacing the existing structure of fixed filing fee of Rs600 and Rs1,500, respectively. In order to further incentivise the corporate sector, the SECP will also provide a set of certified copies of all incorporation documents free of cost on its registration. There are around 60,000 companies registered with the SECP, but the officials expect that the number could jump several folds only if tax relief is provided to the business opting to form a registered company.

All Day

Funds for Gwadar Safe City project released -- Daily Times

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Saifullah Chhattah said that the federal government had released funds from the Federal Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for implementation of Gwadar Safe City project.

"The provincial government has also finalised arrangements to start construction work in this connection," he said in a meeting which was held with Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Sanaullah Khan Zehri in chair here. The meeting was also attended by Home Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, Inspector General of Police Ahsan Mehboob, Home Secretary Dr Akbar Harifal and divisional commissioners.

He said that the federal government had released funds for Gwadar Safe City Project and work on the project would start soon. He added that a Chinese ship loaded with machinery for Gwadar Port had reached Gwadar and berthed at the port. "Two more Chinese ships from Shanghai, China will reach Gwadar soon," he said.

The chief secretary said that a team of Chinese engineers and technical experts would reach Quetta to prepare feasibility report for the Mass Transit Train which will run between Kuchlak and Quetta to provide traveling facility to local people.

Saifullah said that during the chief minister's recent visit to China, the Chinese and Pakistani officials agreed that China would extend its collaboration to make feasibility report on Quetta Mass Transit Train System. "Therefore a team of Chinese engineers and technical experts will reach Quetta on May 25," he added.

All Day

**Pakistan considering to link Gwadar with Chabahar: Sartaj Aziz --
Express Tribune**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's top aide Sartaj Aziz on Thursday said Pakistan was considering linking Gwadar with Iranian harbour Chabahar.

"Pakistan welcomes projects of regional connectivity which have the potential to generate economic activity," Aziz said while responding to a question during a press briefing.

The adviser hinted at a proposal of declaring Gwadar and Chabahar as "sister ports" and said Pakistan was also constructing a road to the Iranian port being developed by India, Iran and Afghanistan.

Chabahar port — the new game changer?

"A number of proposals for regional connectivity are on the cards and even China is pursuing routes other than China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the region."

War against terror

In response to a question regarding the country's losses in the war against terrorism, Aziz said, "Pakistan has suffered 60,000 casualties of which about 10,000 are those of security personnel."

The foreign affairs adviser said the war against terror had also caused a \$110 billion loss to the country's economy, adding it was not justified to equate the US financial assistance to Pakistan as "aid" because it was a "reimbursement" of what the country had lost to fight militancy.

"We don't want to meet our losses through American aid. We want an overall cooperation by the United States which is more important for the region," he said.

Commenting on the implementation of Pakistan's anti-terror programme, Aziz said it had been successfully implemented followed by the on-going National Action Plan (NAP).

Iran, Afghanistan, India sign three-way transit accord

"We have the ability to deliver better when facing challenges," the adviser said when asked about Pakistan's strategy to cope with the current challenges.

He said being a nuclear power and a stable economy, Pakistan would sail smooth and move forward by overcoming the current issues.

June 7, 2016

Tue

All Day

**PAK NAVY FULLY PREPARED TO ENSURE SECURITY OF
GWADAR PORT -- Radio Pakistan**

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Zakaullah says Pakistan Navy is fully prepared to ensure security of Gwadar Port.

He was addressing the 45th PN Staff Course at Pakistan Navy War College Lahore.

He focused on the prevailing geostrategic environment and enhanced responsibilities of the Navy in the wake of upcoming Gwadar port and CPEC projects.

All Day

China to build mega oil pipeline from Gwadar to Kashgar -- The Nations
ISLAMABAD - Work on Gwadar-Kashgar oil pipeline that would carry one million barrel per day (1MMBD) Middle Eastern oil to China will start in 2017, it is learnt reliably.

Another milestone in the Pak-China relation is nearing as China is getting ready to shift around 17 percent of its oil import to Gwadar-Kashgar oil pipeline, official sources told The Nation here. The five-year project is likely to start in 2017 and will be completed by 2021, the source added.

It is the part of the Chinese policy of revival of silk route as the pipeline will be built along this ancient trade route. The project will be funded by the Chinese government and Frontier Work Organization (FWO) will execute the project for them, the source maintained.

Silk route was rebuilt by the FWO and Chinese want them to utilise their previous experience in the laying of oil pipeline, the source added. The FWO has already given its presentation on the project to the ministry concerned and is likely to embark on the project in 2017. The final length, route and cost of the project are yet to be finalised.

Gwadar is near the Persian Gulf and close to the Strait of Hormuz, which holds two-thirds of the world oil reserves and from where an estimated 17 billion barrels of crude oil passes daily. The port opens up a 3,000km-long trade corridor that will connect Gwadar to Kashgar, in China's western Xinjiang region, via roads, railways and pipelines to transport oil and gas.

The Chinese Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) took over the Gwadar Port in 2013 for 40 years. Beijing and Islamabad signed \$46 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which includes, energy projects, building of new roads, railway lines and a network of oil pipelines to connect Kashgar to Gwadar.

The new 3,000km (1,500 mile) network of highways, rails, and oil pipelines will give China quicker access to Europe and the Middle East. Currently, china is importing around 6 million barrel oil per day from different countries of the world via sea route, and the Gwadar-Kashgar pipeline is likely to take around 17 percent of the share of total Chinese import.

The existing sea route being used by China passes through the risky South China Sea, Pacific Rim, the Strait of Malacca and Sri Lanka, and Chinese ships have to cruise about 10,000 kilometres for reaching its final destination. The Gwadar Port will reduce the sea distance to 2,500 kilometres and land distance for Kashgar to 2,800 kilometres because Kashgar is 4,500 km from the main Chinese port of Shanghai. The CPEC related projects will not only save China time but also millions of dollars.

The overland route, via Pakistan, eliminates the need to ship crude through Malacca Strait. Chinese will establish a massive Industrial Park at Gwadar, which will house an oil city and petroleum refining zone beside dozens of other technical and logistical installations. This will help China meet its energy needs.

All Day

'CPEC is most important agreement in history of Pak-China cooperation'

-- **Daily Times**

ISLAMABAD: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Abdul Rauf Alam on Tuesday said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was the most important agreement in the history of Pakistan and China cooperation which would not only strengthen Pakistan's economy but it would also be an impregnable line of defence.

The economic corridor would push bilateral economic, political and cultural relations to new heights which would be beginning of a new era of prosperity which is not acceptable to some countries.

Speaking at 11th China-South Asia Business Forum, he said, "Friendship with China is our most precious asset while CPEC is a game changer project which cannot be compromised at any cost." The FPCCI president said Chinese impressive progress had amazed whole world which proved that their economic model was one of the best and that now time had come that private sector of both countries use each other expertise to excel in various fields including energy, infrastructure, tourism and mining etc.

He said, the Corridor for Pakistan was the strongest pillar of economic, commercial and cultural connectivity between Pakistan and China and its regional impact would be very positive.

The network of roads, railways and industrial parks would herald a new era of development and prosperity to benefit three billion people, he added. He said, it would bring China's financial and industrial capacity and technological ability with Pakistan's plentiful resources, hard-working labour and market.

Rauf Alam said, it was a matter of few years when China would become world's greatest economic power which would also help Pakistan's economy. "CPEC is a significant part of the 'Belt and Road' initiative," which is not only a domestic strategy of China to open up its central and western regions, but also a highly laudable regional and international development proposal," he observed.

He said China had assured Pakistan that any change in the international political scenario would not impact the CPEC plans which is very heartening. Pakistan and China, he said, were best friends while Beijing had always unconditionally supported Pakistan. "China has played very vital role in development of Pakistan and we will not compromise our brotherly relations at any cost," he added.

The cordial ties between two countries had reached new heights with the launch of CPEC as for the very first time economic relations had gained more importance than then political ties. He said, the project would be completed well in time while Pakistan was providing enhanced security to Chinese nationals working for the \$46-billion project as the country's domestic and foreign nations were using "extreme means" to sabotage the ambitious project.

All Day

Pak, China agree to boost cooperation in agriculture sector -- Pakistan Today

Minister for Commerce Khurram Dastgir Khan met the Secretary of Communist Party China of Yunnan Province Li Jiheng in Kunming, China.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction over the successful fourth China-South Asia Expo, especially with regards to Pakistan's active participation with the largest country pavilion.

They exchanged views on the current status of economic and commercial ties between the Chinese province and Pakistan. The two leaders also agreed to focus on ways and means to further promote ties between the countries in a comprehensive manner.

The commerce minister said that bringing Pakistani agricultural products like rice and fruits to Yunnan could be an important step in this direction.

The Secretary of Yunnan Party agreed that the two sides needed to work closely in this area.

In addition, it was also agreed that concerted efforts will be made to enhance people to people contacts and cooperation in important fields of science and technology, culture, tourism and education.

The minister is visiting Kunming to lead Pakistan's delegation to the fourth China-South Asia Expo being held from 12th to 17th of this month.

All Day

Pak-China road to prosperity -- Pak Observer

Recently China has been emerging as an economic power by not only spreading its wing over Asia and South Asia, but encapsulating under its influence the Western countries as well. Where Pak-China ties have been withstanding the tests of time, they have been pursuing projects of regional harmony and the ones fortifying their bilateral relations. Including such deals was the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement signed between the two countries in 2007 according to which the trade volume between them increased from \$13 billion (2013) to \$20 billion (2015). However, last year in April 2015, the two countries signed another major agreement, which began the work on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, worth \$46 billion. This agreement has been the cornerstone for reviving Pakistan's economy and enhancing the trade between Pakistan and China. Also part of the OBOR is agreement to construct the Maritime Silk Road or the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The goal of this initiative is to bolster alliance in various regions of Oceania, North Africa, and Southeast Asia via key maritime areas, which are the India Ocean, the South China Sea, and the South Pacific Ocean. Where China's investment in Pakistan will uplift its economy and provide it with initiatives for job creation, it will also create opportunities for infrastructural development in areas where extremist factions reside, hence reducing their threat, and bringing development in those areas. Therefore, reforms are likely to occur in Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. Despite assurances from Islamabad and Beijing, the success of CPEC cannot be guaranteed as Pakistan remains an agriculture country, its manufacturing sector has been stagnant, and it does not value innovation, while the political influence remains hovering over all its sectors and decisions.

Moreover, Pakistan may not be able to stay at par with China's economic progress and the degree of innovation it houses in its many sectors. Furthermore, Pakistan must assure that China's recent investments in Pakistan must reach the stakeholders and should not be concentrated in the hands of the few – the ones who have been reaping fruits of such deals in the past.

India's pursuit to gain regional hegemony in South Asia might take a back seat with China investing heavily in Pakistan. India might try to reduce the pace of development works related to the CPEC. However, India-China ties may also face friction and therefore affect Pakistan-India relations. India's recent ambition to become part of the 48-member exclusive Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) may also aggravate the tension that Pakistan and India have been facing for decades. India would likely fortify its relations with US, which it has begun doing following the recent visit of India Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US. Moreover, new US President who will take oath to office on January 20, 2017, will likely bring in new foreign policy initiatives for both Pakistan and China and it can affect the CPEC or the OBOR. However, with China already exerting its influence on South Asia, it is unlikely that Washington may be able to sway China from its primary economic objectives and plan with Pakistan.

— The writer is a freelance columnist based in Karachi.

All Day

China Petroleum cuts \$200 million cost estimate for Gwadar LNG pipeline -- Pakistan Today

China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau signed a gas pipeline deal with Pakistan at a lower price as the Chinese company, has revised the cost of laying the pipeline downwards to \$1.3 billion after negotiations with the government in Islamabad.

According to an official, Pakistan and the Chinese company had initialed an agreement for building a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) pipeline from Gwadar, but the company has now lowered the contract price to \$1.3 billion compared to \$1.5 billion quoted in the financial bid given to Inter-State Gas Systems.

Earlier, China had expressed concerns over the slow progress being made in awarding the contract for the LNG pipeline.

A revised PC-1 of the project has been approved by the Central Development Working Party of the Planning Commission. Now, the project has been sent to the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecne) for formal approval.

According to the official, Pakistan will negotiate a loan agreement with the Export-Import Bank of China that has already made an offer in this regard.

He said the gas utilities were working on extending the pipeline network at a cost of \$1.1 billion that amounted to \$34 per inch metre, but the cost of building the Gwadar LNG pipeline was \$32 per inch metre.

The Chinese company will also construct an LNG terminal at Gwadar Port on the build-and-operate model and it will be able to handle 600 million cubic feet of LNG per day.

The previous Pakistan People's Party-led government had imposed gas infrastructure development cess (GIDC) on gas consumers for laying these pipelines and so far Rs183 billion has been collected.

However, the current PML-N government has spent the entire collection on metro bus projects and nothing is left for implementing gas import projects.

For the Gwadar LNG pipeline and terminal project, China will provide 85% of financing whereas Pakistan will contribute the remaining 15%. This is an additional burden that gas consumers will be bearing in addition to paying billions of rupees in GIDC.

All Day

Industrial zone in Gwadar to create 40,000 jobs: GPA chief -- Daily Times

QUETTA: Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman Dostain Khan Jamaldini Friday said that work on construction of an industrial free zone in Gwadar was underway and the port city alone would create about 40,000 jobs in future.

The construction of the 10 square kilometres industrial zone is underway with a total outlay of \$2 billion, where Chinese, Middle East, European and Pakistani investors have planned to establish 300 factories, said Jamaldini

"The Chinese firm is spending \$2 billion for construction of roads, provision of electricity, gas and water in the industrial zone which will be completed within stipulated time," he said, adding work on road network, railway track and communication infrastructure from Chinese province Xinjiang to Gwadar was in full swing.

Pakistan, he said, had started work on different sections of CPEC in shape of roads including Skardu-Hawalian, Multan-Sukkur, Gwadar-Hoshab, Gwadar-Rato Dero, Mughal Kot-Zhob and others

Under the CPEC, the chairman said a power plant of 300MW is being established in Gwadar which run simultaneously on coal, diesel and gas. "A LNG plant is also

being established in Gwadar to meet energy requirement of new industrial units to be set up in the port city," he said.

Jamaldini said that the CPEC infrastructure of road network would be completed by 2018 while other projects would continue till 2030.

"It is flagship project of One Road, One Belt initiative by Chinese leadership to be implemented by 2030," he said.

He said that technical and vocational training institutes were being established in Gwadar, Quetta, Khuzdar and other cities of Balochistan to provide training to youth in industrial parks being established in Balochistan as part of the CPEC.

He said work on 19km long East Bay Expressway was underway which would connect Gwadar International Airport to Gwadar Deep Sea Port Early harvest project is also being executed in Gwadar with an estimated cost of Rs 14 billion, he added.

All Day

**Chinese minister hopeful of successful completion of all CPEC projects
-- Pakistan Today**

Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Li Huilai said that his country will provide all possible support to Pakistan ensuring success of projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"We attach high importance to CPEC since it is a pilot project of China's initiative of One belt One Road," he said adding that this connectivity plan is aimed at bringing peace and prosperity in the region and the world as a whole. Pakistan, he said, is their best friend and they wished to take their decades' old relationship to a new height through frequent socio-economic interaction and people-to-people contacts.

"The Chinese government is encouraging its business community to make maximum investment in Pakistan for the success of CPEC," Li Huilai said, and added that this in an informal chat with a media delegation consisting of over 30 representatives from 18 member states, observer states and dialogue partners of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The visit was arranged on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of SCO.

The minister expressed his confidence that the concept of One Belt and One Road will not only raise the living standards of the people of both sides but will also positively affect the entire region. Replying to a question, he said that CPEC is the best example of growing Sino-Pak relationship.

Earlier, at the formal news briefing, Li Huilai said that Pakistan's entry into SCO will enhance the organization's status and influence to effectively address security issues, and give a boost to socio-economic partnerships among the member countries.

Welcoming Pakistan, which is set to become a full-member of the SCO, he said that it would be an important development in addressing issues of common interest in the future. Pakistan is an important country of the region and its role towards security and counter-terrorism is highly positive, he added.

The minister said that China has been supporting the expansion of the organization and attached high importance to Pakistan's role as its full member. Pakistan will be joining the organization at a time when the organization celebrates its 15th anniversary.

He hoped that the SCO's Summit, which is going to take place in Tashkent on June 23 and 24 will be a landmark event for making the organization more strong and effective, particularly to deal with the security issues. The Summit, he said would adopt a common strategy on counter-terrorism. China is willing to work with the member states to promote peace and development in the region, he further said.

Li Huilai elaborated China's contribution and support to SCO and said it was done for a win-win situation and mutual benefit. He said that they laid special focus on upholding the 'Shanghai Spirit' that aimed at achieving common prosperity and promoting socio-economic collaboration and cultural exchanges.

China being the founding member of the SCO, the minister said, is always committed to promoting better regional connectivity and economic development which could ensure better living conditions of the people.

The concept of the organization is to further promote economy of member states and enhance cooperation among them in all fields of common interest. China, being the second largest economy of the world, has the maximum foreign reserves which have been a source of better life not only in the Chinese cities but also for the people of relevant countries as a whole, he added.

June 23, 2016

Thu

All Day

**HEC TO SETUP UNIVERSITY OF GWADAR, UNIVERSITY OF
BALOCHISTAN AT ZHOB -- Radio Pakistan**

Higher Education Commission will establish University of Gwadar and a Campus of University of Balochistan at District Zhob to provide educational facilities to the students of far-flung areas.

According to an official of HEC, these projects were in connection with China Pakistan Economic Corridor and would contribute towards providing better higher Education facilities in Balochistan.

July 2, 2016

Sat

All Day

Success of CPEC linked to Gwadar, says naval chief -- Pakistan Today

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Zakaullah said that the overall success of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) hinges on the development of Gwadar port.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Admiral Zakaullah who visited Gwadar the other day was briefed regarding the ongoing operational activities and associated security aspects at the port, particularly with respect to the CPEC. He inspected the naval installations around Gwadar and inspected the operational readiness of Pakistan Navy units deployed in the area.

He expressed Pakistan Navy's resolve to ensure the seaward defence of vital maritime infrastructure and protect maritime interests of Pakistan against all threats. He reiterated that development of the Gwadar port will be the lynchpin for the overall success of the CPEC.

While talking to the officers and servicemen of Pakistan Navy, the admiral applauded their professionalism and dedication in safeguarding the maritime frontiers of the country. He expressed his satisfaction on the port security measures and operational preparedness of the Pakistan Navy in their area of responsibility.

Upon his arrival, the admiral was received by Commander Coast Rear Admiral Waseem Akram, the ISPR said. Later in the day, he held an informal interaction with navy officers and servicemen, the military's media wing added.

July 5, 2016

Tue

All Day

Gwadar airport to cost \$260m -- APP

ISLAMABAD: With construction costs estimated at \$260 million, Gwadar International Airport would be capable of handling the largest of passenger planes including the A380 Boeing jet.

The entire amount would come in the form of a grant from the Chinese government, the Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was informed in its recently held meeting here.

Additionally, the Chinese government has given a grant of \$10 million for building the Pakistan-China Vocational and Technical Training Institute to help locals acquire skills.

Gwadar Port Authority Chairman also informed the committee that the water problem of Gwadar was being sorted out with the construction of Sawad dam where water would be provided to Gwadar through a 83km pipeline and the water shortage of Gwadar would be resolved in that manner.

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All Day

Gwadar airport to give boost to CPEC -- Observer

GWADAR international airport to be capable of handling the largest of passenger planes including the A380 Boeing jet is being constructed at a cost of \$ 260 million dollars, and the amount for the airport is a full grant from the Chinese friends. Since the Gwadar international airport is an important segment of the multi billion dollar game changer China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project, therefore early implementation of this project is vital to accrue full benefit from the corridor project. To make the Gwadar port fully operational and hub of regional trade, it is important that the port city's air, rail and road links are developed in a satisfactory manner as per the international standards. According to the Chinese and our government officials, the Gwadar port will be made fully operational by the end of this year, therefore, it has become all the more necessary that Gwadar airport project, which is being dubbed as the country's biggest and most modern landing field be implemented at the earliest in order to facilitate the visiting businessmen who are showing great interest for investment in the Gwadar special economic zone. The airport project will indeed serve as a catalyst for enhancing investment and development in Gwadar and catering to the requirements of a bustling industrial commercial city. We have no doubt in mind that the facility, because of its geo strategic location, will serve as a major hub for international flights operating in the region. Additionally, emphasis should also be laid on the skill development of the local population so that they could get jobs and fully exploit the economic activities to be generated by the execution of mega projects under the CPEC. While we appreciate the government for planning to establish Gwadar University for the promotion of higher education in the so far neglected area, it is also heartening to note that Chinese government has also given a grant of ten million dollars for building the Pakistan-China Vocational and Technical Institute. We expect that the government will not waste any time in the implementation of this important project, as it will make the local youth ready to take up technical jobs at the port and make it a success story.

All Day

Gwadar another Dubai emerging on world map: Chinese media -- The Nations

BEIJING: Gwadar, another Dubai is emerging on World's map, that will change the economic scenario of not only Pakistan but whole of the region, reports Chinese media.

There will be a ceremony next month marking the completion and commencement of major infrastructure projects in Gwadar that also greatly boost the city's function as an economic engine for the country.

A water dam, a hospital and a school will be put into use in August, while the construction of the Gwadar International Airport, a seaside expressway, a training center and a pipeline will begin in the meantime.

Most of the projects are financed by China and falls under CPEC, Xinhua reports quoting Gwadar Port Authority Chairman Dostain Jamaldini.

COPHC, a Chinese company managing the Gwadar port, also said it will start developing the Gwadar Free Trade Zone (FTZ) this month with an initial investment of \$ 150 million.

"First phase projects in the FTZ include a multi-function business center, a exhibition hall for Chinese goods and cold storage," COPHC Pakistan chief Wu Chunguo said.

The FTZ and the Gwadar Special Economic Zone are two areas that the Pakistani government has granted preferable policies to attract investments, with tax exemptions for companies inside the two zones for 23 years and 10 years respectively.

A town with a population of less than 100,000, Gwadar was once a territory of Oman before being purchased by Pakistan in 1958. It is gifted with a natural deep-water harbor that falls close to main shipping lanes and an anchor-shaped peninsula that acts as a breakwater shielding the harbor from the waves of the Arabian Sea.

An arid climate and isolated location once limited locals to rely on the meager income brought in by fishing.

Though development plans had been drawn up by the Pakistani government in 2002, the town remained dormant for another decade before China chose the port as one of the four focuses for its ambitious scheme to overhaul Pakistan's infrastructure.

The other three are upgrading road and railroad networks, patching up the energy sector and establishing industrial parks, all projects that stand to benefit from a prosperous Gwadar port.

Seizing the momentum brought by CPEC, the Gwadar government is hoping to develop the coastal town into a modern metropolis with a major port, industrial zones, tourist attractions, recreation grounds and high-end real estate.

It certainly seems that the town is moving in that direction, says Wu of COPHC. "We are seeing an increasing number of businesses coming for talks to invest in the port. In April we received more than 350 business representatives, a record high."

Land prices, a barometer that measures investor confidence, has more than doubled in the past two years, Jamaldini said.

An acre of land in the FTZ, which cost 3.4 million Pakistani rupees (32,000 U.S. dollars) in 2014, is now priced at more than 10 million rupees (95,000 US dollars), he said, adding land price for the most prime location on the tip of the peninsula is even higher.

Encouraged by the upcoming boom, locals are ready to move on from harvesting fish to harvesting a better life.

Dubai is the word often used when the people of Gwadar picture their future, believing the huge opportunities created by CPEC will transform their fishing town to a center of business, shipping and tourism. "What Dubai can achieve, so can we," Jamaldini said.

All Day

CPEC PROGRESSING WELL, EARLY HARVEST PROJECTS PUT ON FAST TRACK: AHSAN -- BR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal said Monday that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was the top priority of the government and its early harvest projects would be completed at fast pace.

Chairing a high level fortnightly review CPEC meeting, the minister directed the authorities concerned to execute work on the Western passage with full thrust and provide update in each fortnightly meeting.

Minister further directed that the timeline of each project must be specified and pursued for timely completion.

He expressed satisfaction over the progress of ongoing CPEC projects and urged for finalizing Long Term Plan (LTP) of CPEC at the earliest.

The Federal Minister directed for speeding up work on all infrastructure projects and also directed that since Gwadar was in focus, so some of its projects should hit ground breaking in the month of August with the independence day celebrations.

He directed for carrying out the work on Gwadar International Airport and Gwadar seaport projects on fast track basis.

Meeting reviewed the progress on projects in energy, road infrastructure, railway and Gwadar under CPEC framework.

The minister directed for maintaining the momentum in the construction work on CPEC projects to ensure their completion in stipulated time frame. He said that construction work on various projects of different sections of Western route should be completed as per the timelines to operationalize it at the earliest.

While reviewing the energy projects the Ministry of Water and Power appraised that work on Port Qasim Power Plant, Thar Power Plant, HUBCO coal Project, Sahiwal Power Plant and other hydro power projects is on track and these would be completed as per the schedule.

He said fast track work on these projects is necessary to tackle the energy crisis and power needs of industrial zones in future under CPEC.

Ahsan Iqbal said that provincial governments should play proactive role to attract foreign investment in respective provinces as this is not only for the interest of projects, but also necessary for the economic growth and development of provinces.

All Day

China attaches high priority to CPEC, says Zhao Lijian -- The Nations
ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chief of Mission, Chinese Embassy Zhao Lijian said his country attaches high importance to the Corridor Project that meant to improve the living conditions of the people and overcome problems like power shortage.

There are thirty China-supported infrastructure and energy projects and five more would be added under CPEC's framework this year. "Eight coals, solar, wind and hydro-power energy projects are also under construction to meet the energy requirement of the country," he said at a function held here at Chinese Embassy in connection with teachers' training program.

Chinese companies are also implementing two mega projects including Thakot-Havailian section of Karakurm Highway (KKH) and Sukkur-Multan section of Lahore-Karachi motorway at a cost of \$ 3 billion.

Zhao Lijian said, prior to signing of CPEC between China and Pakistan in 2013, China was at number 16 in terms of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Pakistan, adding, now China is largest investor in Pakistan after initiating multi-billion dollars project under the CPEC framework.

He said, this project would not only change the life of people of Pakistan in days to come but also prove beneficial for the whole region. Referring to the celebrations of 60th anniversary of Pak-China Diplomatic Relations, he said, the relations between the two brotherly countries are touching new heights after the signing of CPEC.

"The flower of China-Pakistan friendship will become more beautiful in future," he commented.

All Day

CPEC early harvest projects to be completed at fast pace: Ahsan -- The News

Federal Minister for Planning Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal said Monday that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was the top priority of the government and its early harvest projects would be completed at fast pace.

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All Day

CPEC to make Pakistan gateway for Central Asia and beyond: Gen Janjua -- Daily Times

ISLAMABAD: National Security Advisor, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Nasser Khan Janjua said on Monday that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) provided Pakistan a great opportunity to become a gateway for Central Asia and beyond. "We see a greater fortune here as Pakistan is going to become a gateway for the Central Asia and ultimately to Russia through this mega project", Nasser Janjua said while addressing a meeting of Islamabad based senior members of the Supreme Central Committee of 101 Friends of China here.

The meeting was attended by intellectuals, economic experts, former ambassadors and former secretaries. Speaking as chief guest of the event, Gen Janjua said where there were opportunities, there were always challenges to be faced. General Janjua said China was heading towards becoming the leading economy of the world which was not acceptable for some dominating world economies.

He said two trends of international power politics prevailed these days - first of which was the containment of China and the second was to prevent resurgent of Russia as a big power, Gen. Janjua said. He warned, these two trends would affect Pakistan the most.

He said the economies of existing allies of the United States were already saturated, therefore it (the US) was looking towards India as emerging economy in a bid to contain China. He said the \$46 billion CPEC would help China and Pakistan change the fortune of the people of both countries as well as the region as it was going to be a trade corridor.

Addressing the event, Chairman 101 Friends of China, Zahid Malik announced that the Secretariat of the Think Tank was all set to mark a beginning of opening its chapters in all the cities and towns of Pakistan. "Even small villages in distant areas would have these chapters," he said.

He also announced the launch of the enrollment of its members and the target of membership for the year 2016 had been set as 100,000. Meanwhile, the 101 Friends of China also put a Resolution expressing serious concern over the escalation of tension in the South China and alarm over the military build up in the recent weeks in the region, which was adopted unanimously.

Expressing solidarity with China, the resolution stressed that the Permanent Court of Arbitration should conduct business strictly within its jurisdiction and that its rulings should not be used as an instrument to fuel tensions and disputes. He said China wanted to resolve the issue of South China Sea peacefully through negotiation with its neighbouring countries, including Vietnam and Philippines.

All Day

Pakistan working on Gwadar-China oil pipeline -- Express Tribune

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is working on a plan to lay an oil pipeline from Gwadar to China for the export of crude and has given the task to state construction firm Frontier Works Organisation, say officials who are aware of the development.

The pipeline will run from Gwadar Port to western China and will allow Beijing to diversify and speed up import of crude oil. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had floated the idea of constructing the oil pipeline during a visit to China.

China irked by delay in Gwadar project

According to the officials, Pakistan would have surplus oil in the future as Pak-Arab Refinery Limited (Parco) has decided to revive the \$6-billion Khalifa Refinery project that was shelved by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during the previous government of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).

Parco will set up the refinery in Balochistan that will have the capacity to process 250,000 barrels of crude oil per day. In Parco, the UAE holds 40% shares whereas the government of Pakistan has a 60% stake. China Huanqiu Contracting and Engineering Corporation has also expressed interest in setting up an oil refinery in Pakistan, preferably at Gwadar.

The refining capacity of Byco, Pakistan's largest refinery, has jumped to 155,000 barrels per day (bpd) after completion of work on its second unit of 120,000 bpd.

Previously, Parco was the biggest refinery with production capacity of 90,000 bpd, followed by National Refinery with 68,000 bpd, Pakistan Refinery with 48,000 bpd and Attock Refinery with 45,000 bpd.

Chinese offer to finance whole \$2b LNG project

The planned oil pipeline from Gwadar to China could be extended and connected with Iran that has already offered to build a pipeline for the supply of crude oil to Gwadar, the officials say.

Iran had also expressed the intention to set up an oil refinery of 400,000-barrel-per-day capacity at Gwadar Port during the previous PPP government. However, the project could not be pushed ahead because of international sanctions on Tehran and failure to reach an agreement on the proposed incentives.

The project can be implemented in future after the Chinese take operational control of Gwadar Port. Gwadar is quite close to the Persian Gulf from where nearly 40% of the world's oil passes.

According to the officials, China meets 50% of its oil demand through imports from the Middle East. Oil supplies come via Dubai-Shanghai-Urumqi route covering over 10,000 kilometres.

Gwadar port to be operational by 2017: Chinese official

The crude oil processed and refined in Pakistan can be exported through the shortest possible Dubai-Gwadar-Urumqi route – a distance of about 3,600 km. This can be achieved by laying an oil pipeline through the energy corridor up to western China via Karakoram Highway and Khunjerab Pass.

Hurdles in the way like the high altitude, freezing temperatures and a difficult terrain can be overcome with the help of advance technology.

Many countries have successfully completed similar pipeline projects under extreme conditions and at high altitudes such as the Atacama gas pipeline, Trans-Alaska pipeline and Trans-Asia gas pipeline.

All Day

PM says personally overseeing CPEC projects -- Express Tribune

LAHORE: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday said he was personally overseeing the progress of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects which had the potential to change the lives of millions of people living in the region.

The prime minister expressed these views in a meeting with a delegation, led by Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Chairman Warid Telecom International and chairman of the Abu Dhabi Group, Union National Bank and United Bank Limited at his Raiwind residence.

PM Nawaz returns home after successful heart surgery in London

The prime minister said the \$34billion project would connect the entire region through construction of a quality road network and railway tracks. He said his administration had made choices to put the country on track to attain durable peace, sustainable economic growth and massive infrastructure development. The Ranger-led Karachi operation was carried out in consultation with all stakeholders which helped a great deal in restoration of peace in the mega city.

Premier Nawaz expressed his satisfaction over the success of Operation Zarb-e-Azb to wipe out terrorists from the country. He said his government had ensured uninterrupted power supply to the industrial sector and vowed to overcome energy shortage in the country by 2018. Also, he said the transparent agreements for LNG would help overcome gas shortage by next year.

The premier recalled that he had made Islamabad-Lahore motorway in the 1990s and at present, 13 more motorways were under construction with an investment of Rs900 billion which would cross Rs1 trillion mark by the year's end.

PM convenes cabinet meeting to discuss situation in held Kashmir

Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan extended his heartfelt congratulations on the successful surgery and consequent recovery of the prime minister. Appreciating the leadership role of the prime minister, Sheikh Nahyan said Pakistan had shown tremendous improvement in almost all sectors of the economy over the last three years.

He said Pakistan was fast becoming an ideal destination for foreign investors owing to the transparent, fair and incentives-based investment policies of the government. "Your leadership has enabled Pakistan to witness rapid economic growth and attract foreign investment. You have greatly helped your country in achieving its true image worldwide", he said.

Other delegates included Chief Executive Officers (CEO) of VimpelCom Ltd, Mobilink, Alfalah Bank and members Board of Directors Abu Dhabi Group.

All Day

CPEC'S SECURE COMPLETION TO ADD NEW DIMENSIONS TO PAK-CHINA FRIENDSHIP: NISAR -- BR

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan on Thursday said Pakistan's expanded cooperation with China in counter terrorism, security and trade domains would arguably be a defining partnership in 21st century.

He expressed these views during a meeting with visiting Minister for State Security of China, Geng Huichang. Officials from China's counter terrorism, technical and intelligence divisions were also part of the Chinese security delegation.

The meeting covered a broader scope of discussion for increased coordination between security establishments of two countries in intelligence sharing, counter terrorism coordination, and security of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Ch. Nisar said, "Secure and successful completion of CPEC would add new dimensions to our friendship cementing our economic as well as strategic bond."

He said CEPC would also help Pakistan and China expand their trade footprint in region and beyond.

"CPEC is not only flagship project between the two countries but also focuses on strategic depth in Pak-China relationship," the Minister was quoted as saying by Spokesperson for the Ministry.

He said both sides must be cautious about regional and global powers who do not want to see CPEC for their own interests and reiterated that Pakistan, at all levels, is committed to thwarting all conspiracies against CPEC.

Ch. Nisar said two sides should exponentially enhance intelligence sharing precisely in fight against terrorism, extremism and countering violence.

He remarked that Pakistan would continue its fight against all terrorist groups who create disturbance and generate violence in Pakistan.

Pakistan is committed for not allowing any group to use its territory for violence abroad, he added.

Commenting over ongoing fight against terrorists groups, Ch. Nisar said operation Zarb-i-Azb dividends have started reaping its benefits.

About security of Chinese citizens working across Pakistan in different development projects including CPEC, the Minister pointed out that a Special Security Division is already working under Pakistan Army to secure their lives.

Meanwhile, Mr. Geng Huichang appreciated efforts of Pakistan in fight against terrorism, specially the gains achieved under operation Zarb-i-Azb.

All Day

GWADAR'S EAST-BAY EXPRESSWAY TO BE COMPLETED BY DEC 2018 -- APP

ISLAMABAD: The construction of East-bay expressway of the Gwadar Port would be completed by December 2018, according to sources from Gwadar Port Authority.

The sources informed APP that PC-1 of the project had been approved by Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) on January 12, 2015 and it was a 19-KM six-lane expressway with 2- way railway track.

The expressway provides immediate and uninterrupted connectivity to Gwadar Port terminals with the Mehran Coastal Highway in the first phase and with New Gwadar International Airport in the second phase.

"An amount of Rs. 13.543 billion would be funded through government of China confessional loan whereas Rs. 0.519 billion would be arranged through local component", sources added.

For this project, Rs. 4.7 billion have been earmarked for the project.

The sources added that the Chinese Government had agreed to provide 100 per cent interest free loan for the project.

The selection of Chinese company was made through limited bidding under the G2G framework.

Work of the project would start during 1st quarter of 2016-17.

Due to delay in review of project cost by MOFCOM allocated funds could not be utilized.

All Day

3,000 ACRE OF LAND TO BE PROVIDED FOR EXPANSION OF GWADAR INDUSTRIAL ZONE -- BR

Wednesday, 20 July 2016 16:53 Posted by Parvez Jabri E-mail Print PDF Views: 466

imageQUETTA: Balochistan provincial government would provide 3,000 acre of land for expansion of Gwadar Industrial Zone in order to make it further functional, Secretary Industries and Trade, Noor Muhammad Jogezei said on Wednesday.

The provincial government was taking practical steps to give incentives for investors and industrialists to develop industries and enhance its activities, he said while chairing a meeting of Gwadar Industrial Estate and Development Authority.

Besides protection of the investment, the industrial would be allotted land on proper price and soft conditions, he added.

The Secretary said, the real estate activities should be discouraged in the Industrial Zone, adding, the plots allotted for setting up of industries should not be utilized for any other purpose.

He said, all the hurdles in the way of the development of the industrial zone should be removed.

Jogezei said, the industrialists should be assured that the government was in favour of development of industries and revival of sick industrial units.

He said, possible tax exemption would also be ensured for the industries, adding the development of industrial zone would help ensure employment opportunities for thousands of people which would prove a milestone for the development of the province as well as the Makran belt.

He also directed to further improve the master plan and make the Gwadar industrial zone functional aimed at speeding up industrial activities there.

It was also decided to shift the office of the industrial zone from Karachi to Gwadar to enhance industrial activities at the industrial zone.

All Day

CM says railway track to be laid under CPEC -- The News

KOHAT: Chief Minister Pervaz Khattak on Tuesday said that a railway track from Peshawar to Dera Ismail Khan would be laid under the multi-billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project (CPEC).

Talking to reporters after condoling with the relatives over the sad demise of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Kohat district president Humayun Chacha, he said that the CPEC would usher in a new era of prosperity and development in the country.

He said Jhand-Kohat road would also be developed under the CPEC project. "CPEC is a project of progress and prosperity for the entire country. All the provinces including that of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would equally benefit from the project," added the chief minister.

Responding to a question about the repatriation of Afghan refugees, he said the federal government had extended the stay of refugees for six months and hoped that their dignified repatriation would be started after the end of the deadline accordingly.

Answering another question regarding shifting of Oil Refinery from Kohat to Karak, Pervaz Khattak maintained that formal decision to this effect had not yet been taken and the Refinery would be set up at a suitable place.

Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Asad Qaiser and Minister for Law Imtiaz Shahid Qureshi accompanied the chief minister during the visit. Earlier, they offered

fateha for the departed soul of the late party leader.

Pervez Khattak paid glowing tributes to the services of late Humayun Chacha for the party, saying the departed soul was a great asset to the party. Later, the chief minister visited the residence of PTI district leader Aftab Alam Afridi and condoled the death of his mother-in-law.

All Day

CPEC A FORTUNE CHANGER FOR GILGIT-BALTISTAN REGION: AHSAN IQBAL -- BR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform, Ahsan Iqbal said on Wednesday that cooperation between Gilgit-Baltistan of Pakistan and Xingiang province of China can add a new chapter in China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) because of their geographic proximity.

The Minister proposed a five year plan for promoting cooperation and partnership between Xingiang and Gilgit-Baltistan in various fields.

"We need to learn from China's development experience of establishing economic zones like the Kashgar economic zone," he added.

The Minister expressed these views while having a meeting with the Chinese business and stated that economic integration and regional connectivity between Pakistan and Xingiang province is critical for making CPEC a success.

Ahsan Iqbal said that CPEC will take this friendship from higher than Himalayas to higher than stars.

He said that regional and economic integration is very significant for the success of the CPEC projects.

The Federal Minister mentioned that Mr. Zhnag Chuxian, Secretary of Communist Party of Xinjiang Province had a fruitful visit to Pakistan which laid foundation for stronger cooperation between Xinjiang and Pakistan.

He said that the success of CPEC depends on business to business and people to people contacts of both the countries.

Federal Minister said that Cooperation between China and Pakistan is not an ordinary one but we also have brotherly relations.

Ahsan Iqbal said that we need to develop a very comprehensive roadmap of cooperation in different sectors between Pakistan and China particularly between the Xinjiang province and Gilgit Baltistan.

The Minister said that cooperation between Pakistan and China would materialize in the form of solid projects and it will add colours in our friendship.

He proposed that sports and education could be possible areas of cooperation between Gilgit and Xinjiang, as GB has very young population.

The Minister also proposed that Chinese experts could visit Excellence Centre of Pakistan to create a better understanding of Chinese Economy in Pakistan.

He said that both China and Pakistan are committed and working hard on CPEC projects and all the projects would complete in stipulated time.

Yuan Jianmia appreciated the dynamism of Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform for his dedication and commitment with CPEC and supported the proposals of Federal Minister, extending full support.

All Day

'Pak-China Cultural Street' to be established -- APP

LAHORE: The Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) on Thursday called for establishing 'Pak-China Cultural Street' in different cities of the country to promote cultural harmony between China and Pakistan.

Talking to the media, PCJCCI President Shah Faisal Afridi said the cultural street would also serve as a fascinating entertainment place for people of Pakistan. He added that the cultural street could include Chinese cuisines, calligraphy, literature, martial arts, movies, theatre and dresses.

Moreover, traditional Chinese festival such as the spring festivals and mid-autumn day could also be celebrated in those streets of Pakistan, along with Pakistani local festivals such as Shindoor Mela, Mela Chiraghan, and Jashn-e-Baharaan, he said.

Faisal Afridi said the cultural links should extend beyond the traditional modes of inter-state contacts and could include student and faculty exchange programmes between universities, academic conferences and professional associations of Chinese and Pakistani experts and the civil society collaborations.

He asserted that the interactions between the Pakistani and Chinese media should also be encouraged along with joint ventures in creative arts like cinema, theatre and music, led by inter-governmental collaborations. He said that Pakistan had the potential to become the safest place of investment with collaboration with China in all fields of trade and industry.

All Day

CHINA EXPRESSES SATISFACTION OVER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CPEC PROGRESS -- Radio Pakistan

Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong expressed satisfaction over the implementation of Pak-China Economic Corridor project. He was Addressing to the ceremony, on the occasion of chandeliers as gift for Mazar-e-Quaid, he said Economic Corridor project is in the interest of both countries, nation and region. The Ambassador rejected rumors regarding dissatisfaction on project

"China, Pakistan determined to complete CPEC on priority": Ahsan Iqbal

Minister for Planning says both China and Pakistan are committed and working hard to complete China Pakistan Economic Corridor in stipulated time. He was speaking at a meeting with a delegation of Chinese businessmen in Islamabad. The Minister said cooperation between Gilgit-Baltistan and Xinjiang province of China can add a new chapter to CPEC because of their geographic proximity. Pakistan wants to learn from China's development experience of establishing economic zones like the Kashgar economic zone. The Chinese delegation assured to promote business and other relations between Gilgit-Baltistan and Xinjiang.

ECNEC approves six projects of worth over Rs81 billion

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) has approved six projects of worth over 81 billion rupees. The committee, which met in Islamabad today with Finance Minister Ishaq Dar in the chair, approved modern billing system for the entire company of IESCO at a cost of 16,930.1 million rupees. It also approved similar project for five divisions of LESCO at a cost of 30,274.66 million rupees. ECNEC acceded Sindh Resilience Project for strengthening flood embankments and construction of small dams with a total cost of Rs. 9984.00 million. It also approved construction of Lahore Sialkot motorway with a cost of 5904.116 million Rupees.

All Day

Govt urged to start work on CPEC western route -- The News

PESHAWAR: Mustaqbil Pakistan Partysenior vice-presidentRoshan Khattak has asked the federal government to start work on the western route of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on a priority basis.

Speaking at a press conference here on Wednesday, he also called for establishment of industrial zones and other uplift projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa so that poverty and unemployment could be controlled.

Flanked by provincial leaders and activists of the party, he said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was faced with terrorism since long. He said the investors shifted their businesses to other provinces due to poor law and order situation in the province.

Roshan Khattak said the federal government should give due importance to the western route of the multi-billion CPEC project and construct economic opportunity zones in different parts of the militancy-hit province. The CPEC was game-changer for the province and that it was an issue of life and death for the people of KP, he added.

"We will not allow anyone to usurp the rights of this province," he vowed.Roshan Khattak said the western route of CPEC was the shortest and more feasible way that would connect the country with the Central Asian Republics, which could boost trade with the regional states.

July 22, 2016

Fri

All Day

China happy with smooth implementation of CPEC: envoy -- Daily Times

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Sun Weidong on Thursday quashed the rumours of discontent on part of the Chinese government about the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying that China was "satisfied with the smooth implementation on the corridor".

"China is satisfied with the pace of implementation of the CPEC project. The corridor is under smooth implementation, and will deliver mutual benefits to both countries as well as the people of entire region," said the envoy while talking to journalists on Thursday. The statement was crucial in the wake of a local media report, which claimed that the CPEC had been put on the backburner by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government with the ailment of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and accusations against his family in the Panama Papers.

All Day

Ahsan optimistic about CPEC progress -- The News

ISLAMABAD: China's State Council is in the process of approving grants for the Gwadar International Airport and Gwadar Expressway projects and ground breaking of these two projects would be performed this year.

"Gwadar is the gateway of the CPEC, and the ground-breaking ceremony of its two projects — Gwadar International Airport and Gwadar Expressway would be performed this year while Gwadar University would also become operational from September this year," Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal said here on Monday.

The minister said that Gwadar city would not just be a port city but would also become the hub of socio-economic activities for the local people. He said that the CPEC would help upgrade the local fishing and ship building industries so that the people of Gwadar could get maximum benefit from this project for better livelihood.

Ahsan Iqbal expressed these views while meeting with a delegation of the Gwadar Press Club in the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms. The minister said over \$1.6 billion would be invested under early harvest projects including modern airport, motorways, water, power, health, education and related projects . He said that under the CPEC not only the Gwadar Seaport, International Airport, Expressway would be developed but also hospital and technical & vocational training institutes would be constructed in the port city.

He said that Gwadar would be connected to other parts of the country by end of this year as work on the western route —Gwadar to Quetta Road and Gwadar-Khuzdar-Ratodero section is being completed on fast track. The D.I Khan to Burhan Section would get completed by June 2018, he added .

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal said CPEC would benefit all the provinces especially the most-backward areas of the country. He said that Sindh and Balochistan will be the largest beneficiaries in energy component of CPEC, as out of total £35 billion, \$11.5 billion would be invested in Sindh, and \$9.1 billion in Balochistan.

He said that the 20th century had belonged to political ideologies but today is the era of political economy, economic stability and inclusive growth. While highlighting the Vision 2025, he said that the first pillar of the vision is regional connectivity and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would benefit three billion people of the region through enhanced regional connectivity.

He said that CPEC is a 15-year-long project to be completed in 2030 with special focus on infrastructure development, Gwadar Port, energy and phases by economic zones. He said that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed during Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to China in 2013 and it has been converted into \$46 billion investment within a short period of one year. He said that CPEC is a fusion of Vision-2025 of Pakistan and China's "One Road-One Belt" for future growth and development. He added that Orange Train project was not part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as this project was funded by Punjab government.

He said that administrative work on CPEC is the responsibility of Ministry of Planning with the help of other ministries and departments while the Pakistan Army is responsible for providing security. The minister further informed the delegation that on instructions from the PM to the army chief, 9,000 army men were being deployed in the security force for CPEC projects. Both civil and military departments are playing their role satisfactorily and in complete harmony. Ahsan Iqbal also mentioned that Federal Government would help in establishing Gwadar Press Club building for the journalists at Gwadar.

All Day

China to establish Study Centre at UoP -- Daily Pakistan

PESHAWAR: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong said on Thursday that China considers Pakistan as one of the closest friend having common interests.

He said that during this visit to University of Peshawar (UoP) along with a four-member Chinese delegation. The Chinese ambassador handed over a partnership cheque to University of Peshawar vice chancellor Dr. Muhammad Rasool Jan for the construction of China Study and Research Centre which would become functional by September this year. The centre will focus on research, culture, language and lifestyle of the Chinese.

He said Pakistan and China were celebrating 65th anniversary of their diplomatic relations which was a true testimony to Pak-China friendship. China gave status of closest friend to Pakistan owing to their unprecedented friendship and cordial relations.

He said if China had only one friend in the world that would be Pakistan, adding his government was cooperating with the government of Pakistan in the promotion of all the sectors especially education. The establishment of Chinese Study Centre in UoP was a step forward towards this end.

About the CPEC, the Chinese ambassador said that it would play the role of a game changer in the region, as Karakoram Highway and Gawadar Seaport were being upgraded in the first phase.

Vice Chancellor Rasool Jan appreciated the cooperation of Chinese government and said friendship between the two countries was time tested which survived crucial times of history. He also expressed the hope that the study centre would provide youth a chance of research and opportunities to benefit from the experience of each other.

The centre in UoP will offer professional diploma, degree and research courses in order to raise employment opportunities in the region by creating professional work force for CPEC.

All Day

CPEC agreement is confidential, Ahsan Iqbal tells Senate -- Dawn

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday said agreement of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is confidential and cannot be made public.

"Agreement of the economic corridor with China is sensitive and it cannot be disclosed," Iqbal said in the Senate session.

However, the minister handed over a sealed copy of the CPEC agreement to Chairman Senate Raza Rabbani and asked the members to examine the agreement in the chamber of the chairman if they wished to do so.

Earlier Chairman Senate Rabbani, on the request of members of the Senate on Wednesday, directed the federal government to present the agreement of CPEC before the Senate, as some senators were of the view that the government is providing advantages of CPEC agreement only to Punjab.

Ahsan Iqbal said the CPEC agreement will be a game changer in the region and entire world is focusing on it.

"At the present, it will be inappropriate to make the document public."

He added that there are several agreements with China under the umbrella of CPEC and work is under process on these agreements.

CPEC strategic game-changer

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif, in his address commemorating the 89th Anniversary of the Founding of People's Liberation Army, termed the

CPEC as “strategic game-changer for entire region”.

“Let me emphasise that CPEC is a strategic game-changer not just for Pakistan but for the entire region. It is destined to bring significant improvement in the lives of millions of people, besides further promoting mutual interdependence among regional states,” General Raheel said.

The army chief said “affinity of views between China and Pakistan” reflected their common vision and shared destiny. “This convergence of our interests and commonality of purpose make us the most important strategic players in the region,” he added.

General Raheel maintained that the CPEC was Pakistan’s “national undertaking” and assured its full security. “I assure you that we will not leave any stone unturned to ensure its timely completion and uninterrupted success,” he asserted.

CPEC: background

The CPEC is a 3,000-kilometer network of roads, railways and pipelines to transport oil and gas from Gwadar Port to Kashgar city, northwestern China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, China Daily reports.

Proposed by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during his visit to Pakistan in May 2013, the CPEC will act as a bridge for the new Maritime Silk Route that envisages linking three billion people in Asia, Africa and Europe.

An official agreement on the corridor was signed between the two countries in May this year during President Xi Jinping's historic visit to Pakistan.

A flagship project of the Belt and Road initiative as well, the CPEC intends to revive the ancient Silk Road with a focus on infrastructure, and constitutes the strategic framework of bilateral cooperation.

The project links China's strategy to develop its western region with Pakistan's focus on boosting its economy, including the infrastructure construction of Gwadar Port, together with some energy cooperation and investment programs.

It also involves road and railway construction including an upgrade of the 1,300-km Karakoram Highway, the highest paved international road in the world which connects China and Pakistan across the Karakoram mountains.

The CPEC will reduce China's routes of oil and gas imports from Africa and the Middle East by thousands of kilometers, making Gwadar a potentially vital link in China's supply chain.

All Day

GOVT DIRECTED TO BRIEF SENATE ON CPEC AGREEMENTS DETAILS -- BR

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Mian Raza Rabbani Wednesday directed the government to brief the Senate about the details of agreements regarding China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The Chairman Senate gave the ruling after a marathon debate on an adjournment motion of Dr Jehanzeb Jamaldin about the salient points of agreement between Pakistan and China.

He said Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal should brief the Senate either on Thursday or Friday about it.

Earlier, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Sheikh Aftab said CPEC was a national project and no step would be taken against the interest of any province.

Winding up debate on the motion, he said the project had not been launched for the development of a single province but its benefits would be reaped by the entire nation.

He said those who, in past, were criticizing the PML-N vision to launch the Metro Bus project or construct Islamabad-Lahore Motorway were now appreciative of those projects, which had greatly facilitated the people.

He said economic zones under the CPEC project would be built in consultation with the provincial chief ministers which would bring an era of economic development in those areas.

He said the total cost of the project was 46 billion dollars and out of which 34 billion dollars was meant for the energy projects which were taking place not in a single province but in the whole country.

This amount was not a loan rather Chinese financial institutions would assist their country's companies which could enter into joint ventures with local Pakistani companies, he added.

He said work on coal, wind and solar projects had been initiated under the CPEC and two power projects of 1320 MW would be completed by 2017. Similarly, 660MW projects in Thar and 1320 WM coal projects in Sahiwal would be completed by 2017, he added.

These projects, he said, showed that smaller provinces were not being neglected and reflected the government's sincerity to bring prosperity in all the provinces under the CPEC.

He said the hydel power project to be set up in Sakki, Mensehra would produce 870 MW. Land was being acquired for the project, he added.

He said 720MW and 1100 MW projects would be launched in Kiroth, Azad Kashmir and Kohala respectively.

He said a 400MW solar power project had been completed in Bahawalpur which was at present producing 100MW and would attain full capacity by 2017. He said in Thatta Jampur a 200MW project would be completed.

He said a route would lead from Khunjrab to Burhan, passing through five districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said E-35 would be completed from Burhan-Havelian which would reduce distance of Hazara to other areas of the KP province.

He said as part of the Western Route, earlier a road was to be built from Burhan but now work would start from Hakala to Dera Ismail Khan.

He said out of five portions of the motorway, contract of three had already been awarded and road from Dera Ismail Khan would lead onward to Zhob and then to Gwadar.

The project would be completed in two years.

He said railway track from Peshawar to Karachi would be dualized which would help further reduce distance.

He said currently there were three berths at Gwadar, while 80 more berths would be built.

He said the new Gwadar airport would be built at an estimated cost of Rs 22 billion, besides building two dams for water storage.

He said power plants having capacity of 300MW would also be set up at Gwadar while an LNG terminal would also be established. He said a state-of-the-art hospital would be constructed in Gwadar to provide best healthcare facilities to the people.

Regarding tax free zones, he said the government wanted to fetch foreign investment through announcing incentives.

All Day

Gwadar port ops with new firm to start by Dec -- Nations

ISLAMABAD - Gwadar deep sea port is set for commencement of operations with new Chinese port operator China Overseas Ports Holding Company in December this year, sources said yesterday.

Pakistan has granted 40-year concession to the Chinese company which is currently working implementing expansion and development plan creating cargo handling capacity upto 300 million tons a year.

The previous concession holder M/s Port of Singapore Authority International had set up a Multipurpose Terminal at the port that could handle a total of 6.329 million tons of urea and wheat since December 2008.

According to the sources in Gwadar Development Authority (GPA), the existing Multipurpose Terminal has not even been utilized to its full capacity.

On the other hand, the new operator M/s China Overseas Ports Holding Company has commenced container service on short scale loaded with sea food from Gwadar Port.

The sources said that work various projects including provision of electric power and fresh water, hinterland connectivity as well as Free Zone of the port is going on in day and night.

Although the port is ready to receive ships, its optimum operations would start once hinterland connectivity is completed, businesses are started in Gwadar, Port Free Zone and required infrastructures are in place.

The port at present is operational with 602 metres quay length Multipurpose Terminal accommodating three ships at a time each of 50,000 tons deadweight capacity, one RORO facility and one service berth of 100 metre length for marine crafts for maintenance and refuelling. East revetment of approximately 1000 metres is ready in all respect for extension of present quay.

The total length of quay wall along the east revetment will be 4.7 km accommodating 22 ships of 200 meters each in the next phase of port expansion.

More quays will be developed along the western and north western shore a total length of 17 km accommodating 51 ships of 300 meters length.

The phase of development will have special focus on construction of Container Terminals in order to capitalize on the container trade.

The Gwadar port, the sources said, will also cater for the needs of transshipment as it will largely serve the landlocked Afghanistan and central Asia, Pakistan and China.

All Day

Pak-China ties: University of Peshawar to set up dedicated China Study Centre Pakistan -- Daily Pakistan

PESHAWAR – A China based Study Centre has been inaugurated at University of Peshawar and was visited by Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong on Thursday.

The ambassador met UoP Vice Chancellor Rasul Jan and presented a check to him at the Chinese Language, Culture and Research Centre.

The study center will encourage and promote research and study on Chinese history and culture. The center will also seek to bolster existing Pak-China friendship.

The centre will start offering Chinese language courses and degree courses for research on China from September.

“Following China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the study centre will offer enormous help to industrialists by providing them the necessary skills in their subject of interest,” Jan said in his welcome address to the Chinese delegation.

He added UoP had academic linkages with three universities in China and would like to introduce exchange programs with more varsities.

“The establishment of a study centre at a time when both countries are celebrating 65 years of their diplomatic relations is a milestone achievement,” Chinese ambassador Weidong said.

All Day

50 Pakistani teachers left for Beijing to learn Chinese language -- The News

A group of 50 Pakistani teachers left for Beijing to acquaint themselves with Chinese language and culture on the invitation of the Chinese government.

It was the second batch of teachers visiting the China within a period one month. The visit aimed at developing communication linkages at the people-to-people level and to provide linguistic support to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The group includes school, college and university teachers from various parts of the country.

It was jointly sponsored by the Chinese Embassy and China Culture Centre in Islamabad and Beijing Language and Culture University. At the saw-off ceremony held at the embassy, Chinese ambassador's wife Madam Bao Jiqing hoped that the visiting teachers would be a source of inspirations for continuation of their deep-rooted friendly relations from generation to generation.

Higher Education Commission (HEC) Chairman Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed and Executive Director of National Vocational and Technical Training Commission Zulfiqar Cheema were also present on the occasion who thanked Madam Bao for her initiative and encouragement in arranging such visits to strengthen bonds of friendship.

Madam Bao briefed the teachers' delegation about the program and purpose of the visit, hoping they will act as ambassador of Pakistan to generate further goodwill among the people of two countries. Language is the bridge between the people, stating that she herself has been a language teacher at Foreign Affairs University for over ten years, teaching English.

She noted that there has been more and more demand of Pakistani students for learning Chinese language with the progress of CPEC. The demand for the Chinese language teachers also goes up, and the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan has been promoting Chinese language teachers' training and encouraging not only short-term training but also degree study in China.

Madam Bao spoke about the growing Sino-Pak friendship, stating they are dear friends, trusted partners, good neighbours and iron brothers, weathering all the storms together and sharing all the weal and woe. China and Pakistan, she said achieve fruitfully all-round co-operations in the fields of economy, trade, culture and people to people exchanges.

The CPEC, she said is a big development in the bilateral relations, that will open numerous opportunities for socio-economic development, including news jobs and business linkages.

Madam Bao Jiqing said a good number of Pakistani students were being sent to China every year, hoping on their return home they will contribute to CPEC.

A representative of teachers and students Itrat Haider expressed heartfelt thanks to Madam Bao for her sincere desire to work in collaboration with Pakistan to promote quality education in the both countries by introducing Chinese language at a vast level.

All Day

PROJECTS WORTH US\$10BN UNDER CPEC ALREADY HIT GROUND -- The News

ISLAMABAD: Out of US\$46 billion under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, projects worth more than US\$ 10 billion had already hit the ground, while remaining schemes were in advanced stages of the pipeline.

The remaining projects amounting to US\$ 36 billion would soon be launched, according to a senior official in the ministry of planning, development and reforms here on Tuesday.

Chinese President, Xi Jinping during his visit to Pakistan in April last year, signed several memorandum of understandings and so far a huge amount of US\$ 10 billion had been invested in Pakistan, he added.

He said, a CPEC summit would be held on August 29 in the Federal Capital to further enhance business to business cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

He said, the Chinese companies were also working on two mega projects including Thakot-Havailian section of Karakoram Highway (KKH) and Sukkur-Multan section of Lahore-Karachi motorway at a cost of US\$ 3 billion.

Gwadar would be connected with Quetta in December this year while D.I. Khan to Burhan section of the road would be completed in June 2018.

Energy, road infrastructure, railway and Gwadar airport projects were being completed under CPEC framework.

The construction work on various projects of various sections of Western route were being completed as per timeline to operationalize it at the earliest.

Work on Port Qasim Power Plant, Thar Power Plant, HUBCO coal Project, Sahiwal Power Plant and other hydro power projects was on track and these would be completed as per the schedule.

The fast track work on these projects would help tackle energy crisis and power needs of industrial zones in future under CPEC.

According to a senior official of the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad, as many as five new projects, in addition to 30 infrastructure and energy projects being completed by the Chinese companies in Pakistan, would be launched under CPEC initiative this year.

"Eight coal, solar, wind and hydro-power energy projects are already under construction to meet the energy requirement of Pakistan," added.

He said, prior to signing of CPEC between China and Pakistan in 2013, China was at number 16 in terms of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Pakistan, adding, now China is largest investor in Pakistan after initiating multi-billion dollars project under the CPEC framework.

He said, this project would not only change the life of people of Pakistan in days to come but also prove beneficial for the whole region.

All Day

CPEC is a gift to me from China, Nawaz told lawmakers -- Daily Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Web Desk) – Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has told lawmakers that the \$46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project is a gift from China to him.

Chairing the meeting of his party members, the primer vowed that CPEC is a gift to him, implying that there would have been no CPEC without the incumbent PML-N government.

PM Nawaz also shared the achievements of his current stint and assured his party officials that the government would bag even more success in the coming days. He asserted that party officials should not fear for upcoming elections as PML-N would achieve much to launch the election campaign.

Reportedly, the Prime minister took aim at his political foes mainly PTI chief Imran khan for his politics of agitation. Nawaz Sharif blamed him for spoiling the visit of Chinese President in 2014 due to sit in.

During the meeting, some of his party members showed resentment over the lack of availability of ministers and slow pace of development projects in their constituencies.

An interesting incident also happened during the meeting when an MNA, Asad Ur Rehman (Brother of former Supreme Court Judge Khalil Ur Rehman Ramday), tried to take the mic but was refused. He expressed that the premier should hold these type of interactions more often.

Later, talking to a local television, Asad Ur Rehman quipped:

"I just said if you {PM} keep meeting us, you will not get sick, which annoyed him"

All Day

PARTNERSHIP IN SCIENCE, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT CRITICAL FOR CPEC SUCCESS -- BR

Thursday, 04 August 2016 00:29 Posted by Fawad Maqsood E-mail Print PDF Views: 52

imageISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal said that scientific collaboration and sharing of Knowledge, research and ideas between Pakistan and China is critical for success of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and further boost the historic bilateral cordial relations.

The Minister proposed that we need to undertake joint projects for studying mountains and coastal areas of Pakistan, said in statement issued by Ministry of Planing, Development and Reforms here on Wednesday.

He expressed these views during a meeting with Chinese delegation of Academy of Sciences to have partnership in research on natural hazards like landslides, floods, debris flows and earthquake between Pakistan and China under CPEC.

While mentioning agreement between Pakistan and China in space technology, he said that bilateral cooperation between the two countries in space domain would open new vistas of socio- economic and scientific cooperation.

The Minister directed Pakistan Academy of Sciences and Higher Education Commission to co-operate with the Chinese Science Academy and organize joint workshops on scientific research under CPEC.

Ahsan Iqbal said. "CPEC will take this friendship higher than Himalayas to higher than stars."

He said that Cooperation between China and Pakistan is not an ordinary one but we also have iron brothers relations.

He said that we need to develop a very comprehensive roadmap of cooperation in science and technology sectors between Pakistan and China.

The Minister said that cooperation between Pakistan and China is materializing in the form of solid projects which will add new colors in our friendship.

He said that regional and economic integration is very significant for the success of the CPEC projects.

He said that the success of CPEC depends on business to business and people to people contacts of both the countries.

CPEC project is the fusion of Pakistan Vision 2025 and China One belt One Road Vision which will benefit 3 billion people of the region, he added.

The Minister said that CPEC offers a broad partnership in different areas between the two countries.

There is a need to learn from the development of China, and "We should adopt its model of development how it successfully blended stability, development and reforms," he said.

All Day

Marketing CPEC: Summit, expo planned to woo investors -- Express Tribune

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform is organising a one-day summit and expo to mark the signing of \$46-billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) programme.

The event will be held on August 29 at the Pak-China Friendship Centre, Islamabad. It is expected to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and will be attended by a large number of local and foreign dignitaries as well as investors, say officials responsible for organising the event.

ADB to invest in CPEC, Gwadar city projects

Its objective is to motivate and attract more and more investors to pour capital into Pakistan and help boost the national economy. It will also provide a platform for exchanging ideas and open new avenues for increasing business, trade and tourism.

The CPEC is a collection of energy and infrastructure projects that are intended to strengthen and deepen economic links between Pakistan and China. Of the total \$46-billion investment, \$35 billion has been allocated for energy projects and \$11 billion for infrastructure schemes.

So far, none of the energy projects have been completed and are at various stages of implementation. However, five projects of NHA has been completed so far.

Gwadar port to be operational by 2017: Chinese official

The projects have been split into two categories – priority and actively promoted. The schemes that come under the priority category are planned to be completed by 2018 and those under the title of actively promoted will be completed by 2025.

“The Ministry of Planning has asked relevant ministries, institutions, academia and private businesses to showcase their achievements before the visitors and guests at the upcoming expo,” an official said.

Talking to The Express Tribune, National Highway Authority (NHA) spokesman Kashif Zaman said being a major stakeholder in the CPEC, the NHA would actively take part in the summit and expo.

ADB to invest in CPEC, Gwadar city projects

He said some of the major CPEC projects, which were under construction, would be completed in the next two to three years. These included 393km Sukkur-Multan motorway (M5) costing Rs281 billion, 59km Hasanabdal-Havelian motorway costing Rs34 billion, 120km Havelian-Thakot motorway costing Rs133 billion, 281km Hakla-DI Khan motorway (western corridor) costing Rs122 billion, 62km Gojra-Shorkot motorway (M4) worth Rs21 billion and 62km Lahore-Abdul Hakim (Multan) motorway worth Rs148 billion.

Zaman said the Rs163 billion (\$1.7 billion) Hyderabad-Sukkur (M-6) section of the Karachi-Lahore motorway still needed an investor. “Hopefully, this expo and summit will help to find the interested investor,” he said.

All Day

Ahsan says Pak, China committed to make CPEC reality -- BR

ISLAMABAD: Terming the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a reality, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal said on Wednesday said that both Pakistan and China were committed to materialise the dream of an economic corridor at any cost which was beneficial for both the countries, as well as the entire region and the world.

While talking to the media after delivering a key-note address at the Pakistan-Afghanistan CARs Trade Summit (PACTS) he said, "The ghastly incidents like Quetta blast cannot reverse or delay this important initiative taken by Pak-China leadership. The enemies would be defeated."

He said that the development work was in progress at a fast pace. He added that there would be no role back or delay in its implementation. He also pointed out that the rapid pace of work on the projects under CPEC had been acknowledged by the Chinese experts as the pace of development was faster than the projects in China.

Responding to a question about the involvement of India's RAW in the Quetta blast, he said, "The investigation into the incident is under progress and those involved in this heinous crime will be brought to justice."

He also said that there was a need to be more vigilant and alert after this incident, adding, "We have to create unity among our ranks to frustrate such conspiracies." He said, "We should not be discouraged after Quetta incident as our enemies may make more such attempts but these incidents strengthen our resolve to get rid of the menace of terrorism."

He said, "We are in the state of war and we have to foster internal unity to completely defeat terrorism." He said that Pakistan would emerge as the fastest growing economy after defeating the militants.

The minister said that CPEC had drawn the attention of the world community towards Pakistan. He added that this project would not only connect Pakistan and China but also would provide connectivity between China and Central Asia and beyond this region.

He said that Asia would be the hub of the future economic growth as China, Central Asia and South Asia were considered engines of economic growth. About the importance of Gwadar Port, he said, it was important for landlocked countries of Central Asia which were interest to set up cold storages and processing zones for their products in this city.

He said, "Our future generations would reap the fruit of better economic growth and foreign direct investment in the country." He added that Pakistan was rising and no one would be allowed to create hindrance in the way of development and progress.

All Day

CPEC gateway to prosperity: Shahbaz -- The News

LAHORE: Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, while terming the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a gateway to prosperity for the country, has said any opposition to the mega project was in fact opposition to Pakistan.

He was speaking at the Jang Media Group's event titled "Breakfast with Jang" and "Pakistan China Economic Opportunities" here on Tuesday. The event started with Fateha for the Quetta martyrs and prayers for the early recovery of those injured in the incident.

Shahbaz condemned terrorism and said the entire nation was united to eliminate this menace forever, adding that prosperity was not possible without fighting terrorism. He linked economic and religious divides to growing extremism and said: "We need to bridge these divides."

On various occasions, the chief minister became emotional and said the CPEC

continuity was important whether one party or the other was in power. "Pakistan is now on the road to recovery," Shahbaz said while lamenting the indifferent attitude of successive governments vis-à-vis issues of vital national interests, especially the energy crisis. The energy deficit would now largely be met by the next year or by 2018, he said, adding that the fast work on energy projects in Punjab under the CPEC was also being acknowledged by the Chinese leadership. "Punjab's speed is Pakistan's speed," he said and added: "The credit goes to entire Pakistan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and not to me." He said the military hierarchy was also providing full support in this context.

He said: "We should work with dedication for the CPEC success as such opportunities are not there always. This project will in fact empower and prosper the common man." he said and added: "The external elements will try to sabotage this project." He said the \$46 billion CPEC project was not the Chinese investment but the spirit of generosity for the people of Pakistan. "For God's sake, don't disrupt the CPEC. God forbid, if we fail to complete this mega project, the coming generations will curse us. We need to cash this wonderful opportunity," he said.

Lauding the Chinese leadership, Shahbaz said many world powers were interested in the development of Gwadar and questioned why no one except China came forward. About transparency in CPEC projects in Punjab, he said: "If anybody proves corruption of a single penny, I will go home." He said the government-to-government projects were always exempted from the tendering process in Pakistan but the Orange Line Metro Train Project under the CPEC was the only project in the 65 years history of the country for which tendering took place. "Also we were able to save a whopping Rs 80 billion after negotiation with the lowest bidder."

This negotiation could have been avoided as the lowest bidder had already got the project as per the law but "still we did our best to save as much as we could", he said, adding that the Sahiwal Coal Power Plant would be completed in a record time and would start adding 1320 megawatts of electricity to the national grid by the next year.

He said the same project in India was completed in four years while China completed it in 24 months. "We will, Insha'Allah, complete our project in 23 months." He said apart from the CPEC, the government was working on 3,600 megawatts power projects. "I have asked the prime minister to start other power projects too," he said, adding that it's good not to put all eggs in one basket.

A candid question-answer session was also held in the end in which the general public registered for the event raised various questions. To a question by a foreign journalist, Shahbaz said the CPEC was a federal project and all departments were playing their role in it. Explaining as to how the public money was wasted in the country, he said the Neelum-Jhelum project was started under Gen Musharraf's regime in 2005, but it was still incomplete. He also explained as to how a Sindh minister kept the file of the Nandipur Power Project for years and the project hit a snag for petty personal interests. He regretted no one staged sit-in over these issues but he (Shahbaz Sharif) was criticized when he sat at the Minar-e-Pakistan ground in protest against energy crisis.

He said Punjab's share in CPEC energy projects was the lowest as compared to other provinces while Sindh's was highest, but he was happy that the mega project was for the good of the entire country. "After all every megawatt produced will go to the national grid."

To a question on the role of IT in governance, the chief minister lauded the services of Dr Umar Saif, chairman of Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), and said he would float the idea of Digital Pakistan to the prime minister.

Acknowledging the presence of some foreigners at the event, he remained bilingual, swiftly shifting between Urdu and English. Earlier, the event host - Sikandar Lodhi - and Jang Group's Sarmad Ali thanked the chief minister for sparing time to speak on an important subject. In the end, the chief minister awarded shields to the event organisers.

August 10, 2016 Continued

Wed

All Day

CPEC TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BALOCH YOUTH -- BR

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Jam Kamal Khan has said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would create employment opportunities and help alleviate poverty in remote areas of Balochistan province.

This project would not only promote trade and commerce from Gwadar to Kashgar but also ensure basic infrastructure including roads, electricity and energy projects in the province, he said in a statement.

The Minister said, the infrastructure development being carried out under CPEC project would greatly benefit people of Balochistan and create development opportunities there.

He said, the US \$46 billion CPEC project has great importance for the province, the government has devised comprehensive strategy in all the sectors to provide its benefit at the grass root level.

Jam Kamal said, Balochistan province is full of the mineral resources and after the 18th amendment, the mineral sector has come under the administrative control of provincial government.

He said, there is a need to utilize mineral resources for the benefit of the province and its people.

He opined that CPEC and industrial development in Gwadar would also benefit the local people.

The Minister called upon the local youth to get professional training and skills as there are tremendous job opportunities for the skilled youth of the province.

August 13, 2016

Sat

All Day

Gwadar to have university -- BR

Sir: Government has taken an appreciable step to construct a university at Gwadar city. The establishment of a university is a great opportunity for the residents of the city and its adjoining areas. It is a great opportunity for the students of Gwadar to get a proper education in their city since earlier they were compelled to go for higher education to cities like Lahore, Islamabad, or Karachi. However, the decision of the provincial government provides them ample opportunities to carry out their study within the city.

Similarly, a reading culture would develop among its residents too. According to a print media report, the construction of the university is being fast-tracked, and it will be able to start the first batch in the coming fall.

We request the government to complete the construction as soon as possible.

All Day

**CPEC to open new roads to progress in Balochistan: Ahsan Iqbal --
Dunya News**

Federal Minister for Planning and Development Chaudhry Ahsan Iqbal has on Tuesday said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will open new roads to progress in Balochistan, reported Dunya News.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of academic block in Balochistan University, Ahsan Iqbal told the students that the CPEC will help make up for the injustices that Balochistan has always been subject to. He added that the construction of the western route of CPEC and Balochistan-Peshawar train service will change the lives of Baloch people.

Ahsan Iqbal added that the injustices with Balochistan were national crimes and that this project will open new roads to progress for the province.

However, Balochistan students expressed their concerns, saying that the claims of progress in Balochistan are pointless because the real development demanded practical steps.

Despite the concerns, the economic experts believe that CPEC project would not only help Balochistan but would prove a game-changer for the entire province.

All Day

Pak to host 3rd CPEC/Silk Road Forum next year -- Pak Observer

Islamabad—The Silk Road/CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) Forum will have its 3rd international conference in Islamabad in August 2017. According to Parliamentary Committee on CPEC, Pakistan had a representation of over 50 people delegation in Silk Road Forum held in Karamay, Chinese sister city of Gwadar.

The MoUs worth over 10 billion dollars were signed in Karamay amongst institutions and companies of Pakistan, China, Iran and Kazakhstan.

The second Silk Road Forum was organized by the international think tank, Research and Development International (RDI), in cooperation with the central government of China and the provincial government of Xinjiang, unanimously decided to hold the 3rd forum in Pakistan because CPEC is the pilot and flagship project of the One Belt, One Road initiative of President Xi Jinping.

This time, the forum at Karamay also had representatives from Iran and Kazakhstan who expressed strong interest in participating in CPEC.

Unanimous decision by these countries was a vote of confidence in Pakistan and its future role as the flagship and the pilot project of the One Belt, One Road through the CPEC, which will drive economic development in Pakistan and the region and unite the federation of Pakistan by bringing prosperity and progress to less developed regions of Pakistan particularly Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan.

CPEC/Silk Forum, to be held in Islamabad in 2017 to consult all the stakeholders including the federal government, provincial governments, private sector as well as all relevant stakeholders for holding what will probably be the biggest and the most important conference on CPEC and Silk Road to be held in Pakistan.

All Day

Chinese team reviews Gwadar progress -- Express Tribune

ISLAMABAD: A 10-member Chinese delegation headed by a senior government official visited Gwadar and reviewed progress on various ongoing projects. The delegation visited the Gwadar Port, Gwadar Expressway, Free Zone, Pak-China Friendship Primary School, Faqeer colony and some other projects related to the development of the city.

Gwadar Port Authority Chairman Dostain Khan Jamaldini and Balochistan's Additional Chief Secretary for Planning and Development Muhammad Dawood Baraich briefed the Chinese delegation about the pace of work on the projects.

China irked by delay in Gwadar project

The delegation was informed that the completion of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the functioning of Gwadar port would bring about a positive economic impact not only on Pakistan but the entire region.

The implementation of mega projects including construction of Expressway and Gwadar International Airport would be initiated with Pak-China cooperation this year. The delegation was told that Pak-China cooperation would bring about economic revolution in the region including Pakistan.

ADB to invest in CPEC, Gwadar city projects

Speaking to the delegation at the occasion, Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) Director General said that the authority was implementing several development projects in Gwadar out of which a number of projects including GDA Hospital, GD School had been completed.

The delegation was also briefed about the Gwadar master plan.

All Day

Pak Railways poised to get massive funding from CPEC and CAREC -- Pakistan Today

After decades of neglect, a silver lining is on the horizon for Pakistan Railways as it may be able to attract multi-billion dollar investment for the upgradation as well as deployment of new railway infrastructure across the country under two regional economic unions, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), to link Central Asia and China with Pakistani ports of Karachi and Gwadar.

An official source said that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has started the process to assess the financial needs for upgradation of 461 km main line (ML-1) between Lahore and Peshawar, under its CAREC Railway Connectivity Investment Programme. The financing is likely to start flowing from next year.

The Ministry of Railways has already shared plans, under early harvest projects by 2020, to upgrade Karachi-Peshawar main line (ML-1) and extension of ML-2 from Jacobabad to Gwadar via Basima to both CAREC and CPEC. If financing was available, the projects would be completed in relatively short time as the Pakistan Railways has technical expertise to execute the projects, he added.

ADB will be providing multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) to make the railway system more efficient and competitive. Improved railway corridor of Lahore-Peshawar will improve Pakistan Railways' institutional efficiency. Financial assistance will also be provided for Railways' modernization, IT-based accounting system and transforming and migrating accounting data into the new accounting system.

Under the plan, 411 km railway track between Lahore-Peshawar section of ML-1 will be upgraded and dualised together with new signaling and telecommunications system, including power supply for these systems, and upgraded passenger facilities at Lahore, Rawalpindi, and Peshawar stations. A 53-km section in the hilly area from Kaluwal to Pindora will have to be realigned and dualised. Except for

realignment sections in the hilly tract, it is likely that all the work for rehabilitation and upgradation of the physical infrastructure will be limited to the PR-owned right of way.

Except for Pakistan, railways in all CAREC countries have more freight carriers than passenger tariff. CAREC railways have increased freight traffic volumes which shows the large potential for PR to freight forward to and from CAREC countries. Domestic market is large in Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and China.

In the past, the railways infrastructure plans always received a cold shoulder from the government, but now the situation has changed as multilateral institutions are interested in linking Pakistani ports with China and Central Asia. Now the government wants to attract investment in railways infrastructure and China is asked to finance upgradation of strategically located ML-1 which connects major population centers in three provinces.

Under CPEC, Pakistan has shared Phase-I (Early Harvest Projects) upgradation of ML-1 (Karachi-Peshawar and Taxila to Havelian) and construction of New Dryport at Havelian (Buldher). In medium term, Phase-II upgradation of ML-2 and extension of ML-2 (Gwadar to Jacobabad via Basima) is proposed. The long term Phase-III seeks establishment of Havelian-Khunjab-Kashghar rail link.

The source said Pakistan has shared plans to link the Gwadar port Kandahar, Kabul and Dushanbe. The second plan is to link Gwadar with Quetta and onwards to China. He said Pakistan Railways has prepared plans on rail link between Gwadar port and Mastung, Chaman to Kandahar rail link and rail lines between Kandahar and the Tajik border are also planned.

All Day

PAK-CHINA CHAMBER URGES MEDIA TO HIGHLIGHT CPEC IMPORTANCE -- APP

LAHORE: The media and academics should play a positive and active role in highlighting the significance of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for Pakistan and to reject misleading propaganda against it.

Shah Faisal Afridi, president, Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI), said this in a statement here on Friday.

He said that CPEC could be a fate-changer. "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a centre of attention for the people, but unfortunately the enemies do not want to see it successful," he added.

Afridi said Pakistan is handling the security challenges not only at home but also playing its role for regional stability.

Faisal Afridi said that the authorities concerned have raised a special security division for CPEC. Its security would always remain a top priority of the country, he added. He pointed out that Pakistan has given a strong message to the enemy that the country is determined to implement each and every project under the umbrella of CPEC and would tackle all challenges in this regard.

Afridi was confident that personnel of the security division were vigilant enough to thwart designs of the enemies.

He said that under CPEC, Pakistan and China had proposed 29 industrial parks and 21 mineral zones across the country, which would enable Pakistan to increase its production.

All Day

CPEC to add 10,000MW electricity to national grid by 2018: Ahsan -- Pak Observer

Islamabad—Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal has said China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would add 10,000-megawatt electricity in national grid till 2018.

The CPEC is a national mega project and would further strengthen the economy. A national consensus was evolved on the corridor as it would bring economic revolution and provide equal benefits to all the provinces, he said talking to state-run TV channel.

He said a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of CPEC was signed in 2013, but was delayed due to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) sit-in in the country. It was properly launched in April 2015.

Ahsan Iqbal said the paper work was converted into reality as China was investing \$46 billion through CPEC out of which \$35 billion would be spent in energy sector through private investor and the Pakistan government would purchase low cost electricity from private investor to meet the growing demand.

Some 1,320MW electricity would be produce through Karachi port, he added.

He said, "We are focusing to update Gwadar, overcome energy crisis and building the infrastructure to improve connectivity between Pakistan and China."

The minister said the roads from Gwadar to Khuzdar via Ratodero would be constructed in accordance to National Highway Plan (NHP). One industrial zone would be established in each province to acquire equal benefits from the zones.

He said free trade zones would be set up in Gwadar on 2,000 acre and Gwadar International Airport would be constructed in upcoming two years.

Multan-Sukkur highway was also part of CPEC that would be completed in 2018, he added.

Ahsan Iqbal said there was immense improvement in economy, law & order and energy issues. The country was moving in a right path of development.

He said there was massive investment in the country through CPEC. The world acknowledged that Pakistan was a emerging economy of the country. The security of CPEC was handed over to Pakistan army and civil government was monitoring the corridor under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

Replying to a question, he said Pakistan was enjoying state-to-state relations with China, who always played a pivotal role to strengthen Pakistan's economy.

He said Pakistan wanted good cordial relations with all countries.—APP

All Day

PROJECTS WORTH US\$18BN UNDER CPEC BEING COMPLETED: AHSAN IQBAL -- BR

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms,Ahsan Iqbal said on Monday that out of US\$ 46 billion projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), projects worth US\$ 18 billion had already hit the ground while US\$ 17 billion were in the pipeline.

Talking to press attaches to be posted abroad, he said, the CPEC framework had been turned from a piece of paper into an investment of US\$ 46 billion.

He said, the CPEC initiative would not only benefit China and Pakistan but it would be beneficial for the entire region.

Ahsan Iqbal said, the CPEC was not mere a road network but it was a complete framework, adding, it was the fusion of the vision of Pak-China leadership.

He said, those initiating propaganda campaign against this vital project would miserably failed.

He said, there was a need to further improve positive image of Pakistan among the world's nations.

All Day

CPEC projects worth \$17b in pipeline: Ahsan -- The Nations

Islamabad - Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal said on Monday that out of total \$46 billion worth CPEC projects, projects worth \$18 billion had already hit the ground while \$17 billion were in the pipeline.

Talking to the Press Officers appointed in different countries here at his ministry, the minister emphasised promotion of country's positive image.

He added that brand Pakistan was all about portraying positive image of the country to the world. "We need to highlight the strengths of our country," he asserted. He told the officers that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was not just a road network, but a framework for co-operation, which consisted of industrial zones.

"It is not a bilateral project but a regional project, which will benefit 3 billion people of the region," Ahsan said, and added, "CPEC is a fusion of Pakistan Vision 2025 and China One Belt One Road Vision, and it is not a security project but an economic one."

About changes in the western route, he said that misconceptions were based on misunderstanding as there was no route agreement between Pakistan and China prior to 2013. He further added that Gwadar-Quetta route would be completed by December 2016 while Gwadar -Khuzdar -Ratodero road would also be completed on a stipulated time.

The minister said that parts of the LahoreKarachi Motorway, namely from Havelian to Thakot and Multan to Sukkur, were being completed at a fast pace.

"The road from Burhan to DI Khan would be completed by June 2018," he informed. He further said that there would be one industrial zone in every province in order to ensure equal distribution of benefits among all provinces.

Ahsan said that different energy projects, under the CPEC, would help overcome energy crisis by 2018 as \$35 billion would be spent on energy sector through private investment.

He also informed that Gwadar Airport and Eastbay Expressway, also in Gwadar, were in advanced stages and their groundbreaking would be within couple of months.

The minister said that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed on CPEC in 2013 had been converted into \$46 billion investment within one year.

"This is a record in PML-N's history of translating MOUs into reality," he concluded.

All Day

Punjab-China accord for kidney, liver transplant -- Nations

LAHORE - A memorandum of understanding was signed between Punjab government and Liver Transplant Center Beijing Friendship Hospital China at Model Town yesterday.

Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was the chief guest while Chinese Consul General Yu Borne and the head of Liver Transplant Center Beijing Friendship Hospital China and his team also attended the function.

Under the agreement, the Chinese institution will extend cooperation in the project of Pakistan Kidney and Liver Transplant Institute Lahore and treatment of liver diseases.

The Chinese institution will also share its experiences and skills with Punjab government as well as cooperate in training of doctors, nurses, technicians, transplant coordinators and other staff in the treatment of liver diseases.

Specialized Health and Medical Education Secretary Najam Ahmed Shah and head of Liver Transplant Center Beijing Friendship Hospital China Prof. Zhu Zhi Jun signed the documents.

Speaking on the occasion, the CM welcomed the agreement and said that its implementation will help transfer of expertise and technology of the Chinese medical institution to Punjab.

He said China is a close friend of Pakistan and helped it in every hour of need. He said that the visit of the head of Chinese institution and specialists in the treatment of liver diseases for the accord is proof of the friendship.

Shehbaz said that Punjab government is setting a unique project of Pakistan Kidney and Liver Transplant Institute in the provincial metropolis where modern treatment facilities will be available to kidney and liver patients.

He said that cooperation of Chinese institution in the implementation of this public welfare project of great importance will be welcomed. The Chief Minister said that during his visit to China, he had gone to Liver Transplant Center Beijing Friendship Hospital China and talked about cooperation.

He said that the arrival of the Chinese team soon after his visit and signing of the agreement is a milestone in Pak-China friendship. He said that Chinese institution has expertise in the treatment of liver diseases and Punjab government will benefit from it in the implementation of Pakistan Kidney AND Liver Transplant Institute in Lahore.

He also welcomed doctors and team of experts of Liver Transplant Center Beijing Friendship Hospital China in Lahore. The Chinese medical experts will also visit Sheikh Zayed Hospital and supervise liver transplant process. Shehbaz said the government has signed agreement for a great project of public importance and it is hoped that opponents will not go to the court like the other projects. He also congratulated Punjab government, Advisor on Health, Chief Secretary and his team over the agreements with Chinese institution.

Prof Zhu Zhi Jun said that all-out cooperation will be extended for setting up of liver hospital and treatment of patients suffering from liver diseases with the experiences and technical skills will also be shared with Punjab government.

He said that China and Pakistan are Iron Brothers and the friendship between the two countries is unprecedented. Chinese Consul General Yu Boren said that due to successful visit of Chief Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to China, a memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Liver Transplant Center Beijing Friendship Hospital China and Punjab government.

He said that under the leadership of Shehbaz Sharif, work is being carried out

expeditiously on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects. He said that China and Pakistan are not only great friends but also great partners and there is relationship of deep love and respect between the people of two countries.

All Day

Pakistan supports China's stance: Aziz -- Aaj TV

This was stated by Adviser to Prime Minister Sartaj Aziz at a joint sitting of Senate Standing Committees on Defence and Foreign Affairs, presided over by Senators Nuzhat Sadiq and Mushahid Hussain Sayed here on Thursday.

Sartaj Aziz also said that border management with Afghanistan is necessary to stop illegal border crossings. "Pakistan supports China's stance on the South China Sea dispute," he said.

He said the US is supporting Pakistan in border management with Afghanistan, adding border management is in favour of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

"We're ensuring facilities for border crossings with valid travel documents, so that no one can cross the border without valid travel documents," he added.

He said there are several groups of Taliban in Afghanistan, of which some want talks while some of them are not ready to come to the negotiation table.

Secretary Foreign Affairs Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry said Pakistan fully supports reconciliation process in Afghanistan towards peace in the region.

He said peaceful negotiations with Taliban and the Haqqani network are the only solution in Afghanistan, adding thousands of people cross Pak-Afghan border at Torkham and Chaman border points daily.

He said Pakistan established the gate along Afghan border on its land to check illegal crossings. He said that work on four major crossing points is under way, for which Pakistan has also talked to the Afghan government.

"Pakistan believes that there is a need for a more unified and coherent messaging from Afghanistan in favour of peace and they [Afghanistan] should seriously give a message to Taliban for talks," Chaudhary said.

The Foreign Secretary Aizaz Chaudhary said Afghanistan should give a unified and coherent message for peace and reconciliation with Taliban as military offensive is no solution to the problem.

The officials of the Defence Ministry informed the meeting that Pakistan will build all the crossing points as the World Bank has agreed to provide funds for its construction.

They officials said that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has directed for strengthening Pakistan's relations with Russia.

The government is also trying to improve our strategic relations with North and South Koreas. Secretary Defence told the meeting that we have 2600 kilometers-long porous border with Afghanistan and maximum work on Torkham Border management has been completed.

The meeting discussed the situation arising out of the drone strike against Mullah Mansour and the impact on the Pak-US security relations. -Business Recorder

All Day

Pakistan, China enjoy excellent ties: PM -- Nations

Islamabad, August 29 (Online): Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the most important economic initiative for South Asia in the 21st century that will benefit the entire region.

Addressing the inaugural session of CPEC Summit at 'Pak-China Friendship Centre' today, the prime minister said that by working together we can bring peace and stability in the region through economic development for our people.

"Our region has witnessed a lot of conflict and deprivation in the past. Time has come to turn a new leaf in the history of the region by bringing peace and prosperity, and addressing the challenges of poverty, unemployment and under-development", he added.

Nawaz said that CPEC is a new concept and approach in development based on shared goals and aspirations.

He said CPEC is not merely a strategic agreement between the two countries but a culmination of decade's long brotherhood, friendship and cooperation.

Nawaz said this is the latest in the history of cooperation in all areas of bilateral and global importance. He said Pakistan and China have been together through thick and thin. He referred to the remarks of the Chinese President that Islamabad stood by Beijing at a time when it was isolated on the world stage and said that Pakistan can never forget the friendly gestures of China in developing a cooperative relationship during difficult periods.

The Prime Minister said that with the initial investment of 46 billion dollars, CPEC will become a unique model of economic development as well as a pioneering method of international economic cooperation. He said that 46 billion dollars is the economic value but the overall contribution and impact of CPEC would be much deeper and far-reaching.

He said CPEC will not only create a strong overland link between Pakistan and China but also give us the opportunity to strengthen Pakistan's own inland transportation and logistics infrastructure. More than ten billion dollars will be spent on railway projects as well as rail infrastructure in Pakistan.

Similarly, CPEC will be addressing Pakistan's energy crisis as projects worth 35 billion dollars are envisaged in Pakistan in the energy sector.

He said the CPEC project will prove to be a game changer not only for Pakistan but the entire region.

Nawaz also said that Pakistan and China will jointly send a satellite in 2018.

The Prime Minister said that Pakistan will generate 10,400MW of energy through early harvesting of projects, most of which are to be completed by 2018 and others by 2020.

He appreciated the services of Chinese Ambassador, Sun Weidong for further cementing bilateral relations between the two countries in diverse fields.

All Day

Pakistan eyeing to be gateway to Oman and China: Sartaj Aziz -- Daily Times

MUSCAT: Pakistan is eyeing to be the gateway to Oman and China as China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) gains momentum, said Sartaj Aziz, advisor to Prime Minister of Pakistan on Foreign Affairs in Muscat.

Aziz who is on a two-day bilateral visit to Oman, was addressing the Pakistani community in Oman at Pakistan School Muscat.

"The strategic location of Gwadar port city on the coast of Balochistan, will help Oman explore opportunities in western China. Oman's close proximity to Gwadar will benefit the country as CPEC progresses. Oman is building new refineries and even if ten per cent oil is exported it would benefit Oman. It would also help Oman identify various economic opportunities," said Sartaj Aziz.

"We share cordial relationship with Oman and would like to strengthen it further by intensifying cooperation in social, political, trade, manpower, defence and security issues. Our current trade volume with Oman stands at US\$400mn and we hope to increase it by securing more long-term collaborations in various sectors" Sartaj Aziz said.

This is the first high-profile bilateral visit from Pakistan to Oman in ten years.

Aziz said that the country has suffered from terrorism in the past which left its economy crippled. But the situation has improved. "Terror attacks have gone down by almost 70 per cent. We have been successful in breaking major terrorism networks and have turned the corner. A lot of work is being done to combat terrorism. Our growth rate fell to three per cent in the previous years as a consequence of terrorism in the country. This year the numbers have climbed to 4.7 per cent and we hope to take it till about 5 per cent in the next year. The faith in the economy is restored."

Aziz will be meeting a number of Omani officials and will also attend the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Pakistan embassy at the Diplomatic Enclave Muscat. The budget for the embassy, US\$5mn, has been approved by the Pakistani government. The embassy is expected to be completed within two years.

Aziz said there are close to 250,000 Pakistanis in Oman and they remit US\$820mn.

However, the per capita remittance from Oman is higher as the majority of Pakistani expatriates here are professionals. However, there are 2mn Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia and their annual remittance amounts to US\$4bn, which is the highest by Pakistani expatriates in any country.

All Day

Pak-China in talks to have LNG terminal at Gwadar -- Pak Observer

Islamabad—The experts from China and Pakistan are currently in hectic talks for installing the LNG terminal at Gwadar for 600 MMCFD (million cubic feet gas per day) which will be built on government to government basis with the hope that the project will be completed at the cost of \$250-300 million.

The crucial talks with Chinese officials erecting LNG terminal for the last three days are underway with the hope that the cost of terminal would be finalized at \$250 million.

The same company that is to lay down the 700 kilometer LNG pipeline from Gwadar to Nawabshah will also construct the LNG terminal. The LNG pipeline will be constructed at the cost of \$1.353 billion.

Now the Price Negotiating Committee is engaged with Chinese experts on the cost of LNG terminal. The Pakistan side wants the cost of LNG terminal should be at \$250 million.

If it is finalised at the cost desired by Pakistan, then the whole cost of LNG pipeline and LNG terminal will stand at \$1.6 billion.

China Pipeline Petroleum Bureau (CPPB)—subsidiary of China National Petroleum Company (CNPC) will set up the LNG terminal.

China Pipeline Petroleum Bureau is the same company that is to lay down the 700 kilometre Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline.

The project will be materialised with the loan at 2 per cent interest for 20 years long period to be arranged from China EXIM bank by the China Pipeline Petroleum Bureau.

To a question, the official said that the cost of \$1.6 billion of both (pipeline and LNG terminal) has been worked out without taxes and duties.

The official said that the ministry of petroleum and natural resources is trying from pillar to post to get the project included in CPEC projects list as the ministry wants the project be included in the property list of CPEC. Planning commission to this effect has taken up the issue with Chinese officials.

“In case, the project is not included in CPEC project, even then the ministry will ask the government to extend the exemption of taxes and duties and provision of special security to LNG pipeline and LNG terminal project as is being provided to all CPEC project,” the official added saying: “If the exemption of taxes and duties are granted, then the project’s cost of whole project would stay at \$1.6 billion.”

All Day

Pak-China optic fiber cable project to be completed by June 2018 -- APP

ISLAMABAD – The 820-kilometer long Pak-China optic fiber cable project from Rawalpindi to Khunjab would be completed at a cost of US\$ 44 million by June 2018.

After completion of this important project of Information Technology (IT) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would convert trade corridor into digital corridor.

The project was being completed in collaboration between China’s Huawei and Special Communication Organization (SCO), Senior Project Manager, SCO, Muhammad Adil said.

He informed that this project would be beneficial for strategic link between both Pakistan and China.

This project would not only generate revenue but it would also the safest route of voice traffic between the two countries, he added.

Muhammad Adil said, the Pak-China fiber optic fiber cable would provide an alternate source for the world trade.

He hoped that awareness about trade, tourism and Information Technology (IT) would create economic opportunities in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB).

The foundation stone of the Pak-China optic fiber cable project was laid in May this year.

Around 18.2 kilometers portion of the optic fiber cable would pass through federal capital, 466 kilometers from Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), 280 kilometers from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), and 47 kilometers from Punjab.

The optical fiber cable would reach Rawalpindi from Khunjrab via Karimabad, Gilgit, Chilas, Babusar Top, Naran, Mansehra and Jery Kas.

A project to expand the fiber cable up to Gawadar was in the final phase of approval which would provide an international linkage along the entire route of CPEC.

All Day

MoU signed to set up Pak businesses in China -- The Nations

Lahore - A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) and Zhimakaimen Economic and Trading Industrial Zone Management Company Limited, China at the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority's (SMEDA) Head Office here on Wednesday.

APBF President Ibrahim Qureshi praised SMEDA for providing the platform to link the Chinese and Pakistani private sectors.

He also appreciated the offer from the Chinese side and said that APBF, a representative body of diverse businesses, including manufacturing, services and trades, would benefit from this collaboration.

He further said that Pakistani businessmen were keen to develop their businesses in China, but faced numerous challenges, which, he said, could be addressed through the support of SMEDA.

The meeting held in this regard was jointly chaired by Dr Naeem Rauf, GM-Central Support and Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry, GM-Outreach of SMEDA.

Whereas, Huang, Director Planning of the Chinese Company and Sheharyar Tahir, Head External Relations Department of SMEDA, gave briefings on their respective organisations.

In the wake of opportunities emerging from the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), SMEDA, as a facilitator for the small and medium enterprises, has been playing an active role in identifying potential investment opportunities and developing linkages between the Chinese and Pakistan business sectors.

Huang, Director Planning, gave a detailed presentation on the Chinese group and shared that the Chinese group had been engaged in building large business hubs in major cities of China, and planned to build shopping complexes for the countries that are along the traditional Silk Road.

In light of the agreement signed, the company shall provide opportunities to Pakistani businesses and brands to open their shops and businesses in Jiaxing city, near Shanghai.

The Chinese side informed that there was a huge demand for Pakistani products in China and special packages would be offered to the Pakistani businesses, including free value-added services, to facilitate them in China.

Sheharyar Tahir, Head External Relations Directorate, elaborated on the role of SMEDA in bringing both sides together and assured the participants of SMEDA's continued support for developing business-to-business linkages in the SME sector.

He hoped that the MoU signed between the two organisations would play an important role in bringing the business communities of both the countries closer and providing opportunities for enhancing trade.

National Board members from APBF and SMEDA General Managers M Alamgir Chaudhry, Dr Naeem Rauf and Nadia Jahangir Seth were also present on the occasion.

All Day

**Speedy work on CPEC under way in Punjab, says Chinese diplomat --
The News**

Speedy work on CPEC under way in Punjab, says Chinese diplomat
LAHORE: Chinese Consul General Yu Boren said on Friday Shahbaz Sharif was equally popular in the Chinese leadership and people as he was among the Pakistani masses. He said Shahbaz Sharif was a man of action and his vision for the uplift of the education sector was commendable. He said work was being carried out speedily on the CPEC projects in Punjab.

He was addressing a function held in connection with Chief Minister's Chinese Language Scholarship Programme. He said that 300 megawatts solar power project at the Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, Bahawalpur, had been completed expeditiously. Similarly, he said, 65 percent civil work of 1,320 megawatts coal power project in Sahiwal had been completed and this project would be completed in the middle of 2017. He said work was also in progress expeditiously on the Lahore Orange Line Metro Train project and it was hoped that it would also be finished within the stipulated period. He said the names of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif would always be remembered for taking the Pak-China friendship to new heights.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif said that under the Punjab government's vision of investing in future of the country, 50 male and female students were going abroad for PhD in the best universities as well as 130 students were leaving for China for learning the Chinese and they had been selected purely on merit and on account of eligibility.

He said these talented sons and daughters of the nation had got scholarships on the basis of their hard work and without any favouritism, collusion or bribe. He said these students on their return to Pakistan would play an active role in progress and prosperity of the country.

The chief minister congratulated the students going abroad for PhD and learning the Chinese language besides those who got outstanding marks in the 9th class examination. He gave laptops to students going to China for learning the Chinese and those going to leading universities of the world for PhD as well as to students getting more than 500 marks in the Class 9th examination. He said the first batch of 66 boys and girls was already learning the Chinese language in Beijing and the new batch of 130 students would soon leave for China for this purpose.

Similarly, he said, 33 students had been selected for PhDs in leading universities of the world, including Cambridge, Oxford, Imperial University, National University of Singapore and others. He said the expenditure being incurred by the Punjab government on these students was a useful investment for bright future of the nation. He said students who would return to Pakistan after learning the Chinese would serve as a bridge between Pakistan and China as students of other provinces of the country had also been included in this programme. He said in this way, the link between Beijing and Lahore, Quetta, Peshawar and Karachi would strengthen and the process of national progress and prosperity will accelerate. He said these students would promote CPEC, which would stay forever and more investment of billions of dollars would be made in this project.

He said that CPEC was also a part of 'One belt, one road' programme of Chinese President Xi Jinping and while there was a huge support for his splendid vision, opposition to it had also intensified. He said there was lobbying against this project in a neighbouring country and for this reason a seaport was being built in front of Pakistan's seaport. He said there was a collusion between India and some other countries against CPEC as they felt threatened by this project and the prime minister of India had spoken against Balochistan. He said he was sure that Pakistan would move ahead of India due to strengthening of its economy as a result of CPEC.

The chief minister thanked Chinese Consul General Yu Boren for extending full cooperation in issuance of visas to students and stressed upon the students to

utilise all their energies and abilities in learning the Chinese. He asked them to closely observe the progress made by China.

He said these students were ambassadors of Pakistan and they would have to prove this fact through their conduct and behaviour. He said work is in progress expeditiously on 1,320 megawatts coal power project in Sahiwal and this project will be completed by the middle of 2017.

Provincial Minister Begum Zakia Shahnawaz, while addressing the function, said that opportunities of higher education had been made available to poor but talented students through the Punjab Educational Endowment Fund.

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Education Dr Rauf Azam said Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif had given instructions to send 500 students to China for learning the Chinese language. He said these students had been selected purely on merit and transparency.

All Day

Gwadar girls' college -- Nations

Education plays a great role in the progression of a country.

I appreciate the commissioner of Gwadar, Tofail Baloch, for his support for the females of Gwadar.

The government girls' college in Gwadar which remained closed for a long time, has finally reopened.

This has also helped the females living in adjoining areas who commute to Gwadar.

The situation can be further improved by establishing more educational institutions.

Hopefully the government will work towards this.

All Day

Pakistan, China to jointly establish TVET institutes -- APP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan in collaboration with China will establish state-of-the-art technical and vocational institutes at strategic nodes along with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) route.

Talking to APP, National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) Executive Director Zulfikar Ahmad Cheema said that China will boost cooperation with Pakistan in the technical and vocational sector and establish TVET institutes in Gilgit, Mansehra, DI Khan, Abbottabad, Quetta and Gwadar.

The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission as an advisory body to the federal government on TVET has taken vital initiatives to introduce reforms in the current technical and vocational system of Pakistan, he said.

Cheema said that the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission has initiated some new steps, including establishment of Job Placement Center and introducing competency-based training across the country.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor would open new vistas of prosperity and development and offers enormous employment opportunities for the people of Pakistan, he said.

The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission executive director said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a living reflection of a strong Pak-China bond and it will serve geostrategic interests of the two countries.

Both the countries should enhance their collaboration to reboot the TVET system in Pakistan, he urged.

Skilled youth is the most powerful tool for poverty alleviation and can play an important role in the socioeconomic development of the country, he said.

China has extended its full cooperation in starting a teacher's training programme, establishment of a research center at Islamabad and upgrading the existing labs equipment and institutes of Pakistan, he said.

September 16, 2016

Fri

All Day

CPEC Body members to visit Gwadar by month end -- Pak Observer

Islamabad—Members of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Planning and Development will visit Gwadar in the last week of this month to physically inspect the progress in implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. During the visit the Committee will review the progress of work on various projects being executed under the CPEC as well as the Public Sector Development Programme.

It will also receive a briefing from the federal and provincial authorities on the establishment of a university in Gwadar.

Gwadar is at the centre of the forty-six billion dollars CPEC project and more than one billion dollars worth of projects are to be developed around its port by the end of next year.

All Day

‘One window facilitation desk’: Gwadar airport facility for Ops --

Express Tribune

ISLAMABAD: The Gwadar Airport will have a ‘One Window Facilitation Desk’ by October this year to provide all necessary information to Overseas Pakistanis (OPs) before their departure to different countries, ensuring their safe travel. “The facilitation desk is being established on the directives of the Federal Ombudsman,” said Grievance Commissioner for Overseas Pakistanis to Federal Ombudsman, Hafiz Ahsan Ahmad Khokhar. He said the facilitation desks for OPs at eight airports had received overall 32,476 complaints since being operational, including 947 formal complaints, which were instantly resolved through a mechanism devised by the Federal Ombudsman. He said most complaints filed by the Ops were related to lost luggage and issues related to Passport and National Identity Card for Overseas Pakistanis.

All Day

Sindh trains, posts 168 ex-servicemen to guard CPEC projects -- Dawn
KARACHI: Around 168 ex-army personnel out of the planned 2,000 for the 'special protection unit' of the Sindh police have been trained and posted at various locations while nearly 500 more have been selected by the authorities concerned, it was learnt on Saturday.

Officials in the Sindh home ministry said they had recruited the first batch of the planned 2,000 ex-army personnel for the special protection unit (SPU) who had been trained and posted somewhere.

"Some 168 ex-army personnel have been trained and are on duty," said a senior official in the home ministry but he did not provide details.

He said around 487 more had been selected and their medical examination was under way. "Soon, they will be sent for training," he added.

The SPU was set up by the Apex Committee of Sindh on the directives of the federal interior ministry to provide 'seamless security' to the Chinese who are coming to Sindh for projects related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan said some 2,000 ex-army personnel would be there to strengthen the capacity of the Sindh police and assist in safeguarding the CPEC-related projects.

However, leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party, including Qamar Zaman Kaira, criticised the interior minister for violating the Constitution by interfering in the law and order issue in Sindh, which is a provincial subject.

Officials said this was not the first time that Sindh police were hiring ex-servicemen as some 1,200 retired soldiers had been recruited two years ago to cope with the security challenges and targeted operations in Karachi.

"Any criticism against the recruitment of retired soldiers for the SPU is uncalled-for as the Sindh police did it previously as well," said an official in Islamabad.

The 1,200 retired soldiers of the armed forces were recruited in line with the decision of the provincial cabinet mainly for security duties in Karachi.

Officials in the Sindh police then had said that the induction of ex-servicemen in its ranks had helped the police as the growing security challenges required a much larger force than the existing one.

They said that the benefit of hiring retired military men was that they were already prepared to join the force with immediate effect and "just need to learn the basics before being inducted".

The Sindh government said it was ready to take all measures needed to establish an effective SPU for the Chinese investors and their projects.

"The remaining vacancies [in the SPU] will be advertised soon," said an official in the home ministry.

Chairing a meeting mulling over the security plans for CPEC projects in Sindh, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said CPEC would open new vistas of prosperity and development in Sindh like elsewhere in the country.

Officials said the Sindh government had already issued standard operation procedures (SOPs) for the security of the Chinese in the province.

They added that the federal government had also raised a special security division (SSD) consisting of nine infantry combat battalions of Pakistan Army with a force of 9,000 personnel and six wings of civil armed force of 4,502 personnel for the

security of CPEC projects and Chinese expatriates.

The provincial government is yet to give its input in the terms of reference for the SSD, under which there would be a dedicated headquarters for each CPEC project.

Officials claim that CM Shah had already directed the Sindh police chief to ensure proper security of CPEC projects and expedite the appointment of 2,000 special force personnel for the security of the Chinese.

All Day

Gwadar Port to handle 300-400m-ton load of goods annually: Chinese report -- Pak Observer

Islamabad—The Gwadar Port after coming into stream will start handle the 300-400 million tons of load of goods to be traded annually playing as a catalyst in stimulating the economy of country which is slowly growing 2-3.5 per cent for many years, reveals a Chinese report.

The port is currently handling half a million tons of load that will surge up to one million next year.

According to eminent economist of the country Dr Ashfaq Hasan Khan, Principal and Dean of School of Economics, NUST, Islamabad while mentioning the salient features of Chinese report here in a National Conference on CPEC: Marco and Mirco Economic Dividends held here on Tuesday told that the Gwadar port will alone on its completion start handling the 300-400 million tones of load of goods whereas all the ports of India have the current combined capacity of handling 500 million tones of goods a year.

The CEPEC project with Gwadar port will handle the big economies of \$4-5 trillion of western part of China, Pakistan's \$300 billion economy along with a bunch of economies of CAS (Central Asian States) and under this scenario CPEC corridor will be termed as international economic corridor meaning by that Pakistan will be part of the international economic activities. And in case Iran which has manifested its interest to become part of CPEC even in the presence of its own Chabahar Port, then this project will become a part of not only economic integration of regional but international economies.

Khan said that Gwadar port along with roads network will not only change the face of Balochistan in particular, but will also bring new wave of development across the country in general.

He said that there is no doubt that CPEC project carries paramount importance and it is really beneficial and may change the face of the country provided Pakistan successfully copes with the capacity constraints and ensures the transparency in agreements of all the projects under CPEC umbrella.

According to one estimate, CPEC is expected to enhance the economic growth at least by two percentage point by 2020 and an additional 1.5 percentage point by 2030. Higher economic growth will create additional jobs in the range of 1.5-2 million per annum that will increase per capita income and tax revenue.

Dr Salman Shah, former finance minister of Pakistan and Chairman of Pakistan Centre for Economic Cooperation said the economic integration of China and Pakistan is the key to make CPEC a game changer highlighting the grey areas which if get corrected will make it a success story.

Dr Shah said that that it is an economic imperative for China and Pakistan to increase and fortify their economic integration as the basis of increasing their regional economic power and to face the competition presented by other regional blocs. "Our goal should be to transform Pakistan's pivotal geography and its strategic relationship with China into a sustainable process of economic integration between the two countries and leading ultimately to a huge trading bloc encompassing Africa, Middle East, West Asia, Central Asia, Pakistan, China and Russia."

Shah said that Zhu Rangji, former prime minister of china and great strategic mind of china laid the foundation stone of Gwadar along with the then President of Pakistan General (retired) Pervez Musharraf. "His view was that every super power has access to the sea on all sides of its borders like the USA has an east coast and west coast. For China Pakistan is west coast. "This means Pakistan economically can be to China what California is to the USA," Dr Shah argues.

All Day

CPEC to help overcome energy crisis by 2018: minister -- Dawn

KHUZDAR: The federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Ahsan Iqbal, said on Thursday that development in Balochistan was the top priority of the government and it had launched several development projects in the last three years in the province.

Addressing a ceremony at the Balochistan University of Engineering and Technology, he announced a project worth Rs 800 million for building a hostel and laboratory on the university campus.

The government had allocated record funds for universities in Balochistan and was establishing new universities in less-developed areas of the province to expand the higher education network. The establishment of universities in Turbat, Zhob and Gwadar would provide opportunities to the local population, he added.

"The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a national project and politics on this will be an injustice to the people of Pakistan," the minister said, adding that the government was committed to completing the projects that fell under the framework of CPEC.

He said that CPEC would benefit the less privileged areas of Pakistan. It would connect Pakistan with the world and open avenues for cooperation for the people, communities and states across the region. No one will be allowed to sabotage this project, he added.

The energy projects under CPEC would help overcome energy crisis by 2018 as \$35 billion would be spent in the sector. Out of the \$35bn, \$11bn would be spent in Sindh while \$9bn would be allocated to Balochistan, said Mr Iqbal, adding that the Gwadar-Quetta road would be completed by December this year and the Gwadar - Khuzdar-Ratodero road would be completed in the stipulated time.

Mr Iqbal, who was on a three-day visit to Balochistan, chaired a meeting in Ziarat to review work on projects that formed a part of the prime minister's fund for the development of Ziarat. A master plan would be formulated for an integrated development of infrastructure, he said.

All Day

Quality educational institution being built in Gwadar: CM -- Nations
Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has said the Punjab government is working on the project of Khadim-e-Punjab Bahria Model School and College in Gwadar which will play an important role in providing quality education to children of Balochistan.

He said a high standard educational institution was being constructed in Gwadar for the children of this area.

He was addressing a meeting through a video link, here Tuesday, which reviewed the project of Khadim-e-Punjab Bahria Model School and College, Gwadar. The chief minister said the Punjab government had included children of all provinces as well as Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir in its educational programmes and this step had promoted national solidarity, brotherhood and unity. He said high quality work would be ensured on the project of Khadim-e-Punjab Bahria Model School and College, Gwadar.

Provincial Minister for School Education Rana Mashhood Ahmad, Naval Commander Balochistan Coast Gwadar Commodore Akbar Naqi, Secretary School Education, Secretary Planning & Development and the authorities concerned participated in the meeting through a video link.

All Day

CPEC to change destiny of people: Chinese envoy -- The News

During the past 30 years, China has achieved rapid economic growth and sustained livelihood improvement. China has been the world's second largest economy since 2010 and created a miracle of development by "China speed".

Ambassador of China Sun Weidong expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of 67th Anniversary of founding of People's Republic of China. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Speaker National Assembly was the chief guest.

The ambassador further said, "We pursue peaceful development. We maintain that all countries, big or small, are all equal. We advocate the opening-up strategy of mutual benefits and win-win cooperation. We develop friendship and cooperation with all countries based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence. We have made our contribution to the world peace and development."

He added, China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties 65 years ago, China and Pakistan have always maintained mutual understanding, mutual trust and mutual support.

No matter how the international and regional situations have changed, our friendship remains unbreakable and even gets stronger than before. It has become a model of relations between countries.

Recently, when learning that some provinces of Southern China suffered from severe flood, the Pakistani government promptly provided emergency assistance of 10,000 tons of rice to China. It once again reflected the love and care of Pakistani people to the Chinese people in times of difficulty. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude to our Pakistani brothers!

He said since the successful state visit of President Xi Jinping to Pakistan last year, the all-round cooperation between China and Pakistan has maintained strong momentum with substantive advancement.

As the major and pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has made significant progress. Up to now, among the 30 early harvest projects, 16 have been completed or are under construction, with investment of more than 13 billion US dollars.

These projects have created tens of thousands of job opportunities for the local people, and brought great vitality to the development of Pakistan.

From its very beginning, CPEC is a project designed to promote people's livelihood. The ultimate goal of CPEC is to achieve economic growth and improve people's livelihood, no matter whether they are projects of Gwadar Port, transportation infrastructure, energy and industrial cooperation, or they are educational and medical programmes. That is why CPEC has won extensive support from people of all walks of life in Pakistan, he added.

The ambassador said, like all the other projects under the Belt and Road Initiative, CPEC is an open and inclusive cooperation concept. It is neither exclusive nor against any third party. It is by no means a zero-sum game. It will make the people of this region benefit from connectivity, industrial cooperation and cultural exchanges. It will play an active role in promoting the development and prosperity of the region.

The Chinese people always advocate high morality and honour commitments. We emphasise hard work and believe that actions out-speak words. What is now under construction are just early harvest projects of CPEC.

I am convinced that in the near future, CPEC will attract more investment, bring more business opportunities and promote more exchanges just like a huge magnet. We will witness the changes and benefit from the dividends brought by CPEC.

On this occasion, I want to thank the Government of Pakistan for promoting the construction of CPEC. I want to thank the Pakistani military and law enforcement agencies for creating a safe environment for the Chinese people and institutions in Pakistan. I also want to thank the political parties, think-tanks, media and all the friends for your valuable support to the China-Pakistan friendship and cooperation.

“Today, I invited some representatives of both Chinese and Pakistani technicians and engineers. They are working on the construction sites of CPEC projects. They are: engineers working on KKH Phase II in Havelian from China Road and Bridge Corporation, engineers based in Multan of the M4 Highway (Multan – Sukkur section) from China State Construction Engineering Corporation, technicians of Sahiwal Coal-fired Power Plant from Huaneng Shandong Ruyi Energy Corporation, engineers of Port Qasim Coal-fired Power Plant from Power China Resources, engineers of Gwadar Port from China Overseas Ports Holding Company.” Let’s join hands towards our common dreams and make unremitting efforts to achieve the goal of the Community of China-Pakistan Shared Destiny at an early date, he concluded.

All Day

ECNEC approves \$2b Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG terminal -- Express Tribune

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) – the country's highest project approval authority – sanctioned the mega scheme along with five other projects. In total, the ECNEC approved six projects costing Rs281 billion. Some of the projects cost were revised upward, indicating flaws in planning and execution.

Work on Gwadar Airport to start this year

The pipeline project

The ECNEC approval for pipeline project was necessary to negotiate the terms of \$1.4 billion loan that Islamabad is keen to get from Chinese Export-Import (Exim) Bank. The terms of the loans carries implication for the cost of the project, which is currently estimated at \$2 billion or Rs203.3 billion, according to officials of the Ministry of Planning and Development.

Pakistan has hoped that the Chinese Exim Bank will provide 85% of the financing under government-to-government mode. The Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract will be given to a Chinese company.

In phase-I, the pipeline will follow the coastal pipeline corridor, which was formally established for the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline. In phase-II, a 90-kilometre patch will be constructed from Gwadar to Pakistan-Iran border to tie the national network with Iranian system, according to the project documents.

The financial analysis of the project shows that the project will be viable, if it operates at its full designed capacity of 1,500 mmcf/d. The project is expected to be completed in two years (2016-2018), according to a handout of the Finance Ministry. It said the key objective of this project is to overcome the shortage of natural gas supply by importing LNG at Gwadar. The Economic Affairs Division has agreed to discuss the financing arrangements for this project with EXIM Bank China, said the Finance Ministry.

Iran, Saudi Arabia eager to join CPEC

Electric locomotives

The ECNEC also jacked up the cost of procurement of 58 Diesel Electric Locomotives to Rs16.3 billion. The procurement will be completed by December 2016. The proposed locos will replace 50 over-aged locomotives and will be used to haul freight and passenger services along with High Capacity Wagons fitted with air brakes and roller bearing. With the completion of the project the capacity of Pakistan Railways will improve many times, the meeting was informed.

The ECNEC approved phase three of the 100 small dams in Balochistan project at a cost of Rs7.8 billion. The project will complete in three years' time and help in managing flood flows.

The highest project approval authority also cleared Southern Punjab Poverty Alleviation Project at a revised cost of Rs4.7 billion including Rs4.1 billion foreign loan. The project will help improve the standard of life in four less developed districts of Punjab -Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Muzaffargarh and Rajanpur.

The International fund for Agriculture Development has helped in the financing of the project through a soft loan of \$40.13 million. The project will help reducing poverty in the areas of southern Punjab with assistance in income generation, increasing agricultural productivity, improved livelihood opportunities, providing vocational training specially to women and building physical infrastructure to improve the quality of life. The project is expected to be completed next year.

Other projects

The ECNEC also approved the Golen Gol Hydropower project, having 106MW generation capacity, at a revised cost of Rs29.1 billion. The project is being constructed in the district of Chitral, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. The government is borrowing Rs10.7 billion from foreign lenders to finance the project.

ECNEC says yes to Neelum-Jhelum, CPEC road projects

The project will be connected with the national grid with a 198 km transmission line which include 132kv transmission line from Golan Gol to Timurgarha passing over Lowari pass (145km) and 132 kv single circuit line from Taimurgarh to Chakdara (53 km).

The ECNEC also allowed the Peshawar Electric Supply Company to construct 7th Secondary Transmission Line and Grid Stations at a cost of Rs20 billion. The project will be completed in five years.

All Day

China extends concession of \$50m in cost of Gwadar LNG terminal -- Pak Observer, G-8 Markaz, G-8, Islamabad, ICT, Islamabad, Pakistan

Islamabad—In a positive development, China has extended concession of \$40-50 million in the cost of LNG terminal to be constructed at Gwadar Port. The terminal, once completed, will have the capacity to re-gasify the 600 mmcf.

Earlier, Chinese company had offered to construct the Gwadar terminal at \$300 million and in latest development it has agreed to extend the concession of 40-50 million dollars meaning by that it would now build the terminal at the cost of \$250 million, one of top officials of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources told Pakistan Observer.

China Pipeline Petroleum Bureau (CPPB) will, the official said, construct the said terminal. However, Pakistan is stilling seeking more concession in the cost to be incurred on the construction of Gwadar LNG, but Chinese side is no more willing to further provide the solace to Pakistan to this effect arguing it has already provided the concession of \$40-50 million.

China Pipeline Petroleum Bureau (CPPB) is the same company which is also to lay the 700-kilometre LNG pipeline from Gwadar to Nawabshah. The LNG pipeline will be constructed at the cost of \$1.353 billion. Now the Price Negotiating Committee is engaged with Chinese experts on the cost of LNG terminal.

If it is finalised at a cost desired by Pakistan, then the whole cost of LNG pipeline and LNG terminal will stand at \$1.6 billion. China Pipeline Petroleum Bureau (CPPB)—subsidiary of China National Petroleum Company (CNPC) will set up both the LNG terminal and construct the 700-kilometre Gwadar- Nawabshah pipeline. The project will be materialised with the loan at 2 per cent interest for 20 years long period to be arranged from China EXIM bank by the China Pipeline Petroleum Bureau. To a question, the official said that the cost of \$1.6 billion of both (pipeline and LNG terminal) has been worked out without taxes and duties. The Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline will be built on EPC-F (engineering procurement construction) with financing mode. The executive committee of national economic council (ECNEC) has ultimately approved the said pipeline with 85 per cent financing from China and 15 per cent financing to be arranged by the government of Pakistan.

All Day

Chinese furniture industry keen to further enhance collaboration with Pak counterparts -- Pakistan Today

The leader of the visiting Chinese furniture manufacturers' delegation Zuo Boyang on Wednesday said they want to further enhance collaboration with Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) to promote furniture business and pave way for improved trade ties between the business communities of the either countries.

A high-level Chinese furniture delegation on a 2-day visit to Pakistan today visited PFC head office to exchange their expertise and experiences in regard to enhancing ties in the furniture sector. Zuo took a keen interest in various made in Pakistan furniture products and thoroughly discussed the ways and means for boosting the furniture trade especially office furniture and strengthening the existing business relations among the corporate sectors of two countries on modern lines.

Zuo Boyang, leading Chinese furniture producer, on this occasion, said Pakistan's furniture with calligraphic engraving had great demand in international markets, which seems to be the dominant one in Pakistan, therefore Pakistani craftsmen should focus on working in this particular area to earn the much-needed foreign exchange. He said Pakistan has excellent craftsmen and designers, who could virtually give life to a piece of wood. Pakistan also has the potential to capture its share of the international market because local industry in Pakistan has the finest wood available in the country.

Rita Cho, another Chinese leading furniture producer, said both the countries not only share a border but also have unanimity of views on various political and economic issues. The two countries have a combined market of more than 1.5 billion people but the trade volume needs to be pushed up. "The Chinese importers may have better prospects for Pakistani goods, particularly of furniture. "The involvement of Chinese enterprises, both in terms of technical and financial

assistance in several development projects is reflective of our cordial relations based on mutual trust and sincerity and Chinese furniture sector is willing to enhance its trading ties with Pakistan and there are many areas which can be explored with mutual enterprises in furniture sector in Pakistan.

Earlier members of the delegation were briefed by Deputy General Manager PFC Faisal Mohsin about the bright scope of the future industry in Pakistan. He said furniture sector is being promoted under the dynamic leadership of PFC Chief Executive Mian Kashif Ashfaq. He said most of the country has great scope for Pakistani Furniture, because they like Pakistani Traditional Hand-Carved furniture designs with classic finishing and similar designs can be replicated in China market, therefore efforts must be made to promote furniture exports by more regular participation in international shows.

“All this can happen if there is government’s will and a vision amongst furniture traders. Joint ventures with China through trade commissions for providing machines on a lease can bring product quality at par with highest international standards. But for this to happen, the furniture industry in Pakistan must vigorously transform from cottage or small scale industry to innovative industry through training, upgrading supplies and imports,” he added.

He said despite the massive influx of inexpensive Chinese furniture in the markets, Pakistani handmade furniture is still admired among masses for its customary designs, durability and quality .He pointed that furniture exports from Pakistan were hovering between \$8.0 million to \$12 million per annum, which did not reflect even a fraction of the actual potential of the furniture industry.

All Day

Pakistan Seeks \$1.7 Billion Bids for Southern Highway Plan -- Bloomberg

Pakistan is seeking foreign investment of \$1.7 billion to build a new highway in the southern province of Sindh to supplement a Chinese-funded infrastructure network being laid across the country.

The National Highway Authority will ask for bids next week for the 296-kilometers (184 miles) highway between the cities of Hyderabad and Sukkar, the agency's Chairman Shahid Ashraf Tarar said in an interview in the capital, Islamabad.

"Other than the Chinese, this time we expect that Turkish, Malaysians and South Koreans will come and bid," Tarar said.

Pakistan's economic growth has accelerated to almost 5 percent in the past three years after averting a balance-of-payments crisis in 2013 by submitting to an International Monetary Fund loan program worth \$6.6 billion, which ended last month. Along with an easing of inflation and as domestic security threats have abated, China announced last year it would invest in projects worth about \$46 billion in Pakistan as part of a so-called economic corridor.

To read about China's ambitions in Pakistan, [click here](#).

Infrastructure Landscape

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is pegging his 2018 re-election campaign on bridging chronic energy and infrastructure gaps as his administration targets a 7 percent economic growth rate within two years. The construction of a six-lane highway on the eastern route of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is expected to start in the first quarter of next year.

"There is big gap between the potential and the actual road network," said Mohammed Sohail, chief executive officer of Topline Securities Pakistan Ltd. in Karachi. "Investors will look into this opportunity" as the economy continues to expand, he said.

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The highway authority has so far started over \$9.5 billion worth of projects in the past three years and is hoping to attract another \$5 billion investment in the next five, more than half of which will be pegged to upgrade the China corridor routes, Tarar said. The length of the main highway will be tripled to 1,800 kilometers by linking all road arteries with industrial zones on the route, he said.

The 3,000-kilometer-long corridor stretches from Xinjiang in western China to Pakistan's Gwadar on the Arabian Sea. Of China's planned investment, \$11 billion is allocated for infrastructure projects and big chunk of it will be spent in Balochistan province, home to the deep-sea port in Gwadar.

"The landscape of infrastructure is going to be transformed in the next three years," said Tarar. "Imagine you travel from Karachi to Peshawar on the motorway, the time and energy it'll save with security ensured. Unless you have good infrastructure the economy will drag."

All Day

Work on M9 Karachi-Hyderabad Motorway in full swing: FWO DG -- BR
KARACHI: Director General Frontier Works Organization (FWO) Muhammad Afzal has said that development work of M9 Karachi-Hyderabad Motorway is in full swing.

He added that there is no disturbance for vehicular traffic. Talking to Daily Times, Afzal said all energies and resources are being used to accelerate the work as the FWO's objective is 'Striving for Excellence'.

He said according to the agreement the existing 4 Lane Karachi-Hyderabad Superhighway will be converted into 6 Lane Motorway of International Standard, which is also a key project related to China Pakistan Economic Corridor Project (CPEC).

Afzal said the construction of M-8, N-85 and N-25 will provide a vital link between Gwadar and Quetta and Gwadar and Indus Highway, which as a complete road communication will be a game changer for the country's prosperity.

He said Karachi-Hyderabad Motorway project maintenance is in line with international practices and after the completion it would be used for over next 25 years, playing a key role by linking the port city to the whole country.

DG FWO declared that this project will ultimately play a key role in area development and progress in every sector.

All Day

China to upgrade Pakistan rail network -- Global Times

Pakistan said China's help in upgrading its railway system would help both the country and the region.

Under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a key part of China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative, China will help Pakistan upgrade its railway system, starting with the Karachi-Peshawar Railway Line, or Main Line 1 (ML1).

"The ML1 is another milestone of the China-Pakistan Economy Corridor," Ahsan Iqbal, Pakistan Federal Minister for Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform, told the Global Times in an exclusive interview.

"It will improve the railway connectivity between China and Pakistan not only for the two countries, but for the connectivity of the whole region ... It is a transformational project for the entire region."

Pakistan, which is located at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia and China, seeks to promote more regional cooperations.

The upgrading of the 1,700-kilometer-long ML1 will be the first phase, with a long-term plan expected to connect the southern port city of Gwadar with Khunjerab, a China-Pakistan border town.

Iqbal said Pakistan hopes the \$8 billion ML1 upgrading project is expected to be completed in five years. The Export-Import Bank of China is providing \$5.5 billion, with the Asian Development Bank covering the balance.

"Through this rail connectivity, opportunities will surface especially in transporting goods between Pakistan and China," said Iqbal. "This will have a great impact on transport efficiency in Pakistan and provide an alternate route for China to do trade with the rest of the world."

Recent years have witnessed a huge boost in China-Pakistan ties, highlighted by the collaboration on the construction of the Gwadar port.

"We feel very comfortable and very safe in engaging with Chinese companies, and the Chinese government has recommended top enterprises," said Iqbal. "These projects have become a symbol of China-Pakistan friendship."

The railway system is considered the backbone of Pakistan's economy, said Iqbal, adding a coordination meeting is scheduled for November to review the project and provide a framework for mid- and long-term projects.

All Day

Economic corridor: only two projects worth \$137 million completed -- BR

Only two projects at a cost of \$137 million under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have been completed so far out of 17 early harvest proposed projects at a total estimated cost of \$18 billion. According to the information shared with the National Assembly last week, the two CPEC projects that have been completed are Quaid-e-Azam 100 megawatts Solar Park at a cost of \$137 million and Digital Terrestrial Multiband Broadcast at a cost of \$2 million.

Ten of the remaining 15 projects that are under implementation include: (i) 10 energy projects at a total cost of \$11.186 billion to generate around 4,460 megawatts electricity by 2018; (ii) two relating to transport infrastructure at a cost of \$6.1 billion, (iii) two relating to Gwadar Port at a cost of \$0.3706 billion and (iv) one Cross Border Optical Fiber Cable at an estimated cost of \$0.044 billion.

Tentative completion deadline of two separate coal-fired projects is as follows: (i) 660 megawatts of Port Qasim Electric Company Sindh at a projected cost of \$1,980 million is scheduled for completion in 2017/2018; and Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant with a generation capacity of 1,320 megawatts at a cost of \$1,600 million will be completed in June 2017.

Four Engro Thar projects with a total generation capacity of 1320 megawatts (330 MW each) at a cost of \$2 billion will be completed by 2018; surface mine in block-II of Thar coal field, 6.5mtpa, at a projected cost of \$1,470 million is scheduled for completion in 2018; Dawood 50 megawatts wind farm, Bhambore, Sindh at an estimated cost of \$125 million is to be completed by November 2016; UEP 100 megawatts wind farm, Jhimpir, Sindh, at a cost of \$250 million will be completed by September 2017; Sachal 50 megawatts wind farm, Jhimpir, Sindh, at a projected cost of \$134 million will be completed by July 2017; Suki Kinari Hydropower Station in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at an estimated cost of \$1,802 million is scheduled for completion in 2021/2022; and Karo Hydropower Station, Azad Jammu Kashmir and Punjab at a cost of \$1,420 will be completed in 2020/2021.

Two other projects under the CPEC-Transport Infrastructure Projects worth \$6.1 billion are in the implementation stage. Karakorum Highway Phase-II (Raikot-Islamabad Section) worth \$3,500 million will be completed in 2017/2018 and Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (Multan-Sukkur Section) worth \$2,600 million will be completed in 2018. Two projects under the CPEC-Gwadar Port worth \$0.3706 billion are also in the implementation stage and are scheduled to be completed in 2018. Eastbay Expressway with a cost of \$0.1406 billion and Gwadar International Airport with a cost of \$0.230 billion would be completed in 2018.

Another project namely Cross Border Optical Fiber Cable with a cost of \$0.044 billion will be completed in 2017/2018. China and Pakistan signed a \$46 billion investment and infrastructure development programme in April 2015 during the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Islamabad.

All Day

Japanese corporations should join CPEC projects: Ahsan -- Dawn

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday invited Japan to take advantage of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and encourage Japanese corporations to take part in projects of transport infrastructure and power generation on Independent Power Producers model.

"CPEC is not a bilateral project but it is an inclusive project where major economies from European Union, Middle East, America and Asia are also showing their interest to join in."

He said this after holding meetings with Secretary General of Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Dr.Kanoktanaporn, Governor of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Akira Kondoh, Chairman, Japan-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship League (JPPFL), Sheishiro Eto and representatives of major Japanese business corporations

Ahsan Iqbal who is on a two-day visit to Tokyo to participate in the World Marketing Summit, apprised his interlocutors that the grand CPEC Project has already taken off and bears immense potential of connecting a three billion strong region of South Asia, China and Central Asia.

The Minister shunned apprehensions relating to security concerns about Pakistan and informed of sustainable success in Security Operation Zarb-e-Azb.

When asked by Japanese media about the situation prevalent at Line of Control (LoC), he reiterated Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's vision of "Peaceful Neighbourhood". He stated that for development of people to take place peace in South Asia is a must.

In his meetings and media interaction, Ahsan Iqbal stated that economic indicators of Pakistan have improved considerably over the last three years. The foreign exchange reserves have more than doubled from US\$10 billion to US\$23 billion and inflation remained lowest in South Asia.

Ahsan Iqbal said that government was able to bring down budget deficit to 4.7% of GDP. He also added that Morgan Stanley declared Pakistan as one of the promising emerging markets globally.

He said, Karachi Stock Exchange has been rated as one of the top three stock exchanges of Asia. He also emphasized Pakistan's demographic dividend, saying that over two-thirds of its 200 million population is under 25 years of age.

All Day

Pak, China eyeing 'bigger economic bloc' between Asian nations -- Pakistan Today

Pakistan is quietly scrambling to form a greater economic alliance of South Asian nations with other Asian allies to outmanoeuvre the eight-member South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Pakistan Today has learnt reliably.

"Yes, using Pakistan's strategic geographic location and its clout on other Asian states, Pakistan is working to form a new alliance of Asian nations for greater economic connectivity between South Asian, Central Asian, West Asian and East Asian states," a senior diplomat in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed while talking to this scribe on the condition of anonymity.

The official said that Pakistan was, while benefitting from its geostrategic location, working on half a dozen economic and energy corridors to link South Asia with Central Asian, West Asian and East Asian countries.

The source, however, rubbished the notion that the efforts by Pakistan were aimed at sidelining the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). "This is childish to think that we are trying to sideline SAARC. We are just planning to explore the ways and means to avoid terrorism-hit countries like Afghanistan which is a major impediment in regional connectivity," the source said.

Asked to elaborate, the official said that since peace efforts were failing in conflict-hit Afghanistan, Pakistan and China had decided to use Kashgar as a new venue to link South Asian states with central Asian states.

"Pakistan is the shortest possible route to central Asian states. We have decided to also use the Kashgar route of China as the principal link with Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and other central Asian states through the Karakoram Highway which is not only safer but a shorter route too," the source added.

The official said that Pakistan was in close coordination with other South Asian states for the new economic bloc.

"China, Middle East, Iran and some Central Asian states have already expressed their willingness to join this larger alliance of like-minded South Asian states with central and east Asian nations," the source said, adding that this was the reason behind a flurry of high-profile visits between Pakistan and other regional powers.

"Around 15 high-level exchanges have taken place during the recent past between Pakistan and other friendly states. They are all part of the efforts by Pakistan to form a greater economic alliance," the source added.

The source said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had recently visited some of these central Asian states while the top dignitaries of these countries had also visited Pakistan. The official further said that the initiative also augured well for China which would be playing a key role in persuading Central Asian republics and Iran to join the new arrangement.

INDIA WELCOME TO NEW ALLIANCE TOO:

Asked whether the new economic bloc would include India, the official said India was an important regional player and Pakistan would welcome if it joined the new alliance. "Yes, why not? We are open to India's joining of the new bloc," the official said. Asked why India would be welcomed as the hegemonic designs of the Indian establishment may also turn the new alliance into a failure like the SAARC, the diplomat said that China's presence would help strike a balance.

"India would not be in a position to dictate terms on the bloc," the official said, adding that Indian involvement would be a sign that India also wanted to remain positive to reap the dividends of regional connectivity.

Meanwhile, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Pakistan's special envoy on Kashmir,

also hinted at the same development during his five-day visit to Washington. He said that this group would be more effective than the SAARC.

“A greater South Asia is already emerging,” said Mushahid in one of his interactions with the media.

“This greater South Asia includes China, Iran and the neighbouring Central Asian republics.” “We want India to join this arrangement as well,” added Mushahid.

All Day

Where's CPEC in our FDI? -- Dawn

Foreign direct investment inflows into Pakistan have maintained a steady decline, from a \$5.2bn peak in 2007-08, for a variety of reasons, but chiefly due to adverse security perception, political instability and governance challenges.

But the further, more than one-third (38pc), slump in net FDI inflows for the first quarter of the current fiscal year surprised many who expected a 'ratchet up' impact due to the beginning of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and the feel-good atmosphere brought about by the improved macro-economic fundamentals created by government circles.

China holds the top slot in terms of FDI contribution to Pakistan, replacing the United States and the UK.

The State Bank of Pakistan reported foreign direct investment for first three months (July-September 2016) at \$249.4m against \$403.3m of same period last year, down 38.2 pc. After adjusting for portfolio inflows and outflows, the total foreign investment in the first quarter of the current fiscal year was reported at \$368.1m when compared with \$793.2m of same period last year, showing a further decline of 53.6 pc.

This should be a cause of concern for all because FDI is not only a source of foreign capital but also a trigger to technology transfer, improvement in managerial skills and market access — all critically important for a higher growth trajectory.

This gets more alarming when other sources of foreign inflows — slowing remittances and falling exports — are also entering the danger zone and the country's debt profile is expanding. Already, the government is reported to have contracted foreign loans about \$15bn greater than targeted in three years as foreign investments and exports failed to support international reserves.

Political uncertainty arising out of repeated attempts to derail the government, volatile cities, energy shortages over a longer period, terrorist activities and the resultant adverse travel advisories for investors from western governments have a contributed to the overall investment environment.

Not surprisingly, the country slipped two points to the 138th position among 189 in the World Bank Doing Business Ranking in 2016 from 136th in 2015. According to the IMF "Pakistan's weak business climate continues to constrain private investment and economic growth" as its ranking in starting a business, getting credit, and trading across borders worsened.

Thus, lengthy procedures and high costs for opening a new business and paying taxes, limited access to credit notably for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), complex border trading requirements, constraints in accessing electricity, and weak contract enforcement continue to weigh on the country's business climate, which ranks below the South Asia average and comparative emerging markets countries, the IMF observed.

While the government is currently working on reducing procedures for opening new businesses and energy shortages have started to reduce, it is hopeful the low FDI trend would reverse soon.

Miftah Ismail, the chairman Board of Investment (BOI) is equally perplexed over the FDI numbers but believes the dip was an early and temporary phenomenon that would pick up soon as CPEC related projects take off. He hoped the FDI would end up at the very least a 35pc higher than last year.

He said it was also beyond his understanding why numbers were falling. He called a meeting with the SBP and the ministries of finance and commerce to find out if FDI was being correctly recorded or there was a problem in methodology.

He suspected the institutions concerned were only recording the flows in cash and

not machinery and equipment, as in case of Chinese projects. However, after reviewing the processes and methodology the BOI chief was convinced there was no problem.

Mr Miftah, however, said some projects like Chashma Nuclear Power Plant were developed through Chinese loans and hence accounted for as foreign debt and not as foreign direct investment. So, FDI data based on two-three months does not depict the true picture because a substantial investment in a given month, or lack of it, could swing the figures either way.

He explained that net foreign direct investment was arrived at after deducting interest payments and profit repatriations by foreign companies with at least 15pc shareholding in local companies. For example, the gross FDI last year was estimated at about \$2.25bn that fell down to \$1.28bn after accounting for about \$1.067bn of interest payment and profit repatriation.

On the other hand, the 1320MW Coal power plant of \$2.5bn and another project at Port Qasim with similar capacity and cost estimates would progress significantly during the current year and add to the FDI number. Also, a \$500m investment in Engro by foreigners will be materialising followed by about \$250m foreign investment in Dawlance as their local sponsors reduce their shareholding.

On top of that, a large multinational company was investing around \$100m in an FMCG while CocaCola was adding its investment by another \$200-300m this year. Nestle has already made some investments and half of that would also be materialising this year. He firmly believed the net FDI at the end of the current year would work out at \$1.8-1.9bn, suggesting around 50pc increase.

Responding to a question, he did not agreed that low FDI was also a question mark on the role and performance of the BOI — a one-window facility for attracting and facilitating foreign investment.

He said the BOI had basically two roles including facilitation to foreign investors and holding seminars and soft marketing of Pakistan abroad

On top of that, the BOI has now adopted a new role. For example, as chairman of the BOI he was able to resolve a longstanding dispute with Russian investors that would open up the country for more investment. "Also, we were able to author a new policy for the automobile sector, get it approved and are now working towards its implementation.

"The BOI also has played central role in the preparation of a support package for the export sector that is currently in the approval phase", he concluded.

All Day

Importance, benefits of CPEC highlighted -- Dawn

Punjab Planning & Development Department in collaboration with Ministry of Planning, Development & Reforms Pakistan Monday organised a lecture on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) at P&D Complex.

The lecture session was chaired by Punjab Planning & Development Chairman Muhammad Jahanzeb Khan while provincial secretaries, members P&D board and other major government officials attended the session.

The lecture titled "The Strategic Importance of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Its Role in Uplifting the Economy of Punjab" was delivered by Maj-Gen (retd) Dr Zahir Shah, Projector Director/Coordinator CPEC at Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform Islamabad.

The objective of the lecture was to provide a platform to all provincial departments and stakeholders to learn about the significance and impact of this 'Game Changer' project and be aware of the core issues and various factors such as finance, economics, governance, management, etc. entailing this project.

Dr Zahir deliberated on the importance of CPEC with respect to Punjab's economy, stating Punjab was pivotal and the heart of Pakistan thus it was imperative to have a conducive business environment in the province.

He said the potential sectors such as light industry, electronic, textile, chemicals industry, IT, minerals, automotive industry and infrastructure sector which could benefit from the CPEC.

The lecture concluded with recommendations for project identification under CPEC, policy support and increased research and Development (R&D) in the context of the Economic Corridor. Dr Zahir emphasised that focus must be placed on the underlying basis of partnership and business models and strategies must be evaluated to involve other sectors as well.

Chairman, P&D Board, Muhammad Jahanzeb highlighted that CPEC was a way of building 'educational, fraternal and cultural bonds' with China.

The network was expected to bring opportunities for both sides and Pakistan needs to have a key understanding of their needs and demands. He commended the efforts of the planning commission and the provincial governments with regards to CPEC. Secretary P&D Ifthikhar Ali Sahoo speaking on the occasion said China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was the network of logistic of all the potential centres.

convention: Pakistan Medical Association, Punjab has termed so-called convention being held in Faisalabad in the name of PMA Punjab, illegal and has no binding on PMA Punjab procedural and constitutional dictates.

This was observed in an emergent meeting of PMA Punjab held here on Monday under the chairmanship of President Dr Izhar Ahmad Ch in chair, according to a press release issued here.

Office-bearers observed that the mandate of convening PMA Punjab convention was the authority of provincial council.

The convening of this illegal PMA Punjab convention shall be undertaken in forthcoming PMA Punjab Provincial Council meeting and responsible shall be brought to book.

All Day

CPEC and regional integration -- Pak Observer

AMONG the recent developments, Iran and Afghanistan have expressed their desire to join CPEC. Afghanistan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr. Omar Zakhilwal said that CPEC is a great project which is equally relevant to Afghanistan, like Pakistan. Moreover, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in a meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on the sidelines of the UNGA session has also expressed the desire to be part of the CPEC. In response, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Sun Weidong, stated that CPEC is a win-win cooperation so we are looking forward to explore the possibilities of cooperation among all the regional countries. CPEC, in itself carries the ambitions of regional integration and enhanced cooperation. As elaborated, CPEC is not just a road project but a package of port development, infrastructure, energy and transportation projects, if implemented as envisaged, would help Pakistan in achieving an economic turnaround. Recent statements by Iranian and Afghan authorities regarding CPEC show us a budding realization of the importance of this project for the entire region. Current expression of participation by both states would help present the case of CPEC as a genuine effort to develop the region, enticing more support. Rather, their prospective inclusion would help shed off the concerns of strategic exclusiveness associated with CPEC.

Pakistan and Iran have massive scope of bilateral cooperation in the field of energy, especially oil, gas and electricity. Besides, both countries can extend cooperation by enhancing the connectivity between sea ports of Gwadar and Chabahar. Development of Gwadar port is a key component of CPEC and under the framework, better connectivity between both ports can be ensured. Similarly, CPEC is of geostrategic importance for a landlocked state like Afghanistan. With the extension of CPEC to Afghanistan, the country can become a major beneficiary of this project as in future the corridor will contribute to the economic development of this country by enhancing economic activities in the area, which can bring the fragile economy of Afghanistan back to normalcy.

In order to linkup Afghanistan with CPEC, Pakistan has already pledged the construction of 256 km Peshawar-Kabul motorway which will give Afghanistan an opportunity to start economic and commercial activities. As per the plans, the western alignment of the corridor, which originates from Gwadar and runs through Khuzdar, Zhob and finally reaches Islamabad via D.I. Khan, will have an additional connectivity to link Afghanistan through Chaman. Such a link would also help boost trade links with Central Asian states. With its desire to join CPEC, Afghanistan has rightly understood the benefits; it can reap through a project of such magnitude. Pakistan and its neighbours have the potential to grow as economic power hubs, provided if make the right choices. There are challenges in way and prospects ahead which can be materialized only if all the stakeholders work on mutual grounds and interests.

Peace in Afghanistan is a pre-requisite in bringing regional prosperity and stability. Similarly, historic ties between Pakistan and Iran can mutually benefit both countries by promoting energy and defence ties. As a key element, the envisioned CPEC offers energy security alongside various other trade opportunities which is believed to ascertain the new global economic order. The energy needs in South Asia are growing exponentially which demands collaboration at regional level to meet the requirements. Such circumstances require countries like Pakistan, India and China to diversify their options and CPEC provides that opportunity for cooperation.

As Pakistan looks to expand its opportunities regionally, there is a dire need to introduce changes in various sectors internally. Pakistan despite being an ideal industrial base and achieving a remarkable growth of 6.8 percent in the year 2016 is facing decline in exports. In this regard, Pakistan needs to improve its capability to manufacture quality products for export purposes with special focus on capacity building of labor and human development. Besides, the dominant use of raw material in industrial sector and lack of technological up-gradation and innovation are other impediments, requiring attention. This joint venture of CPEC gives Pakistan an opportunity to build its capacity by working closely to an emerging global power, learning from their expertise.

— The writer is Assistant Research Officer, Islamabad Policy Research Institute, a think tank based in Islamabad.

All Day

CPEC will complement CAREC's regional connectivity initiatives: Dar -- APP

In his welcome address at the 15th CAREC Ministerial Meeting in Islamabad on the theme of 'Linking Connectivity with Economic Transformation in CAREC', Dar said the CPEC "offers a massive opportunity for connectivity between Central Asia, Middle East and Africa and is bound to play a defining role in the economic development of our region".

Improving transport corridor was not an end in itself but it was an investment in establishing sound infrastructure and complementary frameworks for opportunities in shared prosperity for the present and future generations of our region, Dar said.

He added that CAREC and Transport and Trade Facilitation Strategy (TTFS) provided the platform to ensure effective implementation of communications, transport and trade-related projects.

"Once the six CAREC corridors and major seaports start providing access to the global markets, they will deliver services that will be important for national and regional competitiveness, productivity, employment, mobility, and environmental sustainability", he remarked.

He was confident that the areas of collaboration and specific initiatives under the CAREC Programme would significantly improve connectivity in the region.

"The projects being implemented in the four core areas of communications, trade facilitation, trade policy and energy coupled with the economic corridor development would enable increased trade, enhanced availability of energy and improvement in quality of lives for all people in the region", he said.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif inaugurated the meeting, organised by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs Division.

President of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Takehiko Nakao, representatives of CAREC member states, members of the Diplomatic Corps, federal ministers and senior officials attended the meeting.

'CPEC will uplift whole region': PM

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif while inaugurating the meeting said, "CPEC will go beyond bilateral initiatives and lead to uplift and economic development of whole region," Radio Pakistan reported.

"Our transport and construction related activities will gain further momentum on the back of infrastructure and power sector development programme under CPEC," he added.

"Pakistan is committed to promote economic and social development through regional cooperation," he said.

Pakistan's focus on energy, economic revival and stabilization has resulted in remarkable and impressive economic growth, the PM claimed, adding that transportation and construction activities would gain momentum on the back of infrastructural and power sector development under the CPEC.

The premier added that Pakistan's cooperation in the CAREC reaffirmed its resolve for regional integration and provides valuable opportunity for enhancement of our ties in all four areas of focus.

All Day

Army chief reviews Pak-China joint military exercises -- Dunya News
RAWALPINDI (Dunya News) – Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif reviewed Pakistan-China joint military exercises at National Counter Terrorism Training Centre (NCTC) in Pabbi during a visit on Thursday.

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) reported that the army chief addressed a gathering in the centre after reviewing joint exercises called “YOUYI-VI 2016”.

Chief of the Army Staff said during his address that foreign countries were learning off Pakistan’s experience in war on terror and Pakistan Army considered it its responsibility to share to contribute to peace in the world.

He lauded the joint military exercises and said that the drills would help both China and Pakistan to neutralise terror threats.

Earlier today, Qatari Minister of State for Defence Affairs, Dr Khalid Bin Muhammad Al Attiyah called on the army chief in Rawalpindi.

Matters of mutual interest including defence and security cooperation were discussed in the meeting.

The visiting dignitary acknowledged Pakistan’s successes in fight against terrorism and efforts for regional peace and stability.

All Day

CPEC: Opportunities -- Pak Observer

ISLAMABAD is reaping the benefits of its close strategic partnership with China. Beijing is also cognizant of the vitality of cordial relation’s sustainability for the pursuits of its interests’ in the transforming global politics. President Xi Jinping visited Islamabad in April 2015 and signed 51 Memorandums of Understanding and announced US\$46b investment in Pakistan to build China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Many analysts dubbed CPEC as the centrepiece, the flagship, and pilot project of the “One Belt, One Road” initiative of Chinese President Xi Jinping. Perhaps, CPEC would enhance the trade between China and Pakistan. Currently, the bilateral trade volume is around \$12b per year. It is expected that it would reach \$15b in near future.

Nothing would better promote Pakistan’s strategic future in South Asia and grand strategy toward India than its indigenous robust economic growth. The country’s economic growth is a Hercules task for the government without the foreign direct investment in both infrastructure build-up and relevant technology transfer. Ironically, despite Pakistan’s sincere cooperation in the global war on terrorism and Islamabad’s continuity of strategic dialogue with Washington; former fails to secure nuclear deal with US and attract foreign direct investment from the European countries. Conversely, Beijing has been generously assisting Islamabad to revolutionize its economic sector through infrastructure build-up and solidify its defensive fence and above all guard its national interest diplomatically at regional and global forums.

China generously offered to bear the 80 percent financial cost of two Karachi nuclear power plants of 2100 mega watt; building of Gawadar port; airport; etc. It is cooperating in building JF-17 Thunder, at Kamra and also agreed to sell eight conventional submarines to Pakistan Navy. In addition, at all the regional and international forums, Beijing has been endlessly supporting Islamabad. The consensus persists in Pakistan that ‘CPEC is a game changer’. It is because the gigantic generous \$46b (recently the figure has increased to \$51b after China committed to fund the Karachi-Lahore rail line) investment by China in the economic uplifting of Pakistan would create many opportunities for the people of Pakistan. Importantly, CPEC is not only aiming at building massive road infrastructure but also intending to develop telecommunications and energy infrastructure. In addition to massive infrastructure build-up, China is also making Pakistan a key partner in its grand economic ambitions that relate to proposed 21st century Silk Route initiative. Indeed, pipelines buildup, power plants construction and other projects collectively contribute in stabilizing Pakistan’s economy and also end chronic energy crisis in Pakistan. Since decades, Pakistanis have been cognizant to need of a second port

at Gwadar. Gwadar port not only holds enormous promise for Pakistan, but also neighbouring countries and regions such as Afghanistan, China, Central Asia and Eurasia. But due to financial constraints, Islamabad had failed to institutionalise its Gwadar port project.

The CPEC project provided Pakistan an opportunity to build as well as operationalize its Gwadar Port. The completion of Gwadar port definitely makes it the economic hub of Pakistan in particular but for the entire region in general. It would construct a strategic nexus between Pakistan, China and Central Asia, generating billions in revenue and providing shorter land routes. It would effectively establish links from the Caspian Sea to the Strait of Hormuz, and would enable Gwadar to compete with Persian Gulf ports. This massive investment plan of China in Pakistan, certainly, makes the country a regional economic hub. The completion of CPEC would facilitate Chinese access to the Indian Ocean via Gwadar and also encourage Chinese both government and private sector to investment in the planned economic zones on the CPEC routes. According to the reports, China's ship-borne trade currently amounting to \$5 trillion and it may triple over a decade, much of which will be passing through Gwadar-Kashgar route.

The Chinese investment would also attract the foreign direct investment from other countries. Consequently, the Pakistan would prosper. The CPEC money would be used to construct power projects. The investment in power sector would assist in lessening power shortages that is hindering economic growth in Pakistan. CPEC will connect economic agents along a defined geography. It will provide connection between economic hubs on certain landscapes where large amount of economic resources and actors are concentrated. Perhaps, the mega economic activities further boost bilateral relations between China and Pakistan. The successful implementation of the CPEC would provide Pakistan access to Central Asian States — Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan — Russian Federation and Europe through China. The trucking and logistics industry of Pakistan would have immense opportunity to grow. Certainly, this unprecedented road link would have far-reaching positive geo-economic dividends for the people of Pakistan.

The CPEC infrastructure certainly boosts Pakistan's tourism industry. In addition, the completion of the CPEC project would play a significant role in inter-provincial integration. It would also bring unprecedented economic rewards for the agriculture sector of Pakistan. The cooperation in the agriculture sector would help in transferring of technology pertaining to agro-chemicals, pesticides, seeds and fertilizers, which is imperative for increasing the yield of the crops in Pakistan. To conclude, successful implementation of CPEC will change the economic outlook and financial conditions of the people of Balochistan and KP. Thus, it is imperative that Islamabad intelligently monitors and thwarts challenges to CPEC, which offers many opportunities for country.

— The writer is Associate Professor, School of Politics and International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.

All Day

Pak-China QCCM group to meet in Beijing on Nov 8 -- The Nations
BEIJING, CHINA : The second joint working group meeting of the Quadrilateral Cooperation and Coordination Mechanism in Counter Terrorism by Afghanistan-China-Pakistan- Tajikistan Armed Forces/ Militaries (QCCM) will be held in Beijing from Nov. 8 to 10.

During the meeting, all parties will exchange in-depth views on the specifics of their cooperation under the framework of the QCCM, this was announced by Colonel Wu Qian, spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of National Defense (MND) here at the regular press briefing.

The QCCM aims to implement the consensus reached by the leaders of the 4 countries on strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation among regional countries, and to deepen such cooperation among the four militaries.

It is not targeting any country or international organization. The Chinese side will make joint efforts with other parties to strengthen mutual trust, deepen cooperation, and enhance capacity building in counter-terrorism, so as to push the QCCM toward substantial achievements, he added.

While replying to a question regarding recently held China-India joint military exercise in the Ladakh region along the China-India border, Colonel Wu Qian categorically stated China's position on the Kashmir issue has not changed.

"On October 19, China and India conducted a company-and-platoon-level humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) joint drill near the Moldo meeting point at the western section of the China-India border," he added.

To a question about the China-manufactured aircraft, the spokesperson said the design and manufacturing of the first domestically manufactured aircraft carrier of China is pressing ahead according to plan.

Currently, the overall design has completed and the bulk has taken its shape in the dock. Equipment and facility installation and outfitting are being conducted.

All Day

China willing to finance Pakistan's portion of IP pipeline -- Express Tribune

ISLAMABAD: With Iran coming out of decades-long global economic isolation, China has offered Pakistan that it was willing to finance the un-built portion of a multibillion-dollar gas pipeline project.

Officials told The Express Tribune that the China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau (CPPB) – currently engaged with the \$1.4 billion Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG terminal and pipeline project – was keen to work on the remaining portion of the gas pipeline from Gwadar to the Iranian border to implement the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project.

Other countries pull out, China increases investment in Pakistan

China was providing 85% of the total financing for the LNG pipeline project and wanted to emulate the same model for building the remaining portion of the pipeline from Gwadar up to the Iranian border.

The IP gas pipeline project had been stalled due to international curbs against Tehran. But soon after lifting of the sanctions, the United States had imposed certain sanctions against Tehran that were hindering the implementation of the IP gas pipeline project.

Officials said China had also expressed its desire to work on the remaining portion of the 80km pipeline from Gwadar to connect it with the Iranian border. China was lobbying to award the contract of this portion as per the cost decided for the Gwadar LNG pipeline.

A senior government official said Pakistan was working on LNG import projects but LNG supply was not a secured source because in case of war, this supply source could be halted.

He said this was the reason why the IP project was considered to be an essential as well as strategic project for Pakistan.

Is Pakistan really a dream destination for China?

"In case of some interruption in the supply of LNG, Pakistan will be able to get gas supply through the IP pipeline," the official added.

The other reason was that prices of steel and other material for gas pipelines had dropped over the years. During the last PPP government, Iran had decided to lay the IP pipeline by nominating an Iranian company. Iran had also pledged \$500 million financing for the project.

The offer of the Iranian company contract was \$2.8 billion. German consultant ILF had estimated the contract cost at \$1.8 billion. However, its cost had come down to \$1.6 billion since.

The official said the approved cost of the LNG pipeline project by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) was \$2 billion that included the \$1.4 billion EPC (engineering, procurement and construction) cost and \$600 million in duties to the government.

He said if the pipeline is extended up to the Iranian border, its cost as per the Gwadar LNG pipeline terms and conditions would come to \$1.6 billion.

The official added that the government was working on a plan to set up two jetties at the Gwadar Seaport to deal with 1,200 mmcf/d LNG where two floating terminals would be made operational.

The Chinese company would also work on the project as the EPC contractor and China would provide financing for it.

All Day

LEARNING CHINESE CAN OPEN NEW BUSINESS AVENUES -- APP

Thursday, 03 November 2016 16:27 Posted by Parvez Jabri E-mail Print PDF Views: 40

imageLAHORE: Pakistani citizens by learning Chinese language will be able to avail business and professional opportunities created by the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

President Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) Mr Wang Zihai said this while addressing a meeting of the all Chinese language instructors associated with the PCJCCI here on Thursday.

He informed the PCJCCI had initiated Chinese language teaching system at a time when there was very little awareness among people about significance of learning Chinese language, and now thousands of people had benefitted from this initiative which was a grand honour for the PCJCCI.

He assured of continuing this initiative with more vigour and effectiveness.

Wang Zihai also vowed to help learners of Chinese language to exploit linguistic strength in exchanging business and professions between Pakistan and China.

Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General and a number of the Executive Committee Members of PCJCCI, also attended the meeting.

Language instructors expressed fortitude for introducing new trends in teaching system to achieve distinguished results.

All Day

Chinese investors to bring \$3 billion investment funds to Pakistan -- APP

IMF congratulates PM on Pakistan's economic achievements

ISLAMABAD: A consortium of Chinese investment companies met Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Friday and announced to bring \$3 billion in investment funds to Pakistan.

Expressing its satisfaction with Pakistan's progress in infrastructure, energy and development, the Chinese delegation lauded the country's economic revival and said Pakistan was fully ready as well as capable of absorbing and capitalising Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

The visiting delegation also voiced its intent to explore the possibility of starting a new airline in Pakistan.

The consortium said it is actively pursuing investments in infrastructure, power, aviation and tourism sectors of Pakistan.

"We fully appreciate the vision of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif which enunciates that economic prosperity is an offshoot of infrastructure connectivity and self-sufficiency in the energy sector," the delegation stated.

The delegates praised the country's liberal investment regime, saying that it offers an "ideal and investor-friendly environment."

Economic outlook

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said on the occasion that Pakistan's economic outlook has changed altogether in last three years, which is being acknowledged globally.

He pointed out Pakistan is among the year's global top 10 improvers in Doing Business 2017 report. He added that Standard & Poor's (S&P) has also upgraded Pakistan's ranking from B- to B.

The Prime Minister said that inflation is consistently on a downward trend and reduction in petroleum prices has also helped in decreasing inflation, with foreign exchange reserves increased to over USD 24 billion.

He said the country's investment policy has been designed to provide a comprehensive framework for creating a business environment attractive to FDI.

The Law of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) has been made to meet the global challenges of competitiveness to attract FDI, he said.

Pak-China friendship

Warmly welcoming the delegation, the Prime Minister appreciated the Chinese delegation's interaction with Ministries of Finance, Petroleum and Natural Resources Secretary Water and Power and Capital Development Authority.

On the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Prime Minister said it is a game changer that is going to transform the lives of billions of people of the region.

The Prime Minister expressed hope that the Chinese delegation would have a productive visit after the briefing on the immense potential for investment in Pakistan's infrastructure, development, energy and communication sectors.

He further expressed his gratitude to the leadership and people of China for their strong all-weather support for Pakistan through and through.

All Day

Trade convoy to open venues of CPEC in CA, EU market -- Express Tribune

Islamabad—Director General (FWO) Major General Mohammed Afzal FWO has said that FWO synchronized trade activities with Chinese exporters and initiated first ever trade convoy will open venues of CPEC activities in Central Asia and European market.

DG-FWO said despite of great challenges and over 200 lives sacrificed, thousands injured in nation building projects, FWO is committed to carry out the idea of constructing strategic Pak-China international CPEC projects to connect motorway to Pakistan's deep sea Gwadar Port and Arabian sea with utmost modesty. He said FWO for long years is playing its vital role in the socio-economic development and nation building through its unmatched contribution to infrastructure development. CPEC will transfer of technology in building many mega-projects between both countries.

Frontier Works Organization (FWO) synchronized trade activities with Chinese exporters through a Chinese firm Sinotrans agreed Chinese goods under the framework overall 150 containers dispatched from Kashgar by end October 2016. The officials have disclosed that first ever trade convoy of 45 Containers has been left via Kashgar-Gilgit to GWADAR from China at Sust. FWO & Sinotrans with the support of government security management and accommodation was a joint command centre established by FWO and Sinotrans. The sources said required additional input from Sinotrans by coordinating with local exporters through local logistic companies and Chambers of Commerce was made by FWO.

Regarding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) development, first ever mega trade convoy launched to the projection of CPEC as a secure and financially viable trade route of Chinese goods via sea route of Gwadar in Central Asia. FWO made operational the western route after launching of first mega trade convoy of containers for Gwadar from Sust in a ceremony added that FWO synchronized with Sinotrans have successfully coordinated with Chinese exporter to initiate CPEC development and activities in the region.

Talking over the western rout of KP and Baluchistan provinces, he said it was a challenge through Panjgur and Turbat during construction of bridges, roads, tunnels, and dams with the support of civilians and provincial government.

These routes linking Pakistans Baluchistan and Frontier provinces with mighty mountainous ranges of Karakoram was about 870 KMs road nearby completed amazingly by the Frontier Works Organization (FWO).

Karachi-Hyderabad Motorway (M9), which was four lanes Super Highway, now converted into a 6 Lane will be completed in next year.

He said the motorway from Karachi to Gwadar linkage will further develop Pakistan with tremendous potential for commercial activities through CPEC and prosperity in the region, while the organization have changed overall situation after road infrastructure development and access of agriculture sector and restoration of normalcy to the lives of affected population due to backwardness and other law and order situation.

All Day

Gwadar-Quetta road to be completed next month -- Express Tribune

LAHORE: The development work on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was in full swing and the Gwadar-Quetta road would be completed by next month, which was ahead of schedule, said Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal.

Speaking at the inauguration of the International Business Conference and Exhibition (IBCE) 2016, organised by the provincial and federal governments as well as the University of Management and Technology (UMT), Iqbal said work on Dera Ismail Khan-Quetta road had also been initiated while the DI Khan-Burhan road would be completed by 2018.

CPEC: a positive outlook

He said CPEC would bring prosperity to backward and far-off areas of the country. "Special attention has been given to Sindh and Balochistan in the CPEC projects, as raw coal for coal-run projects can easily be provided in these two provinces," he added.

"The government is paying attention to the capacity building of students to prepare them for challenges of the modern age," said the minister.

The government had successfully tackled the challenge of terrorism and now terrorists were on the run, said the minister, adding, "we are witnessing unprecedented changes in every sector in modern times as it is the century of innovative ideas."

Iqbal said the basic rationale behind holding the IBCE 2016 was to give a boost to Pakistan's economy, highlight various dimensions of CPEC, widen government's linkages with overseas companies and business firms, bridge the gap between academia and industry, set up a link between local and foreign companies, transfer latest technology and create opportunities for the youth.

The IBCE-2016 is being organised to highlight important sectors, which include clean energy, automobile, IT and telecom, textile, services, construction and housing, manufacturing, food and agriculture and fast-moving consumer goods.

CPEC for Punjab or Pakistan: Myth and reality

Also speaking at the conference, Chief Adviser to Turkish President linur Cevik said Pakistan and Turkey shared special ties that were based on brotherly relations rather than on any strategic interests.

UMT Rector Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad revealed that they initially met with skepticism when they first took up the idea of organising an international business conference and exhibition.

All Day

Work on Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline to be started this month: officials -- The News

ISLAMABAD: China Pipeline Petroleum Bureau (CPPB) is most likely to initiate sometime by end of current month construction work on the mega project of \$1.325 billion 700km LNG pipeline to be laid down from Gwadar to Nawabshah.

The pipeline will be having the capacity to transport 1.952 bcf/d out of which Gwadar is to be provided 100mmcf/d gas in the first phase and when pipeline starts in taking Iranian gas, the port city will also be provided gas of 150mmcf/d more. This is how in toto, Gwadar will be injected 250mmcf/d gas from the pipeline, a senior official of the ministry told The News.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources to this effect has put up the summary to ECC seeking the permission to sign the formal agreement with the Chinese company. In case ECC approves the summary, formal agreement will be inked in the same week and the ground breaking of the project will kick off by end of

November. The project will be completed and made operational by June 2018. Mobine Saulat, Managing Director of Inter-State Gas System confirmed the likely positive development. The pipeline will be having the capacity to transport the gas of almost 2Bcfd (billion cubic feet gas per day) and to this effect four compressors would be installed in the pipeline as against the earlier plan of three compressors. The pipeline will carry 1.2bcfd gas from the two RLNG terminals to be operational by the time when the pipeline will be commissioned in June 2018 and 750mmcfcd gas from Iran when the pipeline will be extended back by 81 kilometers to Iranian border.

Both Pakistan and china in May 2016, initialed an agreement to build 700km gas pipeline to be laid down from Gwadar to Nawabshah at the cost of \$1.35 billion after Price Negotiation Committee (PNC) finalised the cost of the project. And to this effect, Inter-State Gas System (ISGS) on behalf of Pakistan and China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) on behalf of China on May 11, 2016 initialised the agreement.

The project will be constructed with 85 percent financing from Chinese Company and 15 percent from government of Pakistan, and the price at which the gas line will be laid down is much below the estimated cost, top sources of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources told The News. The price of the pipeline had been negotiated under government to government mode at very competitive price of \$1.325 billion which is cheaper than the project of augmentation of gas network completed by both the gas companies — Sui Northern and Sui Southern.

Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) has already accorded the approval to the LNG pipeline. The project will be completed under mode EPC-F (engineering, procurement, construction and financing).

According to the top officials, earlier Chinese side had come up with the offer to build the pipeline with diameter of 42 inches at the cost of \$2 billion, but after hectic meetings of Price Negotiating Committee (PNC) in a row, the price of the pipeline had been finalised at close to \$1.325 billion which is too much below the expectations. Sources said under the agreement basically the pipeline of 700km will be built and another 12km portion of pipeline will also be constructed from RLNG terminal to main pipeline and that particular portion will be part of LNG terminal. Once the pipeline is completed, Pakistan will extend the same pipeline with four compressor stations by 81km backward from Gwadar to Iranian border as part of IP gas line.

All Day

Chinese containers to reach Gwadar on 12th -- Dawn

QUETTA: The first Chinese trade convoy, comprising 60 containers, will reach Gwadar on Saturday with goods for onward export from its port.

The vehicles arrived in Quetta amid tight security on Tuesday from Kashgar through the western route of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and after a brief stay left for Gwadar in the evening.

Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Sanaullah Zehri welcomed the convoy led by the chief adviser of the Xinjiang region.

The Chinese official told the chief minister that 200 containers were on way to the port.

The containers would reach Gwadar on Nov 12 and the Chinese companies would send the goods to the Middle East and African countries through ships from the port.

A representative of the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) said products of Pakistani exporters were also included in the convoy.

He said the inaugural ceremony would be held in Gwadar on Nov 13 where political leaders, military officers and ambassadors of 15 countries would participate.

"This route will remain continuously in use after Nov 13," he said.

He told the chief minister that oil China imported from Saudi Arabia usually reached Shanghai in 25 to 30 days, while through the Gwadar-Kashgar route it would take about 12 days.

"The goods China imports through the Gwadar port will reach Kashgar in five days," the official said.

Not only would China save time by using this route but it would also be economically beneficial for both Pakistan and the neighbouring country, he added

The chief minister termed the event an important progress towards implementation of the CPEC project.

He underlined the need for promotion of cooperation between Balochistan and Xinjiang.

The chief minister will visit Xinjiang next month on the invitation of the regional government.

All Day

World Bank projects 5.4 per cent growth rate for Pakistan in 2018 -- Dawn

Pakistan's economy is set to grow by a robust 5.4 per cent by 2018 as Chinese investment from a multi-billion dollar infrastructure project flows into the country, the World Bank predicted in a new report Thursday.

Pakistan, South Asia's second-biggest economy, is growing with security improving and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) claiming in October that it has emerged from economic crisis after completing a bailout programme, though it still faces major challenges.

Pakistan recorded a 4.7pc growth in gross domestic product (GDP) for the fiscal year ended June 2016, the highest rate in eight years, and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has set an ambitious target of 5.7pc for the current year.

Nawaz is banking on structural reforms, the improved energy sector, taxation -- and China's ambitious \$46 billion infrastructure project, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), linking its western province of Xinjiang to the Arabian Sea via

Pakistan.

The World Bank report appeared optimistic about Nawaz's plans, predicting even further growth in 2018.

"The pace of Pakistan's economic growth will accelerate to 5.4pc in fiscal 2018," the Bank report said, observing that a moderate increase in investment mainly related to CPEC projects is expected to contribute to an acceleration of growth.

The bank also noted Pakistan's efforts to address grinding poverty, including with revised ways to measure it.

"Based on the revised poverty line, the percentage of people living below the poverty line decreased from 64.3pc in 2002 to 29.5pc in 2014," the report said.

Illango Patchamutu, World Bank country director for Pakistan, said the country needs to push forward with deeper structural reforms, and that the World Bank stood ready to support such an agenda.

All Day

Over 17,000MW to be generated under CPEC projects -- APP

ISLAMABAD: As many as 17.045 megawatts of energy will be generated through energy projects spreading all across under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Official sources said that these energy projects initiated under the CPEC project would not only help overcome the existing energy crisis faced by the country but would produce surplus electricity for benefit of the country. They said that as many as 1,100 megawatt electricity generated through these projects would be included in the national grid by 2016.

During the year 2017 about 1,650MW electricity would be included in the national grid system while projects of 3,270MW capacity would become operational by 2018. The additional projects of 2,250MW capacity would be completed after 2018, the sources said, adding the government had already initiated work on many of these projects majority of which would be completed by 2018, official sources said.

Currently work on 1,320MW coal-fired power project Sahiwal is in progress and work 1,320MW Port Qasim Coal project is also going on which would generate 660MW electricity by 2017 while the remaining 660MW would be ready for consumption by 2018.

Similarly work on 600MW Engro Thar Coal project also continues on fast track which would produce 300MW electricity by 2017 and additional 300MW by 2018. Work on 1,320MW Qadirabad Coal Project is also in progress which would include 660MW electricity in the national transmission system by 2017 while the remaining 660MW would be included in the system by 2018.

Electricity of 300MW would be added in the national grid from Salt Range Mine Mouth Power Project by end of 2018 while the Hubco would give 660MW to national grid by 2018. Work on Thar Block-I has also been initiated to produce 660MW electricity by 2018 and additional 660MW after the year 2018. The 1000MW Quaid-i-Azam Solar Park in Bahawalpur and 250MW wind power plant in Sindh are also going on which would start generation from current year.

Likewise 720MW Krote Hydro Power Project and 870MW Sukhi Kinaru Hydro Power projects of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are also in pipeline which would be launched after 2018.

It is pertinent to mention here that many other energy projects are also part of the CPEC but these would be initiated after 2018. Other than CPEC projects China has investment in many other energy projects including Neelum-Jhelum Hydro Power Project which would generate 969MW.

Chashma Nuclear extension project would include 340 megawatt in the national grid this year while another chunk of 340MW would be included in the system 2017.

All Day

PM INAUGURATES DEPARTURE OF FIRST MEGA PILOT TRADE CARGO AT GWADAR -- Radio Pakistan

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Nawaz Sharif says CPEC is poised to integrate all regions across Asia and Europe.

PM inaugurates departure of first mega pilot trade cargo at Gwadar
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Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif says Pakistan will leave no stone unturned in ensuring that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and all projects under its umbrella are materialised in time.

He was addressing a ceremony of departure of the first mega pilot trade cargo at Gwadar Port today.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan is a proud partner of China and today the dream of making Gwadar a pivot of trade is being materialized.

The Prime Minister said arrival of the Pilot Mega Trade Convoy in Gwadar from Kashgar is indeed a watershed event.

It will open new avenues of progress and prosperity for Balochistan as well as for whole of the country.

He said projects worth two hundred billion rupees will be launched next year for the Quetta-Khuzdar and Gwadar roads.

Expressing his resolve against terrorism, the Prime Minister said the coward acts like yesterday's blast at Shah Noorani shrine cannot weaken our commitment to root out the menace completely and forever.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Wiedong said the day is very significant for CPEC and to China Pakistan relations.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Balochistan Sanaullah Zehri welcomed the Chinese mega trade convoy and said Gwadar Port is the base of CPEC, which will bring prosperity to the country, particularly Balochistan.

Later, the Prime Minister formally saw off the first mega pilot trade cargo ship at the Gwadar Sea Port.

Chief Minister Balochistan Nawab Sanaullah Khan Zehri, Federal Ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Khwaja Mohammad Asif, Advisor on National Security Nasser Janjua, JUI(F) Chief Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman, Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif, Air and Naval Chiefs, Commander Southern Command General Aamir Riaz, provincial Ministers and elected representatives also attended the ceremony.

All Day

PM Nawaz arrives to inaugurate Gwadar Port -- Daily Pakistan

GWADAR – Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Sunday arrived in Gwadar to attend a ceremony of the departure of the first mega pilot trade cargo from Gwadar Port.

Federal Ministers Khawaja Asif, Ahsan Iqbal, Army Chief General Raheel Sharif and National Security Advisor Nasser Khan Janjua are accompanying the Prime Minister. National Party leader Mir Hasil Bazenjo and JUI (F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman are also accompanying the Prime Minister.

National Party leader Mir Hasil Bazenjo and JUI (F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman are also present in the inauguration ceremony.

All Day

PAK WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN CHINA -- BR

KARACHI: A delegation of Pakistan's women entrepreneurs is currently visiting China to explore new avenues with their Chinese counterparts.

This is the first ever women delegation arranged by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan on a visit to China, under the directives of Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, for developing business and trade ties with Chinese side in multiple fields.

The Embassy of Pakistan hosted a reception for the high level Women Delegation of entrepreneurs, said a message here Monday.

The delegation consisted of ten (10) members, headed by Secretary TDAP, Rabiya Javeri Agha. 38 Chinese companies dealing in textile, media, culture, trade and education were in the attendance at the reception addressed by Ambassador Masood Khalid.

The Ambassador welcomed the delegation and the Chinese guests and said that this is the first ever women entrepreneurs delegation on a visit to China in recent years and the timing is perfect for developing business links as we are celebrating the 65th anniversary of Pak-China Diplomatic Relations.

The Ambassador talked about a new era of cooperation between China and Pakistan in the wake of CPEC. The level of bilateral cooperation is poised to reach new heights with such growing interaction, he said.

The Ambassador highlighted the role women were playing in the socio economic uplift of Pakistan.

The Commercial Counsellor Dr. Erfa Iqbal made opening remarks.

The delegation members were introduced followed by remarks by the leader of the delegation who thanked the Pakistani Embassy for arranging such a fruitful session.

A business networking session between the Pakistani delegation and Chinese participants was held on the occasion.

All Day

PAK-CHINA IT INDUSTRIAL PARK OPEN NEW VISTA OF PROMOTING IT IN SINDH -- BR

KARACHI: Special Assistant to Sindh Chief Minister on Information and Technology, Dr Sikander Ali Shoro has said that Pakistan-China IT Industrial Park "will open new vista of promoting IT sector in Sindh.

Since world has become global village, it was the need of the hour to introduce new and latest technology, he said.

This he said while signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Industries and Information Technology of China in China, said an official statement issued here on Monday.

Dr. Shoro said that with the help of this agreement, we will make effort to promote I.T in Sindh for the development of Information Technology.

It will also improve IT skills of youth and create IT awareness among people of the province, he added.

He said that we agreed to promote, exchange views, experiences, knowledge in the field of Information Technology and Industrial Development and strengthen the strong relations between province of Sindh and Peoples Republic of China.

All Day

MoU signed to set up Confucius centre -- Daily Times

ISLAMABAD: The Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) and the Beijing Institute of Graphic Communication here on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of a "Confucius Chinese Language Center".

The Minister of State for Education and Professional Technical Training attended the MoU signing ceremony. He congratulated the AIOU and the BIGC on establishing the "Confucius Language Center" at the AIOU.

He said, "Our friends like China, showed confidence in us throughout our journey and we are thankful to them for their great support in every regard".

Talking about the CPEC, the minister of state said: "We witnessed a historical achievement a couple of days ago when Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif formally inaugurated the Gwadar Port.

The first shipment from China has reached and the port has been made operational for the economic activities which he described as "another milestone of our friendship". "This is an economic era and we are determined to make Pakistan an economically viable country," stated the minister. He said that there were certain elements outside the country which were not happy with "our" progress and who want to disrupt the CPEC "but we have our resolve intact," he emphasised.

Moreover he mentioned that the 650-km long highway between Quetta and Gwadar had been completed in a record time which showed "our dedication and commitment towards this project".

This "Confucius Center" should focus on distance learning as the AIOU is famous for the same and it should also focus on E learning to make it more viable, suggested the minister.

He further added that "many of our workers while working with the Chinese people, faced the greatest barrier of language, so in my opinion a focus must be shifted towards spoken courses of the Chinese language for technical and vocational education here in Pakistan.

Talking about the AIOU, the minister of state said that this university had remarkable access all over Pakistan, with its 44 regional campuses around the country. He also appreciated the team of the AIOU for opening up a language centre at Gwadar.

"Establishment of this Chinese learning centre at the AIOU is our educational response towards the CPEC (The China Pakistan Economic Corridor)," said the Vice Chancellor. He added that the Chinese language was going to play a pivotal role in the near future.

All Day

China to send master trainers to teach Chinese language -- Pak Observer

Lahore—China will send its master trainers to teach Chinese language in TEVTA Institutes. These trainers will teach Chinese language classes to general public in major cities across the province of the Punjab and business sector's executives at Lahore. In this regard, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) and Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) here at TEVTA Secretariat. Chief Operating Officer TEVTA Jawad Ahmed Qureshi and President Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) Wang Zihua signed the MoU. Chairperson TEVTA Irfan Qaiser Sheikh, Secretary General PCJCCI Salah-ud-Din, TEVTA Officers Aamer Aziz, Akhtar Abbas Bharwana, Uzma Nadia, Umber Chattha and other officers were also present at this occasion.

According to the details of MoU, Irfan Qaiser Sheikh said that with the establishment of CPEC, Chinese language is mandatory for all our youth and business community as well. In first phase, Master Trainers are being invited for limited time period and after that services of Chinese experts will be extended. This initiative will promote technical education and vocational training especially in economic sector across the province of the Punjab.

Chairperson TEVTA further said that as per vision of Chief Minister Punjab Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, we are giving latest vocational training to provide best manpower in different sectors across the province of the Punjab.

All Day

Railways acquires 71 acres of land in Gwadar to expand operations -- Dawn

Minister for Railways Saad Rafiq informed the Senate Standing Committee on Railways on Thursday that arrangements were being made to pay Rs130 million dues to the Balochistan government for the purchase of 71 acres of land.

He said the government was expanding Pakistan Railways' operations under the CPEC and more land was being acquired in Gwadar for setting up railway terminals, yards and tracks.

Mr Rafiq said the railways ministry would not take decisions in haste on railways projects under the CPEC and they would be implemented after a thorough scrutiny.

The government will seek loan from the Asian Development Bank for the Main Line-1 (ML-1) project which would convert the Lahore-Peshawar Main Line -1 (ML-1) into double-track.

The project is one of the early harvest projects under the CPEC.

He said that in order to upgrade the railways system from Peshawar to Karachi, preliminary estimate showed that the project would cost at least \$8.2 billion, and in this regard negotiations were under way for investment by the Chinese.

A framework agreement was also discussed during his recent visit to China, he said.

The minister said that multiple financing was allowed under the CPEC framework, and the railways ministry was currently preparing a feasibility study for the Main Line-2 (ML-2) project which would be ready in three months.

The project would be under the CPEC and a contract for the project would be awarded on the basis of international tendering.

He said the project would either be completed on the basis of build, operate and transfer or would be a joint venture.

He informed the committee that the feasibility study on laying tracks between Gwadar and Bisma would be finalised by February next year when a technical report on the alignment of tracks would be ready.

On the issue of illegal use of railways land by the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) and a private hospital in Bahawalpur, the minister informed the committee that the Punjab chief minister had issued orders to resolve the matter.

The Bahawalpur DCO and the Punjab Revenue Board had accepted their mistake for illegally allotting the land to the DHA and the private hospital, he said.

The chairman of the standing committee, Sardar Fateh Mohammad Hasni, directed the railways ministry to ascertain from the provincial governments as to where and in which location the railway land had been encroached.

He suggested that the railways improve its system through commercialisation of its land.

Agreeing to the proposal, Mr Rafiq suggested a joint meeting of the parliament's standing committees on railways to take a decision in this regard and it would be implemented by the railways ministry.

All Day

Plan to set up five more LNG terminals -- Dawn

LAHORE: The petroleum ministry is working on proposals for the construction of five more terminals at the Gwadar and Karachi ports for handling, regasification, storage, treatment and processing of 3,000 million cubic feet per day of liquefied natural gas (LNG) it plans to import by 2018.

At present, the Elengy Terminal is being operated by Engro Pakistan at Port Qasim for regasification of 400 to 450MMCFD of LNG imported from Qatar.

Since the terminal has the capacity of 600MMCFD, the government plans to import 200MMCFD more of LNG and add it into the system by January.

"After attaining the target of 600MMCFD of LNG import and its regasification at the Elengy Terminal, another 600MMCFD will be imported by June and for its handling and regasification, the construction of the second largest terminal has begun and that will be completed by May," an official of the ministry told Dawn.

Import of fuel may reach 4,200MMCFD by 2018

"The Sui Southern Gas Company is set to accomplish next month the task of upgrading and laying pipelines for the purpose," he said.

The Pakistan GasPort Consortium, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Pakistan GasPort Limited, is establishing the country's second LNG import terminal.

The government claims that the project will reduce the country's gas deficit by 30 per cent and provide fuel for three regasified LNG power generation plants of 3,600 megawatts, being set up by the federal and provincial governments in Sheikhpura, Kasur and Jhang on a fast-track basis.

If the new proposals are approved, the government plans to build at least two LNG terminals in Gwadar and three at the Karachi ports.

China has also begun work on laying 42-inch diameter gas pipelines from Gwadar to Nawabshah for supplying LNG to new industrial estates planned to be developed along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

"The LNG will also be supplied to the power sector, fertiliser and other industries, domestic and commercial sectors in view of their demand increasing fast with time," the official said.

With the proposed construction of five new terminals, the total import of LNG would be 4,200MMCFD by 2018, he said.

All Day

Gwadar to get 250 mmcf gas from RLNG pipeline -- Pak Observer

Islamabad—The Nawaz government has decided to provide 100 million cubic feet LNG per day to Gwadar from the RLNG terminals of 1.2 bcf (billion cubic feet gas per day) to be installed at the Gwadar port. And 150 mmcf gas will also be provided to Gwadar once the Iran will start exporting 750 mmcf gas to Pakistan, a senior official told Pakistan Observer.

Both the RLNG and gas from Iran will be transported to the national grid under Gwadar-Nawabshah RLNG pipeline. So Gwadar will get in to 250 mmcf gas through the RLNG pipeline and the decision has been taken on the request of government of Balochistan to cater to the energy needs of the port city.

China will install two RLNG terminals at Gwadar with the capacity to re-gasify the LNG of 1.2 billion cubic feet per day (bcfd) at just the cost of \$330 million.

Each RLNG terminal will be having the capacity to re-gasify 600 mmcf. This will increase the economic viability of the 700 kilometre RLNG pipeline to be laid down by the Chinese company from Gwadar to Nawabshah, top official sources told Pakistan Observer.

Earlier, the sources said, the government's plan to build one RLNG terminal at Gwadar with capacity of 600mmcf at the cost of \$300 million, but later on Chinese authorities' offered to build another terminal with the same capacity at Gwadar and both will cost at \$330 million.

At the very outset, the project was conceived under BOT (built, operate and transfer) basis, but now under latest scenario, it will now be erected under EPC-Financing mode.

China Pipeline Petroleum Bureau (CPPB) that has been assigned to build the 700 kilometres LNG pipeline from Gwadar to Nawabshah will also construct the two RLNG terminal.

The LNG pipeline will be constructed at the cost of \$1.353 billion. Now the Price Negotiating Committee is engaged with Chinese experts on the cost of LNG terminal.

The project will be materialized with the loan at 2 percent interest for 20 years long period to be arranged from China EXIM bank by the China Pipeline Petroleum Bureau. To a question, the official said that the cost of \$1.6 billion of both (pipeline and LNG terminal) has been worked out without taxes and duties.

The Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline will be built on EPC-F (engineering procurement construction) with financing mode. The executive committee of national economic council (ECNEC) has already approved the said pipeline with 85 per cent financing from China and 15 per cent financing to be arranged by the government of Pakistan.

All Day

Boris wants UK firms part of CPEC activities -- The Dawn

LAHORE: Britain Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Boris Johnson has termed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a wonder project and desires UK firms to participate in its various construction activities.

"I am very excited about the CPEC idea. And I would like UK firms to participate in the construction of this fabulous venture," Mr Johnson said while speaking to students and faculty of the Government College University (GCU) here on Friday. "But this should be part of an even more ambitious vision that would revive the ancient Silk route and see the rebirth of trading caravans connecting East and West," he added.

On a day-long visit to Lahore as a part of his ongoing tour to Pakistan, Mr Johnson said Karachi was even bigger than Lahore with 23 million people, the 6th largest city in the world. "History and location suggest that Karachi should be one of Asia's biggest trading entrepot alongside Singapore or Shanghai.

Boris Johnson delivers a speech in the main hall of the Government College University.— Reuters

Boris Johnson delivers a speech in the main hall of the Government College University.— Reuters

"The only way to achieve that goal is closer economic integration. And I believe that Britain can play a part in helping you to realise this vision," he said. Appreciating development in various sectors, the British foreign secretary said Pakistan had made a huge progress in recent past. "National security has improved and democracy strengthened. This civilian government took over from another civilian government in a manner that was peaceful and constitutional. But, of course, we all know that Pakistani citizens continue to face a grave threat from terrorism. He said he felt that as a result, this nation's ambition had too often been held back by rivalry and mistrust. And coming here today, and talking to people, I am increasingly confident and that this will change. "My message to you all is that Britain wants to be with you to make this journey. I believe that bilateral trade between our two countries – just £2.7 billion – is not enough given our closeness," he said.

Mr Johnson said one reason why he was in favour of leaving the EU was that he wanted Britain to widen the horizons of our foreign policy and reinforce our ties with our friends across the world, including Pakistan. "We are not leaving Europe. We will always be part of Europe. I want a global Britain to play an even stronger role on the world stage, maximising our assets as the fifth biggest economy in the world and a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council," he said. The British secretary of state said next year he looks forward to celebrating Pakistan's 70th anniversary of independence. There is a huge interest in the British Parliament and government in making our relationship even closer. "I want a much more dynamic relationship. And I am excited by the opportunities created by trade and commerce, which should be the central pillars of our friendship, as befits Pakistan's location at the heart of Asia," he said.

Earlier, the GCU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Hassan Amir Shah welcomed Mr Johnson, took him to a tour of the campus and apprised him about the traditions and excellence of 153 years old educational institution and its role in development of Pakistan.

All Day

Russia allowed use of Gwadar Port -- The News

Moscow to have access to warm waters; Nawaz says many countries want to be part of CPEC; half of world population to benefit from project; South and Central Asia to be connected through road and rail; PM meets Turkmen president

ASHGABAT: Pakistan has decided to accord approval to the Russian request for using the Gwadar Port for its exports as Moscow has also showed its willingness to be part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Following Iran and Turkmenistan, Russia has also decided to use the Gwadar Port for trade to have an access to warm waters, a top official privy to the development

told The News. On top of it, Russia also wants to join the CPEC to reap the maximum dividends. In addition, Russia aspires to develop strategic defence ties with Pakistan. Islamabad has moved forward with a green signal allowing Russia to use the Gwadar Port for trade.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is on a two-day visit to Turkmenistan. During an informal chat with the journalists, after meeting with Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedow, he said that many countries wanted to join CPEC as half of the world would benefit from the project.

He announced building railways, road and fiber-optic along with Turkmenistan-Pakistan-Afghanistan-India (TAPI) 1,680-kilometer-long gas pipeline to enhance connectivity between South Asia and Central Asia for the benefit of about half of the world population living in this part of the world.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had a 100-minute-long meeting with Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedow who disregarding the protocol came to his hotel for having a meeting with him.

The prime minister in his back-to-back meetings would attend an international conference on connectivity and transport and would have meetings with the world leaders reaching here for the conference.

The prime minister is here for taking a leap forward by extending the benefits of the CPEC to the Central Asian States. He welcomed the Russian Federation's interest in becoming part of the CPEC and maintained that Pakistan would welcome participation of any country in the gigantic project. He vowed that the CPEC would guarantee the prosperity of Pakistan and assured the people that in about 10 to 15 years time, Pakistan would become an affluent country where the prosperity would become households. He said that TAPI would supply 400 billion cubic feet gas to the three member states in which Pakistan's share would be three hundred billion feet of gas.

The two leaders also reviewed progress on the TAPI and expressed hope that it would ultimately fulfill Pakistan's needs for gas and energy. He reminded that Pakistan, China, India and countries of the Central Asia and South Asia have about three billion people constituting about half of the world.

He recalled that President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedow visited Pakistan early this year and now he had come to Ashgabat. "I have invited the president to visit Pakistan and stressed the need for alternatively visiting each other countries regularly. I have developed close personal friendship with President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedow," the prime minister said to a query that Pakistan and Turkmenistan would have air links as soon the PIA performance was further improved.

President Gurbanguly said that Turkmenistan wanted improved road links between the two countries so that his country should be able to export through Gwadar and Karachi ports. Prime Minister said TAPI, which is the largest gas project in the region, would help meet the gas demand in Pakistan.

He said that CPEC would bring progress to the entire region. He said besides cooperation in bilateral relations, regional and international issues were also discussed during the meeting with the Turkmen president. He said friendship between Pakistan and Turkmenistan was strengthening with the passage of time. He said the top leadership of the two countries should meet every year.

Earlier, the prime minister was received by the deputy prime minister of Turkmenistan and high officials of Pakistani Embassy.

During his stay, the prime minister will attend Global Conference on Sustainable Transport being held under the auspices of the United Nations. The Conference will discuss promotion and role of sustainable transport towards achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif would present his vision about connectivity and development of infrastructure. The United Nations Secretary General (UNSG) Ban-ki-Moon, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani will also be present in the conference. Adviser to the Prime Minister Irfan Siddiqui, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi and Secretary to Prime Minister (SPM) Fawad Hasan Fawad are the part of Pakistan entourage.

Earlier the sources in Islamabad suggested that Russian desire to be part of CPEC and use Gwadar Port indicated a new alignment in relations after decades' sour ties between Pakistan and Russia.

It was being branded a welcoming development and the ice had melted to this effect in the recent meeting of spy masters of both the countries that was held in Islamabad.

Alexander Bortnikov, chief of Russian Intelligence Federal Security Services and former chief of KGB, in recent days visited Islamabad after 14 years and held meetings with intelligence and defence top officials. More importantly Bortnikov also held crucial meeting with Pakistan's spy master — ISI chief Lt General Rizwan Akhter.

While talking to journalists, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who is on two-day visit to Turkmenistan, also welcomed the Russian decision to join CPEC.

However, in the meetings of Alexander Bortnikov with top officials of Pakistan requested to join CPEC and in return Pakistan gave positive signal allowing Russian to go for trade through Gwadar and to have access to warm water. In this regard the formal agreements will be signed between the two countries in the months to come.

With the desire of Turkmenistan and Iran for utilizing Gwadar Port for gas export will make the port international energy corridor.

Pakistan, the official said, would not only get the transit fee, but would also earn from the facilities such as LNG terminal. "So much so, Pakistan will also be able to get more intake of LNG, if required," he said.

"If the gas trade of both the countries through Gwadar Port gets materialised, this will boost the image of the port to new high."

Managing Director of Inter-State Gas System Mobin Saulat confirmed the development saying that the desire by both the gas producing countries was a welcoming development as in case it happened it would be win-win situation for all stakeholders --- Turkmenistan, Iran and Pakistan. Pakistan will earn a lot for giving the transit to gas of Turkmenistan and Iran. Likewise it will also earn in the case of Russia, too.

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Sun

All Day

Railways to set up office in Gwadar -- The News

Pakistan Railways has decided to establish a sub-divisional office in Gwadar.

Railways Federal Minister Kh Saad Rafique chaired a meeting at Railways Headquarters, Lahore, for railway link with Gwadar Port for China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Saad said the project must be foolproof as the standards of the high profile project would not be compromised. Moreover, a sub-divisional office would be established in Gwadar. Double track and auto block system would be introduced in the project, he said. Manned and unmanned level crossings should be secured at any cost, he said. He formed a committee which would prepare report to secure the crossings. Ijaz Husain, consultant of Gwadar Project formulation, with other four members briefed the meeting on the feasibility study's current situation with regard to new link from Gwadar, Basima, Mastung, Basima to Khuzdar.

All Day

U.K., France, Russia Want To Join Pakistan-China's CPEC

[UPDATED] -- Value Walk

Russia is not discussing the possibility of joining CPEC with Islamabad. "The Pakistani media reports about secret negotiations between Russia and Pakistan on the implementation of projects as part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are not true to the facts," Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation said in a press release.

The CPEC is apparently becoming a new association (like BRICS), as many countries are showing interest in being part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. With ambitions to even become a new union (like European Union, but not limited only to Europe), the CPEC, co-created by Pakistan and China, has already attracted big international players such as Russia, the U.K. and France.

China Pakistan CPEC

The \$51 billion project has been all over the news lately, not only because it's a game-changer for China, Pakistan and Asia as a whole, but also because there's a theory that India could start a military conflict over the CPEC. But seeing how many nations are siding with the CPEC, it's very unlikely that India would start a war over it.

Interestingly, Russia's bid to join the CPEC comes as a yet another indication that Moscow, which has been India's key weapons supplier for decades, is abandoning India for Pakistan. It seems that Russia has more chances than any other country to join the CPEC, as theories about a possible China-Russia-Pakistan superpower triangle keep piling up. The CPEC may be that formal launchpad to form an alliance between Beijing, Moscow and Islamabad.

CPEC is foundation for China-Russia-Pakistan superpower triangle

But what's all the fuss about? Is the CPEC really becoming the new BRICS? It could be so.

Just days ago, Russia and Pakistan reportedly held backdoor meetings which led Moscow to formally request access to Gwadar Port and ask China and Pakistan to be part of the lucrative multi-billion-dollar project. According to sources cited by Pakistan's Daily Times, the chief of Russia's intelligence agency, Federal Security Services, made a secret visit to Pakistan.

Russian intelligence officials and Pakistani high officials reportedly discussed strengthening their bilateral defense and military ties. The two nations also reportedly expressed interest in reshaping the cooperation between their intelligence agencies. The Russian intelligence chief was also said to have visited Gwadar, which is a key point of the CPEC, a 3,000-kilometer network of roads, railways and pipelines that connects Kashgar and Gwadar.

Russian officials were also reportedly satisfied with the economic opportunities offered by the CPEC and, according to the media outlet's sources, even expressed interest in using Gwadar Port for international trade. The Russians were also said to have pledged to make investments in various sectors of Pakistan to deepen their economic ties.

Is CPEC the end of India and Russia's friendship?

Although Russia and Pakistan were Cold War-era rivals, the two have greatly amended their relations in the last two years. Their new friendship, which has been backed by military deals and joint military exercises, is attributed to the fact that with the help of Islamabad, Russia wants to get closer to China, which is Pakistan's traditional ally.

India, Pakistan's traditional and historical enemy, can't be happy about Russia's warm ties with Islamabad of late. Russia is well aware that India is a strong

opponent of the CPEC, and joining the project would probably mark the formal end of their friendly ties.

India has several problems with the CPEC and has already made several documented attempts to sabotage the project. But one of the biggest problems it has with the multi-billion-dollar China-Pakistan project is that it passes through the disputed Kashmir region. Both Islamabad and New Delhi claim Kashmir as their own territory and have already waged three wars over it. Tensions in the region were recently reignited after 19 Indian soldiers were, according to the Indian government, killed by Pakistan-based militants.

Joining the CPEC would mean Russia is serious about its intentions to turn away from India, which could eventually lead to forming a formal or informal alliance with Pakistan and China.

Is the CPEC the new EU for the U.K. after Brexit?

While Pakistan and China have yet to look into Russia's request to join the CPEC, Vladimir Putin's country is not the only nation that wants to join the lucrative project. The United Kingdom, Turkey and France have also been pretty assertive and vocal about their intentions to join the Pak-Chinese Corridor. Officials from other European countries are also reportedly in negotiations with Pakistani and Chinese officials to start projects regarding the CPEC.

But the most promising addition to the China-Pakistan project is probably the United Kingdom, which is currently in the long process of leaving the European Union. After Britons voted in favor of Brexit this past summer, the U.K. sees the need to bring its investments into non-EU projects, and the CPEC could become this very platform for investments.

U.K. Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Boris Johnson echoed his country's interest in the CPEC during his most recent visit to Pakistan last Friday. Johnson even called the CPEC "a wonder project" and expressed his desire for U.K. companies to participate in various projects of it.

"I am very excited about the CPEC idea. And I would like UK firms to participate in the construction of this fabulous venture," Johnson said while addressing the students and faculty of the Government College University in Lahore. "But this should be part of an even more ambitious vision that would revive the ancient Silk route and see the rebirth of trading caravans connecting East and West."

Boris Johnson invites U.K. investors to Pakistan

Johnson also said that Karachi should be Asia's "biggest trading entrepot" alongside Singapore and Shanghai. The British Secretary of State also pledged that his country will "play a part" in helping Pakistan achieve closer economic integration.

He praised Islamabad for making a huge progress in recent years, noting that national security in Pakistan has improved while democracy has been strengthened. Those are the two key points to attracting investors, as they serve as an indication of stability in the country. So his words may be interpreted as a direct invitation to British firms to invest in various sectors of Pakistan and become part of the CPEC.

"My message to you all is that Britain wants to be with you to make this journey. I believe that bilateral trade between our two countries – just £2.7 billion – is not enough given our closeness," Johnson also said.

France keen on joining the CPEC

Investments from such major European countries as the U.K. could give a huge

boost to the CPEC. In fact, many other European countries such as Germany, Italy, Spain and others could follow suit to also get a piece of the lucrative CPEC-pie.

France already seems to be onboard. Earlier this month, Jean Marc Fenet, head of the Embassy of France's Regional Economic Department for India and South Asia, expressed his country's interest in becoming part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Addressing the business community at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Fenet said France views Pakistan as a huge and prosperous market for business.

Fenet added that his country is keen to further strengthen bilateral trade and economic relations between the two nations. Praising the CPEC for creating many business and investment opportunities, Fenet said that France is taking a huge interest in the South Asia country. In a message that was backed by the French Embassy's Head of Economic Department, Philippe Fouet, Fenet also said that his country has what Pakistan needs to boost its economy – the advanced technology and expertise.

CPEC is China and Pakistan's trump card

Pakistan seems to be open to welcoming others to become part of the CPEC. Last Wednesday, Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said his country would be happy to see any country join the China-Pakistan Economic

All Day

Pak-China research centre opens at UoS -- The Nations

SARGODHA-A joint research centre for Dry Land Agro Ecology, jointly established by Pakistan and China at University of Sargodha started functioning here on Tuesday.

Federal Secretary for Science and Technology Fazal Abbas Maken inaugurated the centre, set up by the Pakistan Science Foundation, Islamabad (PSF) and the University of Sargodha in collaboration with Lanzhou University, China.

Lanzhou University Vice President Prof Gao Xicai, PSF Chairman Prof Dr Muhammad Ashraf and UoS Vice Chancellor Dr Nazra Sultana were also present on the occasion.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Fazal Abbas Maken said that China is the iron brother of Pakistan and both the countries are going to start educational, research and agricultural development programmes.

The Lanzhou University VP said that his country would provide economic, educational and research support for agricultural development in Pakistan. PSF chairman Dr Ashraf said there is extra-ordinary talent in the UoS agricultural scientist, which must be utilised for the development of agriculture. UoS VC Dr Nazra Sultana said that with the Chinese help, every project, especially those pertaining to education and research would be successful. Dean Faculty of Agriculture Dr Muhammad Afzal also address to the ceremony.

All Day

Turkey To Join Pakistan, China, Russia Superpower Bloc? -- Value Walk

Turkey has just fueled speculations about a possible superpower rectangle between Turkey, Pakistan, China and Russia. While indications that the Pakistan-China-Russia superpower triangle is becoming a reality keep piling up, other nations are expressing their interest in joining the new bloc, which could become a game-changer for Asia and the world as a whole.

Just days after his visit to Pakistan in mid-November, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan suggested that his country should pursue joining a bloc dominated by China and Russia. Erdogan said his country doesn't need to be fixated on joining the European Union and should join forces with China, Russia and Pakistan instead. Although Turkey has had decades-long hopes of joining the EU, apparently there's an alternative for Ankara if the EU keeps stalling talks about Turkey's membership.

Turkey wants to be part of Pakistan-China-Russia triangle

If Turkey—which has just held talks with Pakistan about strengthening their economic and military ties—joins the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), it would be a clear indication that Pakistan, China and Russia are gaining a new-old friend on their team. If Turkey gives up its efforts to join the EU, we could see the rise of the Pakistan-China-Russia-Turkey rectangle, an even more powerful alternative to the Pak-China-Rus triangle.

In fact, Erdogan said he had already discussed the idea of his country joining the SCO, which is dominated by China, Russia and Central Asian nations, with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev. Erdogan's comment that Turkey doesn't need to join the EU "at all costs" is a breakthrough development in Turkey-EU relations, which have reached their lowest in the aftermath of the failed anti-government coup on July 15.

Is the SCO the new EU after the U.K.'s Brexit?

The EU is currently reeling from the loss of the United Kingdom, which voted in favor of leaving the European bloc this past summer. Turkey's setting off on a course to joining the security bloc dominated by China and Russia is an indication that Ankara also doesn't want to put up with Europe's accusations that Turkey is losing its democratic freedoms.

"I hope that if there is a positive development there, I think if Turkey were to join the Shanghai Five, it will enable it to act with much greater ease," Erdogan told

reporters on his plane while traveling back from a visit to Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

The SCO, which was formed in 2001, is a regional security bloc that consists of China, Russia and four Central Asian nations: Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Another indication that Turkey is seeing a prosperous future if it sides with Pakistan, China and Russia is the fact that Turkish investors have expressed an increased interest in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). If Turkey becomes part of the CPEC, it would be a game-changer for Ankara as well as Beijing and Islamabad, co-founders of the project.

Pakistan and Turkey reaffirming their friendship

Turkey and Pakistan have recently seen a huge boost in their bilateral relations. During his visit to Pakistan nearly two weeks ago, Erdogan said Ankara and Islamabad should strengthen their strategic partnership and drive bilateral trade up. Turkey and Pakistan have enjoyed close cultural, historical and military ties for decades, and Ankara's support of Islamabad in its decades-long conflict with India serves as the foundation of their growing strategic partnership.

China, Pakistan's closest ally in the region, is also enjoying close economic and military ties with Turkey. Ankara is also one of Pakistan's key weapons sellers, while it also purchases arms from it.

Turkey, China and Russia favor Pakistan over India

From a diplomatic point of view, China, Russia, Pakistan and Turkey are already manifesting signs of forming some kind of a bloc, or superpower rectangle, if you may. While Ankara supports Pakistan's position on holding a plebiscite under the United Nations to decide if the disputed Kashmir region should be part of Pakistan or India, Erdogan's country went far beyond that.

At a Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) meeting in November, Turkey supported Pakistan's membership in the group, which regulates international nuclear commerce, while rejecting India's bid. China and Russia also sided with Ankara and rejected India's bid to join the NSG.

Interestingly, neither India nor Pakistan has ever signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). But Turkey, China and Russia apparently see that it's safe to accept Pakistan while rejecting India's bid to join the group that regulates trade in atomic material. If that's not an indication of friendship and commitment to have each other's back, then what is it?

Pakistan to buy super-fast vessels from Turkey and China

To further strengthen ties with both China and Turkey, Pakistan already has plans to purchase super-fast vessels from Beijing and Ankara to form a special squadron to be positioned at the Gwadar port in Balochistan, according to the Hindustan Times.

"A squadron may have four to six warships," an unnamed Pakistan Navy official said during the IDEAS 2016 defense exhibition in Pakistan, according to the media outlet.

The official added that the super-fast ships would be purchased "soon" because Pakistan sees an urgent need to have a powerful fleet positioned at Gwadar to secure the deep sea port. The official also revealed that two warships have already been deployed at the seaport.

China has already agreed with the Pakistan Navy to send its naval vessels to safeguard Gwadar and trade under the CPEC.

Pakistan-China-Russia-Turkey rectangle: Is it happening?

Interestingly, Erdogan has previously expressed interest in joining forces with China and Russia in the SCO. But the Turkish president has always stopped short of formally requesting to join the bloc because it would disrupt Ankara's long-standing EU membership bid.

In November 2015, Erdogan seemingly gave up his plans to join the SCO after his country's air force downed a Russian warplane over Syria, which resulted in tensions between the two nations. But a lot of water has passed under the bridge since then, and during their latest meeting in August, Erdogan and Putin expressed mutual interest in restoring their once-close ties.

While Russia and Turkey are still catching up and amending their relations, China and Pakistan are enjoying very close and prosperous ties with Ankara. But if the four nations decide to formally show the world their intentions to stand by each other – and form the Pakistan-China-Russia-Turkey rectangle – it would be a diplomatic, military and economic game-changer for the whole world.

December 2, 2016

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All Day

Pak-China direct rail and sea freight service launched -- The Nations
BEIJING - China and Pakistan have launched direct rail and sea freight service, linking southwest China's inland Yunnan province and Pakistan's largest port of Karachi, Chinese state-run media reported on Thursday.

The freight line will cut transport cost by over 50 percent compared with past services, Xinhua news said in a report.

A cargo train loaded with 500 tonnes of commodities left Kunming, capital of Yunnan, for Karachi on Wednesday, marking the opening of the new route.

"The route helps locals businesses connect with the world market," a representative from the New Silk Road Yunnan Limited said.

The new rail, sea freight will cut logistics cost, including that of transport, by 50 per cent compared to past services, the news agency reported. The service is a part of China's Maritime Silk Road initiative, of which the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project (CPEC) is an extension. Pakistan and China kicked off first trade activities under CPEC in October as over a hundred Chinese containers arrived at the Sust port in Hunza, following clearance from customs.

All Day

CPEC & significance of maritime security -- Pak Observer

WHOEVER rules the waves, rules the world, wrote Mahan, who believed that national power and prosperity depended on control of the seas. His thesis was true then and it stands true today. Sea routes have been used by mankind for trade and commerce for over 3000 years. Sea-ward wars and battles have also been fought to protect those naval routes to enhance economic hegemony and shape geopolitics. The significance of seas can be gauged from the fact that two-thirds of the world population lives on coastal regions. 90 percent of international trade is seaborne. Transportation via seas is approximately 10 times cheaper than rail, 45 times cheaper than road and 163 times cheaper than air.

The importance of the CPEC project along with the Gwadar Port at its apex have been addressed to and discussed by experts and political gurus all round the globe and since all this economic activity will ultimately take place via seas and oceans, the significance of the Indian ocean and its maritime security just cannot be ignored. Apart from providing a most economical route for trade connectivity between China, Pakistan and rest of the world, CPEC (and Gwadar Port) will provide better connectivity to the energy rich Central Asian Republics (CARs) and act as transit and trans-shipment port for Central Asia. The Gwadar Port can also be used as a hub-port for the Gulf States as well.

Pakistan military has taken several notable initiatives to ensure onshore and afloat security of the CPEC and Gwadar Port. The security of Gwadar port, Chinese personnel working there and all the included infrastructure have been entrusted into the capable hands of Pakistan Navy. According to open sources, the Pakistan Navy is adopting a multi-pronged approach to tackle all the challenges. Those steps include increasing the overall security apparatus of Gwadar Port, conducting security patrols and conducting coastal exercises. Pakistan Navy is also enhancing its Maritime Domain Awareness and engaging in Collaborative Maritime Security which as the name suggests is in association with regional and extra regional navies.

The Navy has also created a separate force consisting of Pakistan Marines for the protection of Gwadar Port and Chinese personnel. The name of the force is Force Protection Battalion (FPBn). The size of this force is subject to increase as related activities on the port will increase. Apart from the conventional threats, Pakistan Navy is also preparing its defences regarding any asymmetric threats to Pakistani ports and coast.

Constant surveillance and monitoring of maritime area of interest is being done by Pakistan Navy at all times and for this purpose, the Navy has deployed state-of-the-art radar networks, electro-optic sensors and pickets. This not only helps to fill any gaps that might be left in conventional means of protection but also generate timely and well-coordinated response if any threats are mitigated by non-state actors.

Pakistan Navy, to strengthen maritime and coastal security setup has also established Coastal Watch Stations and Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre (JMICC). This not only helps the navy to gather and compile valuable information but also enables it to synergize coordinated operations by different security agencies in maritime domain.

No country in the world can face the challenges posed in the realm of maritime security due to the given nature of modern maritime challenges and for that reason Pakistan Navy regularly collaborates with navies of different countries and engages in different activities to improve interoperability and handle maritime crimes (such as joining 2004 US-led multinational Task Force-150). This not only keeps Pakistan Navy up to speed regarding modern challenges in the maritime domain but also keeps the navy a finely tuned and oiled war machine that is ready to face any regional and extra-regional challenge to national security. Pakistan Navy is fully cognisant that navies are also responsible for fostering a country's foreign policy objectives and to this end the Pakistan Navy is constantly striving to foster stronger relations with the regional and extra-regional navies to create a safer security environment where economic activity can take place without any threat or risk.

The whole world has realised the immense significance of the CPEC project and Gwadar Port. Regional and extra regional states desperately want to get in on this project to benefit from its exploits. Countries and powers who are trying to sabotage CPEC and Gwadar port through direct and indirect means should be mindful of the fact that Pakistan and its Armed Forces are fully aware of their designs and are also capable and prepared to destroy anyone who dares to cast an evil eye on the

security of these projects and the overall national security of Pakistan.

All Day

Uzbekistan eyes Gwadar to reach World Market, urges direct access to Pakistan -- DND

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan: The Chairman of Uzbekistan Senate's Foreign Policy Committee Sodik Solihovich Safoyev said that Gwadar Port was an Uzbek ambition to reach at, and stressed capitalizing potential of Pak-Uzbek bilateral relationship.

In an exclusive interview with Dispatch New Desk (DND) news agency Chief Editor Agha Iqrar Haroon in Tashkent, Sodik Safoyev said that Pakistan and Uzbekistan were regional allies, and they had enormous opportunities to cooperate in the fields of economy, culture and security.

"Cooperation with Pakistan is one of the highest priorities of Uzbekistan's foreign policy," Sodik Safoyev said.

Sodik Safoyev, who was the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan from March 2003 to February 2005, said that though Pak-Uzbek bilateral relationship had great potential to flourish and in this regard, several bilateral meetings took place between the top leadership of both the Countries in the past.

However, he added, certain reasons such as unavailability of direct access to each other was causing hurdles in strengthening of bilateral cooperation.

"The potential of Pakistan-Uzbekistan bilateral relationship is yet to be capitalized," he said.

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The Uzbek Senate's Foreign Policy Committee Chairman said that opening and development of trade routes between Pakistan and Uzbekistan would help facilitating the linkages between these two potentially very promising markets.

Sodik Solihovich Safoyev said that multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) could help Uzbekistan to reach World Market via sea.

"We are pleased to hear that CPEC, connecting China with Pakistan, has begun functioning this year," Sodik Safoyev said.

Sodik Safoyev said that Tashkent had already been working with Beijing to build a direct rail link between Uzbekistan and China, adding that CPEC would open up new opportunity for connecting us.

"Since Uzbekistan is a land-locked Country; therefore seaport like Gwadar would help Uzbekistan to have access to the World Market," he noted.

Sodik Safoyev said that in the future, Gwadar would be the closest port for Uzbekistan and it was one of the ambitions of Uzbekistan to get access to Gwadar port.

In reply to a question regarding Parliamentary relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, Sodik Safoyev said that parliamentarians could play a very constructive role in not only boosting Pak-Uzbek cooperation but also fulfilling Tashkent's ambition to have access to Gwadar port.

The Uzbek Senate's Foreign Policy Committee Chairman said that he visited Islamabad in August 2016 and during talks with Pakistani Parliamentarians, both sides agreed that in contemporary world, bilateral relations couldn't be limited only to government-to-government contacts.

"It is not the monopoly of their ministers of foreign affairs," he said.

Sodik Safoyev said that without incorporating the role of Parliamentary diplomacy,

the bilateral relationship would not have a full Character.

“Parliamentarian contacts provide kind of a depths to their relationship,” Sodik Safoyev was of the view.

Firstly, we required creating a legislative framework of our contacts to harmonize our laws and to make business-friendly environment, he said adding that it would create some incentives for investors and businessmen to trade and create joint ventures.

Secondly, it's very important for region to region contacts. Lastly, Parliaments in most countries were playing more active role in controlling the governments for the sake of people's desires and hopes, and controlling the implementation of international laws.

“I think Parliamentarians can do a lot for activating our bilateral relationships in all dimensions,” Sodik Safoyev said.

In reply to a question about prospects for Pak-Uzbek ties in next decade, Sodik Safoyev said that since both Pakistan and Uzbekistan shared common desires of strengthening of bilateral cooperation, both the countries needed to pursue common goals.

“We are living in a very challenging era as a lot of uncertainty and unexpected events are happening throughout the world. It is very difficult for anyone to make long-term or medium-term prognosis but yet there are certain fundamentals which cannot be avoided,” he said.

Sodik Safoyev said that both Pakistan and Uzbekistan wanted to cooperate, and they were so close to each other historically, ideologically and by aspirations of their people.

Sodik Safoyev said that Pakistani people wanted to visit Bukhara and Samarkand, and at the same time Uzbek people always dreamt to visit Pakistan and had an access to their brothers over there.

For this, he added, we required to do three things. Firstly, we needed security in our countries and region as its' fundamental for our cooperation.

“Unless we are at peace situation in the region, all the talks about our wonder projects will be mere proclamation rather than pragmatic plans,” Sodik Safoyev said.

Sodik Solihovich Safoyev, who is also a former Special Advisor of Uzbek President on Afghanistan, said that we all should have struggled for security and eradicating transnational threats like terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking, organized crime etc etc.

Secondly, he said, we needed direct linkages and development of transport corridors for connecting us.

“We need peace in Afghanistan which will allow us to build up railroads and pipelines which will bring energy to Pakistan and Pakistani goods to Central Asian Countries,” said.

Sodik Safoyev further said that in a bid to intensify Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations, both the Countries should also have started exploring common Islamic heritage of great philosophers and thinkers who used to live in these two Countries.

All Day

China's Shanghai Electric to invest USD 9bn in Pak upgrades -- Business Standard

China's Shanghai Electric plans to spend USD 9 billion overhauling electricity infrastructure in Karachi, a minister said, just months after the multinational revealed it was buying a Pakistan power company.

China is ramping up investment in its South Asian neighbour as part of a USD 46 billion project unveiled last year that will link its far-western Xinjiang region to Pakistan's Gwadar port with a series of infrastructure, power and transport upgrades.

In a presentation made to Pakistani authorities, Shanghai Electric said it would invest an average of \$700 million a year until 2030 to increase capacity, improve cabling and target bill defaulters.

"The investment would be utilised in distribution, generation, transmission" and training, Miftah Ismail, minister for state and chairman of Pakistan's Board of Investment told AFP on Wednesday.

The investment would also aim to tackle widespread electricity theft and other losses that cost about \$269 million a month in the city, partly by replacing above-ground grid stations with underground ones.

Shanghai Electric announced in August it would buy a majority stake in K-Electric, which is owned by Abraaj Group of Dubai, for USD 1.7 billion, which would be Pakistan's biggest ever private-sector acquisition.

All Day

First-ever Chinese Ambassador Scholarship established at QAU -- BR
Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Sun Weidong here on Thursday inaugurated the Chinese Ambassador Scholarship program for undergraduate and MPhil students at the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR), Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU). In this connection, an agreement was signed by the ambassador Sun and QAU Vice Chancellor Dr Javed Ashraf. The ambassador also handed over a cheque of dollar 29,500 to the University for implementing the program.

Speaking on the occasion, the Ambassador said the scholarship was the "first of its kind" offered by the Chinese Embassy to students of a public sector University in Pakistan. In an academic year, each of the ten selected students enrolled in the under-graduate and MPhil degree programs will receive an amount of Rs 150,000 on need and merit basis. The Scholarship was established with the aim to help the University's students overcoming their financial difficulties to undertake their future study and promote academic activity under the Pakistan-China friendship program. It also meant to encourage talented students, enabling them to play their role in the country's socio-economic development.

Eulogizing the growing Sino-Pak socio-economic partnership, the Chinese ambassador said that the two countries are like iron brothers, who always trusted and supported each other. This friendship is deeply rooted in the hearts of their people.

Referring to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he said, it elevated their friendship to a new height. "This friendship has entered into a new stage of ground development in the form of CPEC under which 17 major projects have been started across the country. These projects would bring a major change in socio economic development of Pakistan, offering enormous employment opportunities, fulfilling the dreams of the skilled youth," he added. Dr Ashraf thanked the ambassador for selecting Quaid-i-Azam University, initiating the ambassador scholarship program. Dean Faculty of Social Sciences.

All Day

Pakistan Navy's special 'Task Force-88' set up to guard Gwadar port's sea lanes -- Dawn

Pakistan Navy's special 'Task Force-88' (TF-88) was established Tuesday for maritime security of Gwadar port and protection of associated sea lanes against both conventional and non-traditional threats.

An International Maritime Conference on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was held at Gwadar today to commission the TF-88 force.

The creation of the special maritime force has been necessitated by the operationalisation of CPEC, which is expected to lead to a surge in maritime activity at Gwadar — the nodal point for CPEC — and the sea lanes. This has in turn increased the maritime susceptibilities there.

TF-88 is to comprise ships, Fast Attack Craft, aircraft, drones (unmanned aerial vehicles), and surveillance assets. Additionally, marines would be deployed at sea and around Gwadar for security operations, according to a senior Navy official.

Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zakaullah and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Gen Zubair Hayat, Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Sanaullah Zehri attended the conference.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was to attend the conference but his flight from Lahore was delayed due to dense fog, Admiral Zakaullah said.

All Day

PM Nawaz to inaugurate Global Conference in Gwadar today

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will visit Gwadar on Tuesday to inaugurate the Global Conference.

According to details, the premier will also go to Turbat, Pishin and Quetta. Balochistan Chief Minister Sanaullah Zehri will host dinner for the PM at Pishin.

Nawaz Sharif is expected to visit Turbat, where he will inaugurate Hoshab Road.

Gwadar is an extremely crucial city which has a vital role to play in the China-Pakistan Economic Project, an economic corridor which links China's Xinjiang province to the port city in Balochistan.

Chinese goods will be shipped from Gwadar and exported to all parts of the world from the deep sea port.

All Day

CPEC, GWADAR DEVELOPMENT WILL PROVE TO BE GAME CHANGER FOR ENTIRE REGION: PM -- Radio Pakistan

He was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of Hoshab-Pangur-Sorab road at Turbat on Wednesday. The 448 kilometer road, which is important component of the Western Corridor of CPEC, has been completed at a cost of over 22 billion rupees to link Gwadar Port with National Highway network. It will also provide shortest link to Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics.

The Prime Minister described completion of this vital project as making of new Balochistan and new Pakistan. He expressed the confidence that its completion would create enormous economic and commercial activities and help overcome the challenge of poverty, backwardness, ignorance and unemployment in the region.

Mian Nawaz Sharif regretted that Balochistan remained neglected in the past but the present Government is fully resolved to bring it at par with other province. He said development and progress is right of people of Balochistan and it is duty of the Government to give them this right.

The Prime Minister said Balochistan has been bestowed with immense natural resources exploitation of which cannot only change fate of the province but also the country. He said CPEC and development of Gwadar would prove to be game changer for the province, the country and the entire region.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said on Wednesday developmental activities are visible in each and every corner of the country. A number of motorways, highways and roads besides bridges and other infrastructure projects are being undertaken in different areas.

He said a number of power plants are coming up and as a consequence the country would get rid of the menace of load-shedding.

The Prime Minister said his Government is pursuing the path of economic development while its opponents are only indulging in negative politics. He said people of Pakistan would make a decision on the basis of actual work in 2018 general elections.

On this occasion, the Prime Minister announced construction of Hoshab-Awaran-Lasbela road, to be jointly financed by the Federal and the Provincial Governments.

All Day

PAKISTAN, CHINA TERM NEW CHANDELIER AT QUAID'S TOMB A 'SYMBOL OF STRONG SINO-PAK FRIENDSHIP' -- BR
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have termed the installation of new chandelier gifted by the latter for the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam as a "symbol of strong bond between the two countries".

President Mamnoon Hussain in his message on the installation of the new chandelier, which he is going to inaugurate on Saturday, has expressed confidence that the symbolic significance of the chandelier would always remind the importance of Sino-Pak relationship.

"The installation of new chandelier, a masterpiece of its own kind, at the last abode of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah is a great occasion for the nation," he said.

President Mamnoon said during the construction of Quaid's mausoleum some 45 years ago, China had gifted a beautiful chandelier.

"During the whole four-and-half-decades, the chandelier had been illuminating the mausoleum as a symbol of Pak-China friendship," he said.

He said due to environmental pollution and corrosive atmosphere of Karachi, the chandelier had lost its shine with the passage of time and the government of Pakistan decided to change it.

For this purpose, he said, a request was made to the Chinese government to assign some experts for this job, but the Chinese government decided to do it on its own as a goodwill gesture.

The President thanked the Chinese leadership and especially Ambassador Sun Weidong for the chandelier.

Adviser to Prime Minister on National History and Literary Heritage Irfan Siddiqi in his message said the bond between Pakistan and China is unbreakable.

He said the friendship that the two countries have forged is beyond the spheres of defence, security, economy, trade, communication and nuclear power.

"Pakistan and China turned a new leaf when their friendship became more about cultural traditions," he said.

He mentioned that when the time came to replace the existing chandelier, China, a true friend proposed to replace it and bear all costs from production to installation.

"The offer is a reflection of the indestructible bond between the two countries," he said.

Irfan Siddiqi said he believed that the chandelier at the tomb would continue shedding light on the great bond between the two countries for generations to come.

Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong said the chandelier shows the utmost respect for Quaid-e-Azam by the Chinese people and the deep-rooted affection between two countries spanning more than half a century.

He said the year 2016 marks the 140th anniversary of the birth of Quaid-e-Azam and 65th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic relations.

"In this regard, the government of China has decided to provide a new chandelier to Mazar-e-Quaid with assistance gratis," he said.

He said with the help of best designer and producer in China, this chandelier is now refurbished with brighter lightening and energy-saving technology, while retaining its original shape.

"The new chandelier represents the light of friendship, mutual-trust and cooperation shining in our peoples' hearts," he said.

The Ambassador said the chandelier would serve as the inexhaustible sources of momentum for our future relations and would continue to be a beacon shedding light for a path towards a community of shared destiny.

All Day

Submarine cable landing station to be set up in Gwadar -- The Nations
ISLAMABAD - The National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC) has planned to establish submarine cable landing station at Gwadar to provide alternate route to the existing network.

This was revealed on Thursday during a signing ceremony between the NTC and the Telecard Limited. Both the companies will cooperate on developing business and providing support solutions in the ICT for Government Sector under the Telecom Policy 2015. Supernet Ltd is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Telecard Limited providing services to customers, which include satellite, radio and fiber optic base managed WAN services. Shamsul Arfeen, CEO Telecard Ltd endorsed that the partnership would add value to the NTC portfolio as their business partner to provide latest satellite technologies such as the O3B services, i-direct service and low-cost satellite-based broadband services for the NTC customers. NTC Managing Director Brig (retired) Viqar Rashid Khan, while speaking on the occasion, briefed the audience that the NTC was the first operator to establish the Cloud-Based National Data Centre in the public sector.

He said that the corporation NTC had completed over 85 per cent of its ADP projects in a record one year.

It also extended its services from 54 districts/cities to 87 districts/ cities including 13 districts in Sindh and six districts in Balochistan.

Overall Fixed Lines telephone growth observed was six per cent despite the decline in its general use, which then saw growth of over 36 per cent in broadband.

Over 45 per cent networks have been shifted from the TDM to IP-based Next Generation Network, the managing director said.

All Day

Bankers for issuance of multi-currency CPEC sukuk -- BR

Bankers have proposed issuance of multicurrency Sukuk for financing of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) infrastructure projects. Addressing a roundtable session on "Islamic Finance Opportunities in CPEC and Beyond" conducted by IBA Centre for Excellence in Islamic Finance on Friday at IBA City campus, Ghulam Abbasi, Director of Islamic Banking Department, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said that Islamic finance in Pakistan faces a major issue of liquidity development, for which CPEC is a golden opportunity especially for Sukuk.

He emphasised on building a platform where specific action points can be discussed and accordingly implemented. On behalf of SBP, he assured full support saying that the regulators will always support the new products, however it should be maximised as per the potential and an action plan needs to be properly developed. Dr Sulaiman Liu, Senior Partner from Al-Sadiq Consulting Limited spoke about Islamic financing options and opportunities that are necessary in order to give the Corridor the necessary push. Showing the overall geographical terrain, Dr Liu explained how this was an opportunity for Pakistan to increase international and local opportunities from other parts of the world, especially Honk Kong and Dubai.

He also mentioned a summit which will be held in China next year and would be an opportunity to develop ideas for Pak-China Islamic Banks, Takaful Companies and so on. He also mentioned how Hong Kong, even though not a Muslim country has been issuing Sukuk since 2014, and another in 2015, both of which are oversubscribed. They have been offering Islamic Financing since 2007.

Abdullah Han Senior Partner from Al-Sadiq, spoke about how the 30 million Muslim population of China was devoid of any Shariah-compliant alternative to banking in China due to regulatory challenges. He also pitched the idea of gaining a liquidity pool for Sukuk from Islamic capital markets like Dubai and Kuala Lumpur. Ahmed Ali Siddiqui, Director of the Centre for Excellence in Islamic Finance talked on the CPEC and the role of Islamic Financial Institutions. He also appreciated the work being done for the economic development in the region.

He remarked that sessions like these between Pakistan and Chinese industry partners should continue in future, so that we can have a practical action plan for gaining maximum benefit. He invited the Chinese guests to a further event to be hosted in January to discuss the Islamic Finance opportunities in CPEC. He said the idea of issuing multicurrency Sukuk to finance CPEC infrastructure projects was very attractive, with the added advantage of avoiding foreign currency risk for both Pakistani and Chinese investors.

Irfan Siddiqui, CEO of Meezan Bank, spoke about the corridor and how China has allocated \$46 billion and asked for a further \$6 billion to be invested. He also spoke about Gwadar and how it became extremely necessary to develop cohesion between the two nations.

Meanwhile, CEOs and heads of departments of a number of Financial Institutions, regulator and academic institutions including Nasir Ali Syed, CEO Pak Qatar Takaful Limited, Muhammad Shoaib Ibrahim CEO First Habib Modaraba, Ashraf Bava CEO Nael Capital, Adnan Fasih Group Head IBD of Habib Metropolitan Bank and others also attend the round table session.

All Day

Pakistan-China to revolutionize IT sector -- Tech Juice

Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) is planning on revolutionizing the information technology in collaboration with China under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

A three-member Chinese delegation from BODA software solutions, Sichuan, China, led by Qiu Ziynn met with PCJCCI President Wang Zihai, in order to strengthen the bilateral ties between two countries in IT sector. The delegation was sent by Chinese Government in order to inform the Chinese stakeholders investing in CPEC about the IT opportunities present in Pakistan. Also, China is interested in outsourcing IT work to Pakistan companies.

Information Technology is the need of the hour. PCJCCI Secretary General M Salahuddin Hanif mentioned Pakistan Government's efforts in this regard. He informed that the IT and Telecom ministries are collaborating to form 'e-commerce gateway framework' to open more opportunities in online commercial ventures. He also said that Pakistan's mobile gaming and animation industry earns millions per month by developing and exporting mobile applications.

Wang Zihai briefed the delegation about thousands of IT companies working in Pakistan which develop high-end software solutions for some of the largest companies in the world. Also, Pakistan has won many international IT awards.

They discussed that currently, CPEC is focusing on energy and infrastructure development. Now, the both governments will step forward to jointly revolutionize the IT sector by developing an e-corridor for greater connectivity and development.

Established in 2012 under Trade Organization Ordinance 2009, PCJCCI works on the economic integration and mutual benefits by enhancing the bilateral trade between Pakistan and China.

All Day

Pakistan Turns to China in Energy Binge -- Wall Street Journal, 1025 Connecticut Ave NW # 800, Washington, DC 20036, USA

KARACHI, Pakistan—When Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif came to office in 2013, rolling power outages across the country were plunging homes and businesses into darkness for up to 12 hours a day.

Now the Pakistani leader is betting on a \$21 billion Chinese-backed splurge on energy projects to boost the economy—and his re-election bid.

More than 10,000 Chinese workers are now building at least 10 partly Beijing-financed energy projects across Pakistan that are set to grow the country's energy output by 60% within two years in the first major boost to supply in two decades. Mr. Sharif's government plans to inaugurate a nuclear plant this month and a pipeline network in January that will carry large-scale gas imports upcountry.

"Never in the history of Pakistan has there been such a big package of electricity plants in the pipeline," said Syed Akhtar Ali, in charge of energy at the Planning Commission, the ministry tasked with long-term development.

RELATED

China's Growing Role in Pakistan's Power Struggle -- The Numbers

Mr. Sharif's promise to solve the electricity crisis propelled him to office at a time when the energy deficit was knocking some 2 percentage points off growth, economists say, stifling industry and leaving school children to study by candlelight.

Pakistan's economic growth has risen to almost 5% annually under Mr. Sharif and his government set a 7% target for the years ahead. That, his government hopes, will boost the moribund private sector, reduce unemployment and provide youth with more alternatives to extremism.

The energy plan is a centerpiece of that economic aspiration. Mr. Sharif is racing to fulfill his pledge and become the first incumbent to be re-elected in a country whose voters—or the interventionist military—have long ousted its leaders for their poor performance. Mr. Sharif, who led Pakistan twice before in the 1990s, hasn't previously even completed a term in office.

"Electric power is going to be the swing factor in the election," said Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, the minister for petroleum. "If we don't deliver on power, we won't be seen as having delivered."

ENLARGE

Mr. Sharif's plan depends heavily on China, which is translating its long-term strategic ties with Pakistan into an economic partnership, part of a broader infrastructure push across Eurasia. China is financing many plants as commercial investments. But to expedite projects, the Pakistani government is funding some power stations in the run up to the election, including three gas-fired plants in Mr. Sharif's home province of Punjab. The eventual aim is to more than double Pakistan's current output of around 16,000 megawatts.

By comparison, Washington's multibillion-dollar civilian aid program for Pakistan has been far less ambitious, adding 1,000 megawatts to the country's power generation in recent years by enhancing existing power stations.

The plan is to add 10,000 megawatts of the new China-backed infrastructure, a mixture of coal, gas and hydro electricity, by early 2018, months before elections, at a cost of \$21 billion. The schedule is tight. The massive amounts of natural gas and coal needed for the plants require an extensive delivery system of ports, pipelines and railways. The country also needs to upgrade its power distribution network to be able to carry the extra electricity.

"My concern is that gaps in longer term planning, including much needed structural, regulatory and market reforms, will once again fall by the wayside in the euphoria of

having achieved a temporary electricity supply surplus,” said Jamil Masud, a partner at Hagler Bailly Pakistan, an energy consultancy,

The projects could become a political issue. The Chinese-financed plants enjoy a generous return guaranteed by Islamabad. Less highly populated provinces complain that Mr. Sharif’s Punjab has scooped an unfair share of the projects. Beyond the election, billions of dollars of more Chinese power projects are also planned.

At Karachi’s Port Qasim, a \$2 billion coal-fired plant is taking shape. After only 1.5 years under construction, one 400-foot high cooling tower is up and the second is almost complete. The hulking metal frames for the boilers are in place and a jetty for imported coal is taking shape. Around 4,000 people work on the site, 24 hours a day—half of them Chinese workers who aren’t allowed to step outside its boundary.

On the other side of the port, a massive tanker ship serves as a terminal for liquefied natural gas imports, which are piped across Pakistan. Three more terminals are planned by the government.

The Chinese hope that, over time, greater economic success for its Pakistani ally will act as a source of stability and help to de-radicalize society, said Andrew Small, author of *The China-Pakistan Axis*.

“If you have a more normalized Pakistani economy and closer economic linkages within the region, this will at least mitigate some of the long standing conflictual tendencies that exist there,” he said.

All Day

CHINA TO SET UP LARGE STEEL FACTORY AT GWADAR -- APP

ISLAMABAD: Acting Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Zhao Lijian Monday said that his country would set up a large steel factory at Gwadar to further expedite economic developments being carried out under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework.

"Both China and Pakistan would very soon sign an agreement to establish the steel factory, three times bigger than the free economic zone being set up in Gwadar city," he made this announcement while addressing participants of a day-long conference on CPEC: Potential and Prospects organized by Strategic Vision Institute (SVI) here.

He said, industrial cooperation was the fourth pillar of CPEC initiative and both the country would discuss it in the next meeting of Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of CPEC to be held in Beijing this month.

"After completion of energy projects, transport infrastructure and development of Gwadar Port, industrial cooperation between China and Pakistan will be the main topic at the next JCC," he added.

Zhao Lijian informed that China was working a lot for the development of Gwadar Port which was built with the Chinese government's assistance.

He said, after completion, the port was handed over to Singapore but there was no improvement even after passage of five years.

Finally, it was given to the Chinese government by Pakistan government and the port was made functional and a ship carrying Chinese goods left for Africa.

He said, a business centre, hostel for different companies, fisheries processing plant with cold storage facility had been established in the free economic zone spread over around nine kilometers.

About Gwadar airport up-gradation, he said, the new international airport would have landing facility for all the modern aircraft including A-380 Airbus after completion, adding, prior to the up-gradation only C-130 or propeller-planes could land at the old airport.

The Acting Chinese Ambassador said, a 150-bed hospital was being built for the treatment of local people while a vocational institute had been set up for imparting training of different skills especially for the fishermen.

Talking about different energy project being completed under CPEC initiative in different parts of Pakistan, he particularly mentioned about the coal-based power plants which were being built in accordance with environmental standard set by the World Bank (WB) and other concerned international organizations.

He said, China produces around 60 percent of its total power generation through coal based power stations using modern and state-of-the-art technology.

"The environmental concerns will be taken into consideration during the completion of these power stations," he added.

Zhao Lijian pointed out hydro power plant, coal based power plants, wind power plants and solar based power plants were being set up to meet the electricity shortage in Pakistan.

He informed that the Karot Power Plant was being financed by the Silk Bank established by the Chinese government.

The groundbreaking of Suki Kinari, Kohala Hydro Power Project would be held early next year, he said and added, Sahiwal Power Plant and Port Qasim Power Plant would be completed by next June and December respectively.

He said, a power plant set up at Thar coal site would also be inaugurated in next June.

He said, HUBCO power plant, one of the biggest coal-based power plant, would provide constant and stable power supply throughout the year.

All Day

PAK-CHINA FM98 DOSTI CHANNEL LAUNCHED -- BR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) and China Radio International (CRI) on Monday launched local transmission of FM98 Dosti Channel in a colourful ceremony here at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

PBC Director General Khursheed Ahmed Malik and CRI Vice President Hu Bangsheng signed a mutual agreement on the occasion. Senior officials of China Embassy were also present.

Addressing the ceremony, the PBC Director General said Pakistan and China enjoyed cordial bilateral relations. Their friendship was now touching the peak as work on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was in full swing, he added.

He said PBC was proud to be a close partner of CRI.

Khursheed Ahmed Malik said PBC's external service was presenting a one hour programme on Chinese language.

He expressed the hope that cooperation between the two organizations would further strengthen their cordial relations in future.

CRI Vice President Hu Bangsheng said Pakistan and China had been connected with each other through the Silk Route for last 2,000 years.

He appreciated the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage for extending its cooperation in initiating various cultural programmes and establishing the FM channel.

Earlier, the function was started with national anthems of Pakistan and China. Students of various schools presented the the anthems.

Later, the artists of PNCA performed the traditional dances of all the provinces, including Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. A cake was also cut to mark the occasion.

All Day

Radio Pakistan proposes launching of CPEC Radio Channel -- Daily Pakistan

ISLAMABAD – Director General Radio Pakistan Khurshid Ahmed Malik has announced that Pakistan would extend every possible cooperation to China Radio International (CRI) for transmission of Dousti Channel.

Talking to visiting Vice President CRI, Hu Bengsheng here on Monday, he said CRI content is very popular in Pakistan, and launching of Dousti Channel would add a local flavour to this broadcast. He said cooperation between CRI and Radio Pakistan has been a positive experience.

According to Mr. Malik, Radio Pakistan is already broadcasting programmes in eleven foreign languages, including Chinese. He suggested that the service could further be improved by CRI training the Chinese Service staff.

CRI vice president said his organisation will provide three staff members to Chinese Service of Radio Pakistan at its own expense. The two sides have agreed on mutual training of staff members of both organisations to enhance cooperation and

understanding, and strengthen ties in the field of broadcasting.

Director General Khurshid Malik proposed setting up of a dedicated CPEC radio channel as a joint collaboration between Radio Pakistan and CRI, with its transmitters from Kashgar to Gwadar, in order to highlight activities related to this multi-billion dollar project and to promote the culture of areas through which it passes.

He informed CRI delegation that Radio Pakistan has already upgraded its stations in Gilgit and Gwadar for this purpose.

Hu Bengsheng said that such a channel could be set up in two phases. The first would be to strengthen Dousti Channel and second would be to work on the feasibility of CPEC channel. He said cooperation between two media organisations will further strengthen people-to-people contact between Pakistan and China.

Vice President CRI also invited Director General Radio Pakistan to visit CRI.Online

All Day

China To Set Up Large Steel Factory At Gwadar -- HELLENIC SHIPPING NEWS WORLDWIDE - Online Daily Newspaper, Grigoriou Lampraki 120, Pireas 185 32, Greece

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He said, HUBCO power plant, one of the biggest coal-based power plant, would provide constant and stable power supply throughout the year.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

All Day

Gwadar students visit PU -- APP

On the invitation of the Punjab government, a delegation of students and teachers of different academic institutions of Gwadar reached the provincial metropolis on Monday.

The delegation reached through Pakistan Air Force's C-130 aircraft at Lahore

Airport from where they reached Punjab University through special buses.

A lunch was hosted by Punjab University in the honour of delegation in which PU Registrar Prof Dr Liaqat Ali, Director Students Affairs Shahid Gul, Higher Education Department Deputy Secretary Nauman Jamil, Director Colleges Muhammad Zahid, Deputy Adviser Students Affairs Zubair Ahmed and others were present. The delegation will visit various departments of Punjab University on Tuesday (today).

December 21, 2016

Wed

All Day

GWADAR HAS MAJOR SHARE IN NATIONAL FINANCE

COMMISSION: SHAHBAZ -- Radio Pakistan

Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has said that Gwadar has major share in National Finance Commission.

Talking to a student's delegation hailing from Gwadar in Lahore on Wednesday, he said Balochistan has been granted major share in National Finance Commission while attention is being given to address reservations of people in the province.

The Chief Minister said Balochistan will be top most beneficiary of China Pakistan Economic Corridor project. He said 42 kilometers long Quetta Metro Bus project has been included in the CPEC.

All Day

Moscow to host Pak, China for talks on Afghanistan -- Observer

Russia is hosting an important trilateral meeting involving Pakistan and China on 27th December to discuss the prevailing situation in Afghanistan, reflecting the importance that the three countries attach to the peace and stability of the conflict-ravaged Afghanistan.

Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary will lead the Pakistan delegation to the trilateral talks.

The proposed talks have assumed importance at a time when there is no let-up in violence in Afghanistan in spite of the advent of winter.

As a prelude to the trilateral meeting, a working level meeting has already taken place. The deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan has raised concerns about the spillover effect due to the presence of non-state actors and other elements there.

According to a recent statement of Russian foreign ministry, the consultations are aimed at establishing a wider regional partnership on the issue.

The official had stated that it was in the interest of regional stakeholders to protect themselves from the terrorist spillover, noting that containment efforts should take the form of an 'Afghan regional' project.

All Day

**UZBEKISTAN CONSIDERING BECOMING PART OF CPEC --
Nation**

Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ulugbek Rozukulov has said that Pakistan is a very important country, and his country wanted to enhance bilateral ties in various fields including trade.

"The government, masses and business community of Uzbekistan and Pakistan must strive to boost bilateral trade, which is well below the actual potential," he said.

While speaking to the businessmen at FPCCI's Capital House here on Saturday, the visiting dignitary said that Pakistan could resolve its energy problem with the help of natural resources of Uzbekistan and that his country was considering to become part of CPEC, which, he said, was a fate changing project.

Uzbek ambassador to Pakistan, Apex Chamber President Abdur Rauf Alam and others were also present on the occasion.

"CPEC will not only benefit the whole region, but will also positively affect the people living in other parts of the field besides promoting Pakistan's economy," he said, and added, "We should push cooperation to the new heights."

Speaking on the occasion, FPCCI President Abdur Rauf Alam said that Pakistan was exporting pharmaceuticals, leather goods, agricultural products, milk and sports goods to the brotherly country of Uzbekistan.

"Pakistan is importing cotton, yarn, clothes, iron, steel plastic, telecommunications equipment and electric items from Uzbekistan," he added.

Alam said that Uzbekistan was producing quality aircraft, cars and machinery, which were not being imported.

He demanded immediate establishment of a Pakistan-Uzbekistan Joint Business Council to promote trade and investment. An MOU for cooperation was signed between the apex chambers of both the countries and a meeting of Pakistan-Uzbekistan Business Forum was also held.

All Day

'Pakistan's aviation needs boost to capitalise on CPEC,' says Mark Goh, National University Singapore -- BR

December 26, 2016 RECORDER REPORT 0 Comments E-mail Print PDF

Mark Goh is currently a Professor at the Department of Decision Sciences and Director (Industry Research) with the Logistics Institute-Asia Pacific at the National University of Singapore, where his areas of interest include supply chain management and physical distribution management. His first book was called 'Growth triangle: problems and prospects in international business,' which studied international business from the lens of economic development in Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

BR Research recently caught up with Mark at the 32nd AGM of Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), where he gave the Allama Iqbal Lecture on the 'role of productivity, quality and innovation in making CPEC work for Pakistan.' The following interview is the edited draft of his post-lecture discussion with BR Research. The topic, of course, is CPEC seen from the lens of Mark's area of expertise.

BR Research: Let's start off from your understanding of Gwadar; its current state and potential. Compared to other large container ports in the region such as Shanghai, Singapore, Shenzhen and Dubai, how does Gwadar fare on the different metrics such as cargo handling capacity, container yard space, cargo storage capacity, and other transportation infrastructure such as air, rail, and road links?

Mark Goh: These are very specific capital investment questions; it is difficult to compare cargo handling capacity, terminals, berths and so forth at the moment, since Gwadar is still a work in progress. For instance, if I remember correctly, the number of berths in Gwadar is in a very different order than those in Shanghai, Singapore, or Dubai, since these older ports are much bigger.

But I think Gwadar's role and potential does not lie as much as in the number of berths but in its strategic location, since it gives potential access to Central Asian states and serves as a backdoor entry to the western provinces of China. And in the case of the latter, it fits very well into China's western region development plan.

The Chinese would want to raise the overall profile and quality of life of their population, and Gwadar is an important part of their game plan. The good news for Gwadar is that it is literally starting from scratch; it therefore has the opportunity to become a state-of-the-art port.

There are four possible basic means of connectivity - the air, the port, the road, and the railways. In addition, there is the pipeline. Together, these can make Gwadar a great inter-modal transportation hub.

BRR: What are the roots of this potential?

MG: The potential is there because Gwadar is a naturally deepwater port, which means there is little need for dredging. All you have to do is to develop the hinterland, build the roads, set up the infrastructure and you are good to go. It is also important to note that Gwadar is protected from the open ocean because it is on the right side of the bay; rather than the left side of the bay, which means it is protected from strong currents while being a deepwater port at the same time.

BRR: Certain quarters theorise that Chabahar is going to give competition to Gwadar. Where do you stand on that?

MG: It depends which horse you want to favour; if you favour one horse over another, you will put your money there. As of now, it seems it is Gwadar, since it offers the shortest route, and recent developments point to the same.

There are three main considerations here: political, safety, and security. I believe Pakistan was chosen because of its unique reason and good relationship with China. And the reason why China chose Gwadar rather than the ports in Karachi is

because it is easier to develop a brand new port than improve an existing port, which may already be choked.

BRR: If that is indeed the case then why do you think that China did a cargo train test from east of China, via Central Asia into Tehran?

MG: It was to make a point to the world that after so many years of talking and negotiating across several countries, China is really following through with the plan. It was also to prove that the Chinese will put their money where their mouth is. Second, as I understand, the Chinese always look out for options. Let me give you an example of how China looks at options, and that is good for modality choices.

Most of China's oil supply goes through the Straits of Malacca, which is a very busy channel. So, they have been working on three possible options for the same oil. Through the east, they have the traditional Straits of Malacca. There they have built a by-pass as well from one side of Malaysia to another, which means oil doesn't have to go through the entire Straits; it can stop half way and the rest can be transported via another transportation means across Malaysia to its eastern side where there is also a port and terminal facilities. From there, the oil is shipped off to coastal China. This helps to cut the delivery time. They have also invested in the southern part of Myanmar, from where oil will be shipped all the way to southern part of China. And then there is Gwadar to help connect with western China. In this way, China will not be dependent on oil coming from one transport route only.

mark-goh

BRR: Do you have estimates of Gwadar's benefits to China in terms of cost and time?

MG: As I mentioned in my presentation at PIDE, it would take about four-five days to cargo goods from Kashgar to Gwadar, which will help China reduce the time compared to transporting goods through the Straits of Malacca. Moreover, in dollar terms, every one day lost in transport can probably result in a loss of one percent of trade value.

BRR: What is your assessment on Pakistan's potential to emerge as a supply chain hub, both in the context of service logistics such as warehousing, trucking, and documentation services, as well as production logistics such as contract manufacturing and assembly?

MG: It is very hard to say at the moment considering that I don't know enough about the state of these industries in your country. But suffice to say, Pakistan needs to improve its infrastructure, ensure fixed schedule of rail, road, port, and airport services, given that businesses cannot afford to lose even a day. Pakistan also needs to improve its passenger airlines sector to maximise the opportunity for better transport connectivity; and both service and production logistics need safety and security too.

BRR: Let us flip the question around. Would China be looking for service logistics in Pakistan or production logistics?

MG: Its biggest interest is in service logistics. But production logistics may also follow suit.

BRR: Given the high labour cost differential between China and Pakistan, why wouldn't China want to set up production logistics in Pakistan?

MG: Let's look at the FTC industry - which is footwear, textile, and clothing. The FTC industry is facing high labour costs in China because a lot of workers tend to go to electronics industry because they pay better compared to FTC.

But why is China relocating this industry to Vietnam rather than Pakistan, when in fact Vietnam is not cheaper than Pakistan based on the data presented in the conference earlier, and that the FTC industry is very sensitive to labour costs? One

reason is the proximity to southern China, where most of China's FTC industry is located, and the other is that the stitching skills of the Vietnamese workers are better.

The only way Pakistan can fit into the equation is when you can say, 'we not only have cheap labour but also our quality is as good as rest of the world.' This of course will have to be in addition to ensuring that infrastructure issues and power and gas shortages are resolved, which is why China is investing heavily in Pakistan's power sector. The proximity to power stations will determine the success of the special economic zones or export processing zones.

BRR: How badly do you think China needs Pakistan? Should Pakistan negotiate tightly or should it let China enter first and then negotiate strongly later?

MG: We have to look at this way - is there a downside to

All Day

CPEC to usher in 'new era of development': COAS Bajwa -- DAWN

Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Monday expressed the hope that timely completion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would usher in a new era of development in the region.

He was addressing the passing out parade of newly recruited Baloch personnel of the Pakistan Army in Quetta.

He said Balochistan is an integral part of Pakistan and its resources would in future open new paths of progress for the people of Balochistan.

Development in Balochistan would ensure peace and stability in the country, the army chief added.

"That is why our enemies want to hinder Balochistan's bright future.

"I am extremely pleased that the people of Balochistan... have rejected all anti-Pakistan elements."

Gen Bajwa said Pakistan's "doors are open for those brothers who have been misguided by the enemy".

He said the betterment of law and order in Balochistan is the "foremost priority of the government" and in this respect, the Pakistan Army is assisting with the training and capacity building of police and other law enforcement agencies.

"Pakistan Army, despite limited resources, has always tried to play its positive role in the educational, societal and economic progress of the province alongside other institutions," he said.

"Pakistan Army is the manifestation of national unity in which all provinces are represented approximately according to their populations."

In today's ceremony, 577 recruits successfully completed their training and were awarded certificates by the army chief.

So far, over 13,000 Baloch youths have been trained and recruited by the Pakistan Army.

About CPEC

Balochistan is a key region for China's ambitious \$46 billion CPEC infrastructure project linking its western province of Xinjiang to the Arabian Sea via Pakistan.

Security problems have mired CPEC in the past with numerous attacks, but China has said it is confident the Pakistani military is in control.

The CPEC is a 3,000-kilometer network of roads, railways and pipelines to transport oil and gas from Gwadar Port to Kashgar city, northwestern China's Xinjiang Uighur autonomous region.

Proposed by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during his visit to Pakistan in May 2013, the CPEC will act as a bridge for the new Maritime Silk Route that envisages linking three billion people in Asia, Africa and Europe.

An official agreement on the corridor was signed between the two countries in May last year during President Xi Jinping's historic visit to Pakistan.

A flagship project of the Belt and Road initiative as well, the CPEC intends to revive the ancient Silk Road with a focus on infrastructure, and constitutes the strategic framework of bilateral cooperation.

The project links China's strategy to develop its western region with Pakistan's focus on boosting its economy, including the infrastructure construction of Gwadar Port, together with some energy cooperation and investment programs.

All Day

Pak-Russia-China talks to focus on Afghanistan, CPEC -- The News

ISLAMABAD: A meeting between Pakistan, Russia and China will be held in Moscow today to discuss regional peace and stability, including situation in Afghanistan.

Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary will lead the Pakistan delegation at the talks. FO spokesman Nafees Zakria told a media briefing that peace and stability in Afghanistan is in the interest of Pakistan and the entire region.

Chinese, Pakistani and Russian officials say they were driven to joint action by the efforts of Daesh affiliates to establish a foothold in Afghanistan.

The Russian inclusion in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is another important agenda of the meeting. There has been no formal discussion on the subject yet, however Russia has shown intention to be included in the project and China has welcomed the request.

On the other hand, Afghanistan is unhappy over being ignored for the trilateral meeting.

"Talking on Afghanistan without consulting the country raises serious questions for the Afghan people. We are worried about what the reasons behind the meeting are and want the relevant parties to explain," said Ahmad Shekib Mustaghni, spokesman for the Afghanistan foreign ministry.

All Day

Eight industrial zones to be set up under CPEC project: Ahsan Iqbal -- SAMAA

BEIJING: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform Ahsan Iqbal says CPEC will not be limited to development projects but also help to boost people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

He said this while talking to media, after the concluded meeting of two-day Pak-China Joint Cooperation Committee of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in Beijing.

Ahsan Iqbal said the meeting expressed satisfaction that by the cooperation of the leadership of both the countries CPEC is moving ahead successfully.

He said the meeting expressed satisfaction over the ongoing work on the 8000MW power projects under CPEC.

The Planning Minister said a working group has been constituted to carry forward the work on Bhasha Dam to be built on Indus River.

He said the transport infrastructure group expressed satisfaction on two big projects including Multan-Sukkur project and Karakorum Project from Havelian to Thakot where work is underway.

Ahsan Iqbal said under the transport infrastructure, rail based mass transit projects were approved for all provincial capitals and included in the CPEC framework.

He said under CPEC eight industrial zones will be set up with one zone in each province and special areas of Federally Administered Areas, Azad Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and Gwadar.

The title "Gwadar's largest commercial scheme" Al-Noor cargo city holds this distinct. Al-Noor cargo city is also known as Gwadar's first strategic commercial scheme. Al-Noor cargo city is situated in the mid of Gwadar airport and Gwadar sea port. It has one-kilometer wide front on the 205ft wide main Baluchistan Broadway and 150ft wide Existing coastal highway.

Al-Noor Cargo City gives an eye-catching stance to both local and international investors due to its strategic location. In addition, just 1500 yards distance to Deep Sea East Bay gives another edge to Al-Noor Cargo City.

